

**MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2021, 7:00 pm in Zoom Conference**

Present:

Ann Barton (chair), Elaine Corrin, Will Daunt, Terry Graham, Deacon Peter Mawtus, Fr Boniface Moran, Susan O'Halloran, Claire Reed, Irene Slack, Fr Godric Timney.

Minutes Secretary: Brian Farrimond

1. **Opening Prayer:** Fr Godric.
2. **Apologies:** Paul Bakaki, Deacon Des Bill, Anne Corrin, Margaret Johnson, Jacqui Sellek.
3. **Safeguarding Update**

Terry reported that documents had been received including the Bishop's Conference Statement of Intent on safeguarding.

She and Jenny are awaiting information from parish groups concerning members who are due for re-checking.

At the next meeting Deacon Des will update the PPC on some national developments and on several points from the recent session attended by the Deacons.

4. **Reviewing actions from last meeting**

- 4.1 **Bulletin announcement re Earth Day (22 April)**

Done.

- 4.2 **Wildlife Surveys**

See Section 5 below.

- 4.3 **Post-Covid Strategies**

See Section 6 below.

- 4.4 **Hope For The Future**

See Section 5 below.

- 4.5 **FOCCUS Registration**

- 4.6 **Marriage Preparation**

Registration is ongoing. Reorganisations are still taking place at Archdiocesan and national level. Peter will buy credits as needed.

- 4.7 **Mid-week Reflections**

The most recent reflection was from Joan Bill about the Synod. Sue was preparing the next reflection to cover environmental issues.

After a discussion it was agreed that:

- there was less need for these reflections as restrictions ease.
- frequency reduced to once a month unless a specific topic arose in the meantime. Parishioners to be advised of this change.

## 5. Parish Environmental Plan

**Hope for the Future** is a national charity working to equip communities, groups and individuals to communicate with their local politicians on urgent local matters relating to climate change. Their vision is to see communities and their elected representatives act together.

It was suggested that the parish could be involved and raise the local issue of fuel poverty with our MP, Rosie Cooper. Sue to contact parishes already involved, asking about issues they raised and how they went about it.

Will and Sue reported on a **Wildlife Survey** carried out in the wonderful resource of our church grounds. The Woodland Trust would support tree planting, but this might not fit into the overall plan for the grounds. Other, smaller opportunities were identified at the boundaries including improving fencing and encouraging flowering and climbing plants.

A discussion took place on developing a **parish herb garden**. It was agreed to advertise it in the bulletin, asking for volunteers, especially to build trugs.

Ideas for use of **newly cleared land** behind the old bowling green include fruit trees and a prayer area.

Irene described progress on the **Tree Trail** being developed in the parish grounds. Signs are being made and instructions have been prepared and are ready for testing.

## 6. Post-Covid Ministry

A discussion on how we proceed if restrictions are lifted on 21 June.

- positives from the last year include:
  - increased use of media such as FaceBook for streaming Masses – possibly streaming is here to stay.
  - development of the parish database
  - development of the church grounds
  - updating of the parish web site
- challenges faced by the parish include:
  - giving people the confidence to come back to church
  - engaging with young people – the parish is very fortunate in its uniformed groups, St Bede's chaplaincy and St Anne's staff.
  - making more use of the outside space
- proposed tasks
  - inviting people back to church
  - bringing the ministries back
  - a Requiem Mass in July for all who have died or suffered loss.
  - sacramental preparation - already underway for Baptism and First Holy Communion. Confirmation preparation will be mainly carried out by the schools. RCIA is restarting.

- an open air Mass in July to mark the end of restrictions followed by activities for the children including new Tree Trail.
- a parish Welcome Weekend in September
- developing a prayer area and a prayer walk in the church grounds in collaboration with the Children's Liturgy group
- holding a restricted parish summer fair on the bowling green
- a parish family picnic
- catching up with delayed anniversary celebrations for Fr Godric and Deacon Des

A meeting of the PPC sub-group, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, will identify and schedule what can be done

It was agreed that PPC members would canvass parish opinion regarding opening up activities.

## **7. AOB**

### **7.1. Finance Committee**

Will reported on the recent Finance Committee meeting:

- contributions to the Roof Fund have slowed during the pandemic. About £1000 per month is received from standing orders. Because of continuing uncertainty, no further roof work would be undertaken until March 2022.
- parish income had fallen but so had parish expenditure
- repairs would take place to car park
- church kneeler repairs or replacement is to be considered
- progress awaited on gift aid receipts from the archdiocese

### **7.2 Parish Centre re-opening**

A review is required to ensure present Parish Centre Covid safety measures continue and to begin to look forward to the future use of the Centre.

### **7.3 Synod Zoom meetings**

Monday evening Zoom sessions have been set up by Joan Bill for discussions with parishioners to help Synod members discern how to vote on the Recommendations at the Synod meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

## **8. Next meeting**

**8.1** Wednesday **23 June 2021**, 7 pm on Zoom.

**8.2** Opening and closing prayers: Brian to arrange.

## **9. Closing prayer: Fr Boniface.**

## ACTION POINTS – 19 May 2021

1	PPC to be updated on safeguarding at the next meeting.	Deacon Des. Brian to add to agenda.
2	Further investigation of potential collaboration with the <i>Hope for the Future</i> charity.	Sue
3	PPC Members to supply Sue with information on local cases of fuel poverty to help build a case for approaching our MP.	PPC Members, Sue
4	Item in bulletin on volunteers to help with herb garden and building trugs..	Sue
5	Tree Trail development to continue.	Irene
6	Canvass parish opinion and ideas regarding opening up activities.	PPC Members
7	Encourage parishioners to attend the parish Monday Synod Zoom sessions	PPC Members