

SS ALBAN AND STEPHEN RC CHURCH

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 2 September 2015

Present: Fr T J Plower, Fr Tom Hewitt, Fr Jimmy Stubbs, Sara Nash (PPC Chair) David Myles (PPC Vice-Chair), Deacon Steve Pickard, Ann Hill, Richard Exact, Kate Baker, David Edwards, Anne Romain (J&P Group)

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 Sr Anita O'Leary, Steve Weaver and James O'Hare.

2. Fr T J was welcomed to his first PPC meeting

3. Minutes 8 July 2015

The Minutes of the 8 July 2015 meeting were agreed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting:

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

- Sara thanked everyone for their input and help with Fr Charles' thanksgiving Mass and leaving do. The music at Mass was particularly

good.

- Failed to find Churches together in St Albans prayer rota. Hoping to pick up soon and give to Gina.

5. **Parish Events**

- 5.1 International Day of Peace – no idea of numbers – a lot of people have said they are interested. Rooms 1 and 2 have been booked but there is concern it will not be enough. Action for PPC
- 5.2 Churches Together in St Albans – Bishop John Sherrington will be leading an initiative *Go for Growth* on 16th September. This will be in the newsletter this week and it would be nice to support our Bishop.
- 5.3 Parish Friends Outing planned to Bletchley Park 3rd October
- 5.4 Christmas Market Stall – Sara attended the inter-faith group meeting. Last year we had a shop in Upper Dagnall St church hall. This year we hope to have a market stall over 4 days – two Saturdays and two Wednesdays. A different church will take charge on one day. Ours will be Saturday, 5th December. There is another meeting on 15th September to flesh out the details. We will be selling charity Christmas cards, Christmas goods, traidcraft . Eric Harber emailed today to say he will be running the usual Christmas and Easter staff that he has done over the last few years. He applied for a charity stall and there was only one date remaining – 19th December, so he will do it then. David M said that it had previously been discussed that Christmas cards would be distributed through Neighbourhood Links – 15 different areas. However the database is not up to date.

6. **Parish Mission**

- 6.1 It was agreed that the Mission leaflet (explaining the purpose of the Mission etc) would be handed out by welcomers at Masses this weekend. Members of the PPC would be on hand to explain and help. Masses to be covered as follows: 6pm Sara, 8am Kate, 9.00 Anne R, 9.30 Ann H, 1130 Richard, 7pm Steve and the priests would refer to it.
- 6.2 Ann H asked if a budget would be available for the Mission. It was agreed that it would and it would be helpful to give George Jarzab a rough idea of what might be needed.
- 6.3 It was also agreed that bits of information about the Mission would be put into the bulletin each week and that the Mission Group would speak at Masses to encourage people to volunteer for visiting. Visitor training by the Sion Community to take place on 15th and 30th September at 7.30 pm

7. Reports from the Strategy Groups

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

- Liturgy – 22 July 2015
- Justice & Peace – 20 August 2015
- Parish Friends – email report from Helen
- Mission – verbal report from Richard

7.2 Parish Friends - Community Strategy Group

- 7.2.1 Outing on 3rd October; 1 more film show and tea party before Christmas. Continuing with Christmas Day Lunch and Turkey and Tinsel a couple of weeks later.
- 7.2.2 Edward de Quesnay will be attending meeting on 7th October as he is interested in all the work the Parish Friends do.

8. Mission Strategy Group

- 8.1 Brian Purfield has been booked for *Come to the Manger* Advent talks – 4 sessions commencing Tuesday, 24th November
- 8.2 Melanie has reported on Proclaim 15 in the Parish Magazine. There will be a further meeting on 15th September for Westminster Diocese people to follow up. On the night before Proclaim, a prayer vigil was held in Church. This went well and about 20 people attended at various stages. We are thinking we might hold prayer vigils on a regular monthly basis – following on from Friday evening Masses. David observed that there would be a 24 hour vigil for First Friday on 3rd February.
- 8.3 Mission Group is also starting to look at Lenten talks – 4 talks on the theme of prayer. Sara suggested that instead they could use the theme of the Pope's encyclical *Laudato Si* Using CAFOD produced material.
- 8.4 The Prayer Walk will be held on Sunday 13th September starting at our Church at 2.30 and going to 4 or 5 other churches ending at the Abbey. Poster coming
- 8.5 *The Gift* – Tim and Brendan would like to follow on from this with a course called *The Big Picture* and we need to contact them to clarify the support needed.
- 8.6 Repository – should we have this at the back of the Church? We could have a facility for people to buy Mass Cards, books, Bibles with an honesty box. It is not open much at the moment and we feel we could use the space differently.

8.7 Notice-board outside Church – we are trying to follow up in terms of planning permission as we think it would be good to have one.

9 **Liturgy Strategy Group**

9.1 Minutes from Music meeting - try to encourage musicians to go to different Masses, possibly on a rota.

10. **Justice and Peace Strategy Group** The PPC noted the written update.

10.1 Calais Refugees – the generosity of our parish and the Baptist church has been overwhelming. Our gifts have been labelled so can be used straight away instead of having to be sorted at the depot. They are very grateful. It was a very good initiative. There will be a note in the newsletter next week to thank parishioners for their response.

10.2 Collectors – Fr T J said it would be nice if the collections could take a shorter time and suggested having more bags. It was agreed that Fr T J would meet with the collectors.

Fr T J

11. **Youth Strategy Group** - deferred.

12. **Priests Report**

12.1 Fr T J said that he had had an overview from Fr Charles. He is delighted with the action, involvement and commitment of the PPC. It is very uplifting and enlightening. He feels his main role at the moment is to listen. Fr Tom said that August has been a quite pleasing month for us really. He added that we may want to think about Fr T J having a break as he has only had a week between roles.

12.2 Things to think about include the Mission, homelessness and how to tackle it, security of the community and helping people – a balance, music and collections.

13. **Future Agenda Items – None raised.**

14. **Any Other Business**

14.1 Marshalswick Mass Centre – the community has been using the Baptist centre for seven weeks on Sunday and it has been a great success. Parishioners would like to give them a thank you gift. They already have a thank you card. Mike Walsh has confirmed that before Fr Charles left, it was agreed there would be some remuneration as a token of gratitude. £500 was mentioned. Fr J P undertook to mention to Henry. A cheque would be signed and Mike would know to whom it should be made out.

Deacon Steve asked if there was any news about Year of Mercy coming up in December. The Cardinal has been in touch with the Abbey to link and to process from here. It was agreed Steve would enquire.

David Edwards asked if anyone knew what was happening with Murco. Ann H confirmed that they had been in touch with Loreto to say they were closing and to offer stationery and furniture. We need to find out what is happening with regard to parking. Richard was to follow this up as he has a contact

Fr Jimmy said that Deacon Steve has started the RCIA process. The programme for next year is ready to begin with six candidates.

Date of Next Meetings – Wednesday 7th October 2015

(Deadline for agenda items to be circulated via email to all PPC Members is Friday 2nd October 2015)

**Action for
All**