

# SS ALBAN AND STEPHEN RC CHURCH

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

### MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 2016

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

- 1.1 Apologies were received from James O'Hare, Sr Anita O'Leary, Ann Hill, and Kate Baker.

#### **2. Minutes 9 March 2016**

- 2.1 The Minutes of the 9 March 2016 meeting were agreed as a correct record with the following amendments:

There was a typographical error at 6.3, which should read altar servers not alter and again on 10.1.

6.5 – "Meeting on rough sleepers would be held not help, on Monday 25 April at Dagnal Street Baptist Church not 27 April at St Paul's Hatfield Road.

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

- 3.1 Item 9 - Priest Report - Murco car park

Fr TJ has had no response from the Council re parking vouchers which can be used by parishioners attending morning Mass, with the voucher being applicable from 9.45am onwards. Unfortunately the person at the Council who is dealing with this is currently on holiday.

The security company looking after the former Murco building are now ignoring all approaches to them.

The PPC discussed other parking options. The use of Loreto is very useful but concern was expressed about any potential damage to the grass verges as parishioners were parking on the grass as well as the shingle car park at busy Masses, such as at the Easter Services. The Rail car park is available for a small fee and only a short walk away. It might be advisable to encourage parishioners/visitors to be aware of the problems with parking and allow enough time to park and walk, keeping spaces close to the Church entrance available for disabled/infirm.

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

##### **4.1 Co-ordination of Events/Diary**

4.1.1 The PPC discussed with David Myles how it might make use of google calendar. It would not replace the booking diary which would continue to be maintained by Gina. Google calendar would be used to check the availability of dates before contacting Gina and making a booking. Fr TJ agreed to talk to Gina and set up a meeting with Gina and David Myles.

David Myles

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

5.1 Mission Strategy Group - 'Service of Light' was held on Friday 18 March. Approximately 100 people entered the Church to take a prayer card and light a candle. The service was very well received, and it was agreed to carry on with a further service in November, the Friday before advent. It was suggested that it would be ideal if a Priest would be available to give blessings to those who attend.

Ann Hill

5.2 Sr. Anne Redington Art Exhibition on God's Mercy. Sr. Anne will be visiting the Parish to display her art work on 9/10 July. The Church will be open on Saturday 9, 10.30am – 5pm and Sunday 10 July, 2pm – 6pm for people to look at the art. There will be handout sheets printed which will provide the background to the painting. It is hoped that this can be used as a soft evangelistic event on the theme of God's Mercy. Some paintings will be displayed on trestles, others will be hung using the fixings for the stations of the cross. Nearer the time volunteers will be needed to help with setting up the exhibition and to be available in the Church whilst the paintings are on display for security purposes.

- 5.3 Finding Silence – There will be a Finding Silence retreat on 18 – 20 October 2016 at Worth Abbey
- 5.4 The Mission Strategy Group said they would be happy to be involved in the Open Day event in September to promote groups /ministries in the Parish but didn't want to run the whole event.
- 5.5 More welcome cards need to be printed. Regarding the Notice board Fr Tom agreed to look into this. Fr Tom
- 5.6 St Albans Day – The Mission Strategy Group asked why the Parish had not been involved in the St Albans Day festival before? Sara said she would ask at the next City Centre Churches meeting on 29 April. Sara Nash
- 5.7 Parish Friends Community Group – Helen Bassill asked if it would be possible to consider having less new parishioners welcome events during the year? Fr TJ suggested that they should do what is practical.
- 5.8 There would be a fancy dress event to mark the Queens 90 Birthday on 12 June. It was suggested that there could be gifts for people who would be 90 in the same year.
- 5.9 Youth Strategy Group – Sr. Anita was unable to attend the meeting so Fr TJ gave a brief update. The detail of the Youth update had been provided from the notes/update previously circulated, but Fr TJ said it was a very full meeting with a lot of enthusiasm for the new youth web site.
- 5.9 Liturgy Strategy Group - There was a lengthy discussion on the appropriate length of the 9.30am family Mass, as well as what elements were necessary. Fr Jimmy asked that those leading the music ministry please not have extended singing and repeating of psalms/choruses and responses as this was adding to the length of the service. It was agreed that Fr Jimmy, Sara and Richard Exact would meet separately to further discuss this issue. Fr Jimmy /Sara/Richard
- 5.10 There was a further lengthy discussion on whether it would be possible to have Communion under both kinds at the 8am Mass. The appropriate number of Eucharistic Ministers would be required for this to be viable. It was agreed that starting on the feast of Corpus Christi 29 May this could be trialled for a period to see how practical it is. Fr TJ, Fr Jimmy, Fr Tom
- 5.11 Justice and Peace Strategy Group – Details were provided in the summary circulated to the PPC. There would be a meeting to focus on rough sleepers. The meeting would be held at Dagnal Street Baptist Church on 25 April at 7.45pm.
- 5.12 There will be a special exit/retiring collection for the Church in Ukraine on 24 April.

5.13 Carolyn Crawshaw was organising a further collection of clothes, sheets and toiletries for Syria and Iraq refugees on 23/24 April. Carolyn was interviewed for an article in the Herts Advertiser and for BBC Three Counties Radio along with Mary Corbett.

## 6. **General Maintenance**

6.1 The lock on the door to the disabled toilet is broken. Fr TJ said he would inform Tom re getting this fixed. Fr TJ

7. **Open Day in September** – This will be held on 10/11 September. It was agreed that the Catholic Workers Farm and the Living Room should be invited to have a stall at this event. Sara

8. **Overnight Shelter** – Details as above at 5.11

9. **Syrian Refugees** – Covered under J&P update at 5.13

10. **Marshalswick Mass Centre – new notice board and altar decorations** – Item to remain on the agenda

## 11. **Priests Report** –

11.1 Counting Team needs volunteers – The current team of 7 have 3 people who will be stepping down soon. There needs to be 2 teams of 5 on a fortnightly rota.

11.2 The meeting with the Collectors will be repeated as only a few were able to attend the meeting. Those collectors who did attend agreed to take on an additional role of fire wardens following appropriate training.

## 12. **Future Agenda Items**

12.1 Open day  
Homelessness  
Parish Diary  
Syrian Refugees  
Marshallswick Mass Centre – Notice boards & liturgical altar decorations

## 11. **Any Other Business - Date of Next Meetings – Wednesday 11 May 2016**

David Edwards asked for help with the kitchen/refreshments for a future St Vincent De Paul Coffee morning.

There would also be an Inter Church Prayer Morning on 27 April that would need someone qualified in the relevant health and safety hygiene regime for the kitchen to cover this event.

Future Dates –

Wednesday 11 May 2016

Wednesday 15 June 2016

Wednesday 13 July 2016