

# SS ALBAN AND STEPHEN RC CHURCH

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

### MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2015**

**Present:** Fr T J Plower, Fr Tom Hewitt, Sr Anita O’Leary, David Myles (PPC Vice-Chair), Deacon Steve Pickard, Ann Hill, Richard Exact, Kate Baker, David Edwards, Anne Romain (J&P Group) Steve Weaver (PPC Secretary)

#### Parish Assembly and Pastoral Council Objectives:

1. To make the Church more alive and open to the Spirit and to further the spread of the Kingdom of God;
2. To provide a structure for constructive dialogue with the Parish Community and thus as a means of consultation and communication in the Parish;
3. To ensure an ongoing assessment of the spiritual, social and human needs of the Parish and to foster ways to meet these needs; and
4. To draw out, draw together and draw upon the talents and gifts of the Christian Community in the Parish. “As each one has received a gift use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10)

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

#### **Action**

Apologies were received from Fr Jimmy Stubbs, Sara Nash (PPC Chair) and James O’Hare.

#### **2. Minutes 2 September 2015**

The Minutes of the 2 September 2015 meeting were agreed as a correct record.

#### **3. Matters arising from previous meeting:**

The following matters were raised that were not otherwise to be discussed under the agenda:

- Fr TJ to speak to the Collectors re getting more volunteers and speeding up the collections
- Fr TJ to talk to the Murco new building owners regarding how long the Parish can use the church? The building is due to be handed back to the

Parish can use the car park? The building is due to be handed back to the Landlord in February/March 2016

- Deacon Steve Pickard to keep an eye on updates on the Year of Mercy and will update the PPC when he knows more
- Agreed that a rota formed from the Strategy Groups would be circulated for the opening prayer for the PPC meeting

#### **4. Parish Events**

4.1 Christmas Card – The Christmas cards would be distributed through Neighbourhood Links. The PPC briefly discussed the merits of a targeting Catholics on the Parish data base with a specific Christmas Card for them or having a separate general card for all residents? The PPC suggested that the Mission Group be asked to discuss the details. Gina and Sr. Anita have the winning design which was chosen last year which needs to be emailed to Richard Exact. Action for  
Sr Anita/Gina

4.2 Parish Magazine - David Myles reported that the latest edition of the Parish Magazine was currently on sale. The cost of production was £450 and so far £345 had been taken in sales, excluding any money received from the honesty box. The PPC commented their thanks to David for the excellent content and overall design of the magazine.

#### **5. Parish Mission**

5.1 Ann Hill and Fr Tom reported that everything appeared to be on track for the forthcoming Parish Mission. The programme had been finalised and circulated around the Parish. All accommodation needs for the visiting team were now covered.

5.2 It was agreed that notice would be given in the Bulletin regarding some photography by the Sion Team during the Mission which they wish to use for promotional activities, highlighting the Safeguarding issues and inviting people to get in touch with the Parish's Safeguarding lead Nicky Vellacott, if they were concerned about this. The Photos will not be directly focused on any faces. Photos will be taken at the evening events on Monday and Thursday.

5.3 Sr. Anita reported that the Schools' Mission had gone well and there would be a final celebration evening on Friday 9 October at 7pm in the Hall where Year 5 & 6 Pupils from St John Fisher and SS Alban & Stephen will present some drama and dance that they have been working on with the Sion Schools' Mission Team. Sr. Anita reported that some of the sessions that the Children had been working on were long and challenging , but the Children had been open and receptive.

5.4 There was a Youth Mass organised for Saturday 17 October, various people

were helping from The Gathering and Jigsaw to be welcomers, readers etc. The event was targeted at Year 7 Pupils onwards. Pizzas have been ordered.

## **6. Reports from the Strategy Groups**

6.1 Summaries of recent meeting notes from the following Strategy Groups were circulated prior to the meeting:

- Justice & Peace – 17 September 2015
- Youth – 30 September 2015
- Mission – 1 October 2015

6.2 **Parish Friends - Community Strategy Group** - No updated provided for the meeting.

6.3 **Justice & Peace Strategy Group** – The response to the Calais Refugee appeal had been very strong from the Parish. The International Day of Peace Celebrations event had gone very well. Hope for the Future Day – Future Care for the Environment day was being organised by the J&P Strategy Group along with the MSC Tamworth Parish for Saturday 14 November.

