

MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL 2021, 7:00 pm in Zoom Conference

Present:

Ann Barton (chair), Deacon Des Bill, 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:** Will.
2. **Apologies:** Paul Bakaki, Anne Corrin, Elaine Corrin, Margaret Johnson, Jacqui Sellek.
3. **Safeguarding Update**

Terry reported that the Archdiocesan Safeguarding section had resumed processing DBS checks. Jenny and Terry are updating parish records.
4. **Reviewing actions from last meeting**
 - 4.1 **Help and Assistance Booklet**

An electronic copy has been sent to the office for printing as a reference copy.
 - 4.2 and 4.3 **Environmental initiatives**

See next section.
 - 4.4 **Postcard initiative**

On hold and usefulness reviewed once Covid restrictions lifted.
 - 4.5 **Church Services**
 - Saturday vigil Mass at 6 pm and Sunday 10:30 am Mass to continue.
 - Single family baptisms available from 17 May at 6 pm Friday evenings and 11 am Saturday mornings. From 21 June baptism for more than 1 family together will be possible. Some families had decided to wait until additional family and friends can attend the service.
 - Several funerals have been held with up to 30 (legal limit) attending.
 - First Communions take place after 21 June in several smaller groups at a sequence of Saturday 12 noon Masses.
 - Mass being planned to welcome 2 people into the Church. Ways of restarting RCIA sessions to be explored.
 - All attendance in church depends on services of cleaners and stewards.
5. **Parish Environmental Plan**

Claire summarised the draft plan (Appendix 1), followed by a discussion:

 - Irene reported that the Tree Trail plans are being developed and printing of Trail maps arranged - possibly ready by May.
 - recycling containers in the Parish Centre to be made prominent.
 - exploring, with St Elizabeth's, connecting liturgy to the seasons.

- Creationtide or the Season of Creation is from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. Parish activities could be planned to celebrate this,
- Earth Day, 22 April. A notice about this to be put in the bulletin.
- progress is being made on sending out bulletins by email
- Fr Godric reported new fencing for the secret garden and the hire of a digger to help with heavier work
- Bulletin notices on the environment to be coordinated by the PPC
- experience shows that children love tree planting so this would be a good project to develop
- wildlife surveys of the church grounds would be very useful
- the role of the PPC at this stage is to act as a sounding board for ideas being harvested by the Environment sub-group

6. **Post-Covid Ministry**

Ann introduced a discussion to prepare for the expected easing of Covid restrictions on 21 June, with ideas from Irene addressing possible reluctance of some parishioners to come inside the church:

- open air services (Mass, Benediction)
- an intercession tree
- churchyard prayer walks led by the clergy
- support plans being developed by the Children's Liturgy group.
- limited summer fair
- parish family picnic
- a celebration to mark the end of restrictions
- a commemoration acknowledging the grief of parishioners who have lost family and friends in the pandemic.
- small scale, low risk events in church to encourage people to come back e.g. lighting candles
- catching up on delayed anniversary celebrations such as for Fr Godric and Deacon Des
- combinations of the above

Fr Godric spoke of the opportunity for Requiem Masses in church for those who had died during the pandemic.

A sub-group to be formed to consult and take these, and further ideas, forward, starting with Fr Godric, Deacon Des, Ann, Irene, Terry, Mary Ormsby.

7. **AOB**

7.1 Hope for the Future

Hope for the Future is a climate charity which works to equip communities, groups and individuals across the country to communicate the urgency of climate change with their local politicians. Their vision is to see communities

and their elected representatives across the UK come together to take decisive action on climate change.

Sue to investigate potential parish engagement with them and report back.

7.2. Marriage Preparation

As Covid has held back Marriage Preparation and the Archdiocesan course is not currently available, Peter and Sue Mawtus have trained online to guide candidates through the FOCCUS programme.

It was agreed that FOCCUS should be offered within the parish once registration and other arrangements have been completed.

It is probable that weddings will only resume after 21 June since many couples are unwilling to celebrate weddings under the current restrictions.

7.3. Finance Committee

Will, who is now a full member of the Finance Committee, reported the following from their February meeting:

As the Archdiocesan section handling Gift Aid was being reorganised, parish income from that source has been delayed.

Funds through the *Donate* button on the parish web site are paid to the parish through the Archdiocese

A different button is being considered where payments is direct to the parish.

7.4. Mid-week Reflection

Fr Godric is inviting others to put forward their ideas for the short mid-week Reflection video which is posted on our Facebook page.

8. Next meeting

8.1 Wednesday **19 May 2021**, 7 pm on Zoom.

8.2 Opening and closing prayers: Brian to arrange.

9. Closing prayer: Fr Godric.

ACTION POINTS – 14April 2021

1	Notice in Bulletin concerning activities on Earth Day (22 April).	Sue and Claire
2	Explore the possibilities of having wildlife surveys carried out on the church grounds	Will
3	Form a sub-group to consult with the parish regarding post-Covid strategies and take these forward	Fr Godric, Deacon Des, Ann. Irene, Terry, Mary Ormsby
4	Report back on potential engagement with the <i>Hope for the Future</i> charity	Sue
5	FOCCUS registration to be obtained.	Peter
6	Marriage Preparation to be discussed.	Fr Godric, Peter
7	Ideas sought for the mid-week Reflection.	PPC Members

Appendix 1

Update: Parish Environmental Plan

1. LITURGY

Plough Sunday – 1st Sunday of Epiphany – Looking forward to the time of sowing

Rogationtide – 6th Sunday of Easter – Asking for blessing on the land

Lammastide – 1st Sunday in August – Thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest

Harvest Thanksgiving – 1st Sunday in October

Earth Day – 22 April

Environment Sunday – Sunday after 5th June

Creationtide: 1st Sept – 4th Oct

Climate Sunday 1st Sunday in September

St Francis of Assis – 4 October

2. BUILDINGS

Confirmed that all our energy (gas and electricity) comes from renewable sources

3. GROUNDS

Development of a Tree Trail through the grounds

Plant fruit trees in recently cleared area behind the bowling green

Plant a community herb garden in pots in the grounds

4. PARISH ACTIVITIES & ADMINISTRATION

Is it time to move away from paper bulletins, except for those who have no digital access?

Re-organise recycling bins in the parish centre to make them more obvious

5. AWARENESS

Regular messages in the bulletin re environmental issues

6. COMMUNITY & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Lent Water project

Contacting Rosie Cooper