

MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021, 7:00 pm in Parish Centre

Present:

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

Minutes Secretary: Brian Farrimond

1. Opening Prayer: Deacon Peter.

2. Apologies: Fr Boniface.

It was reported that Ann Corrin, Margaret Johnson, Jacqui Sellek and Paul Bakaki had resigned from the PPC. Fr Godric had written to them thanking them for their service. Ann will arrange the sending of thank you cards from the PPC.

A framed photo collage from the PPC was being prepared to give to Fr Boniface on his imminent departure for Douai Abbey.

3. Safeguarding Update

Terry reported that DBS updating for parish volunteers was ongoing.

Des reported that major changes continue to take place at national level. National Standards were being prepared. It could be next year before they are ready. Several changes in personnel were taking place at Archdiocesan level.

4. Reviewing actions from last meeting

4.1 Safeguarding update

Covered in item 3 above.

4.2 Fuel Poverty

Will reported that the council had sent some useful material which has been circulated amongst PPC members.

4.3 Herb Garden

The herb garden has been established and is "open for business".

5. Refreshing the Work of the Parish

Ann had circulated a summary of previous discussions within the PPC. This can be found in Appendix 1.

A discussion took place under the six headings and the following points were made:

Caring for Parishioners & Wider Community

The gloomy economic outlook was discussed and the effect it would have on **poor people** within the local community.

It was agreed that the parish would promote and support activities currently underway e.g. the Food Bank and the work of the SVP.

Work on the **database** of parishioners is ongoing.

Communication & Social

A discussion took place on how to make the parish more welcoming to the wider community.

The outstanding work of **stewards** during the pandemic was acknowledged and greatly appreciated. A meeting on the present role of stewards and the future role of welcomers will take place before the end of October. It was hoped that new welcoming arrangements would be in place for the start of Advent.

The success of past **open days** was noted and it was agreed that further such events should be planned.

It was agreed that there should be a regular small news section of the **bulletin** for the PPC.

Youth

Ecumenical Vigils arranged by St Bede's School will be held in church during **the COP26 Climate Change Conference**.

Wednesday 3 November 3 pm – 7 pm

Wednesday 10 November 5 pm – 6 pm

On each occasion prayers will be read every 15 minutes, background music played and there will be many visual references.

Liturgy & Sacraments

The clergy are to meet on 8th November to discuss parish **ministry**.

Parish Projects

Work on the use of parish grounds is well underway. The **“bug house”** for children has been created.

Local schools have been invited to make use of the **Tree Trail** and several have expressed an interest. Bookings are to be made through the Parish Office.

Tree planting is due to take place on the Meadow in November.

Finance

The **shortfall** due to the pandemic was not as severe as had been feared. Only essential financial activities were continuing. The **roof project** had also suspended activities apart from investigations to be carried out on the state of the tower.

The handling of **cheques and cash** is becoming increasingly expensive due to new bank charges. The use of the card machine is to be more widely advertised. (*Post meeting note from Finance Committee, for info: £42 received w/e 23/24 Oct & £380 since device installed. No additional promotion for the moment*)

The parish is still waiting to receive 2 years **Gift Aid money** from the Archdiocese, delayed due Diocesan office reorganisation.

6. AOB

6.1 Recycling beeswax candles

A parishioner has asked if the church had candle stubs that he could recycle. There is very little left of the candles after use so nothing worth recycling.

Sue to report back to parishioner.

6.2 Parish support for poor people

This was discussed in Section 5 above.

6.3 Christmas Masses

After a discussion the following Christmas masses were agreed. Mass will not be said on Christmas Eve (Friday) morning.

Christmas Eve (Friday): 4 pm (Vigil)
 6 pm (Vigil)
 10 pm (Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day (Saturday): 10:30 am (no Sunday Vigil mass)

Boxing Day (Sunday): 10:30 am

Discussions to take place with the Children's Liturgy Group about children's involvement at the 2 earlier Christmas Eve Vigil Masses.

Streaming of Masses at Christmas will also be discussed.

6.4 Blessing of the graves

This will take place again on All Souls Day, 2nd November.

7. Next meeting

7.1 Thursday 25 November in the Parish Centre.

7.2 Opening and closing prayers: Brian to arrange.

8. Closing prayer: Will.

ACTION POINTS – 21 October 2021

1	Thank you cards to resigned PPC members	Ann
2	Margaret Weichers to be contacted regarding the Food Bank. Derek to be contacted regarding the SVP.	Sue, Peter
3	Review of stewards/welcomers roles	Deacons Des & Peter, Claire, Ann, Terry
4	A small, regular news section of the bulletin for the PPC	Fr Godric, Ann
5	Consultation with the Children's Liturgy Group about children's involvement at the 2 earlier Christmas Eve Vigil Masses.	Deacon Des
6	Discussion of streaming of Masses at Christmas.	Fr Godric, Ann
7	Next meeting agenda item on progress of refreshing the work of the PPC	Brian

Appendix 1

Summary of ideas - Refreshing the Work of the PPC.

Caring for Parishioners & Wider Community

Look to practical & spiritual needs of the community

Use & develop gifts

Support families & the lonely

Parish census – homes visited – then follow up visits from parish reps

More guidance (Archdiocesan) for those working with vulnerable adults

Consider how diverse and inclusive we are as a parish e.g. age, ethnicity, gender, culturally

Engage with Synod Plan (28/11/21)

Communication & Social

Keep people informed – review “ Welcome Plan”

Events to bring us together

Groups to communicate with each other (central register)

Explain work of PPC – have photo in narthex

Ideas from parishioners – suggestions box in narthex (names/contact details needed)

Youth

Engage with youth - contacts with DofE, schools

Liturgy & Sacraments

Plan ahead for feasts & church seasons

Plan how to reach non-church goers – why not coming? what needed?

Take church to people - house Masses & groups, a particular Mass with those attending on the Sanctuary (see/understand more)

Services to bring us together – especially families

Ensure enough trained catechists

Parish Projects

Use our grounds

Care for Creation

Get ideas from parishes who have e.g. reduced plastic, increased recycling, use of environmentally friendly products

Finance

How to help with the shortfall – including external use of the Parish Pastoral Centre