6.4. **Mission Strategy Group** – Melanie will be attending the Proclaim 15 Westminster event representing the Parish and will be giving a short presentation on the outreach work going on in the Parish. The MSG are discussing the possibility of having an open “honesty box” Repository. The Prayer Walk was held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September starting at our Church and going to 4 or 5 other churches ending at the Abbey. 10 people attended from the Parish and Richard has agreed to write an article for the Parish Magazine.

6.5 **Youth Strategy Group** – World Youth Day. Fr Alan will be taking a small group of Young People (17 plus) from the Parish to Poland for WYD in 2016. At the moment there are two young people interested. There will be other young people from the Parish who are attending with Sion Youth. After the Parish Mission Brendan has asked for some more musicians to help with the 9.30 Sunday Mass. The YST will be looking to simplify the Parishes Youth Web site to encourage parents to find out information and also for organisers to keep the information updated regularly. A small sub group is being set up to move this forward.

6.6 **Liturgy Strategy Group** – No update provided for the meeting.

7. **The Call, the Journey and the Mission – A Summary of Responses** – This items was deferred.

8. **The Pope’s call for all Parishes to help Syrian Refugees** – The PPC discussed how it should respond to the Holy Father’s exhortation. It was suggested that Cafod’s Caritas suggestions for Parishes would be a good place to look for

guidance. The PPC discussed if it should look to adopt a camp much like the parishes it supports in the developing world, perhaps working with Caritas in this venture? (It is recommended that all follow the link to see specifically what Caritas' response is to the Refugee Crisis- <http://rcdow.org.uk/caritas/refugee-crisis-our-response/> ) It was suggested that perhaps Mary Corbett and the J&P Strategy Group could be asked to find out what others are doing and report back to the PPC. Scott Albrecht was also mentioned as a good contact to discuss this with. Sarah to write to the Council and the MP suggesting that the Parish is offering to help and asking for guidance regarding what role the Parish could play.

Anne  
Romain

Sara Nash

9. **Parish Fiends Coffee Morning – Charitable Collections** – An email clarifying the situation regarding the Finance Group recording the amount collected by these events was circulated to the PPC. The PPC agreed that the PF Group should simply record the amount collected and clearly state which charitable cause it is supporting and pass this information on the Finance Group when it passes on the monies. The PPC recommended that Sara emails both groups to clarify this position.

Sara Nash

10. **New Hymn Book dedications – Repeat offer to new parishioners** – The PPC agreed with David Edwards' suggestion to extend the offer to new parishioners of making a £5 donation to have a dedication in the front of a new hymn book, and suggested that this be promoted in November.

David  
Edwards

11. **Priests Report** - Fr T J said that he was still settling into the Parish as he had been introduced then out to South Africa and then back again. Fr TJ said he was still getting to know names and faces and was still juggling his diary to manage to fit in all that is going on in the Parish, for instances on the same evening of the PPC he had two other meetings to attend.

Fr TJ said he was delighted with what work he has seen going on in the Parish and he has seen great enthusiasm. He has seen some great liturgies in the Schools. Fr Tom agreed that Fr TJ has entered into Parish life during an exceptionally busy period.

Fr TJ had received a letter of thanks from Marshalswick Baptist Free Church regarding the gift of £500 received from the Parish for kindly hosting the Marshalswick SJF Mass Centre during the period of the school roof refurbishment.

Deacon Steve Pickard reported that there were 7 people signed up and had started this year's RCIA programme.

The PPC recommended that he speak to the Finance Committee to suggest a way of discussing with the collectors any way this could be speeded up?

12. **Future Agenda Items** – (i) Christmas Liturgies & (ii) a Parish Mission post

mortem – how can we build on the Parish Mission?

- 13. Any Other Business** – Steve Weaver agreed to email around a rota to the PPC leads from the Strategy Groups for leading prayer at the PPC.

**Date of Next Meetings – Wednesday 11 November 2015**

*(Deadline for agenda items to be circulated via email to all PPC Members is Friday 6 November 2015)*

**Action for**  
All

Future Dates –

Wednesday 9 December (short meeting to discuss Christmas Services?)

Wednesday 14 January 2016

Wednesday 10 February 2016

Wednesday 10 March 2016

Wednesday 14 April 2016

Wednesday 11 May 2016

Wednesday 15 June 2016

Wednesday 13 July 2016