

MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 17TH APRIL 2023, 7PM in Parish Centre

Present:

Ann Barton (Chair), Deacon Des Bill, Will Daunt, Terry Graham, Deacon Peter Mawtus, Pat O'Connor, Claire Reed, Irene Slack, Fr Godric Timney, Susan O'Halloran, Paul Spencer, Caroline Grieco

Minutes: Claire Reed

1. **Opening Prayer:** Will Daunt
2. **Apologies:** Elaine Corrin, Brian Farrimond
3. **Safeguarding Update**

Terry continues to action new DBS clearances. Margaret Daunt has agreed to join Terry on the parish safeguarding team. Archdiocesan training in the new procedures should be available for Terry and Margaret during May, ahead of the parish audit in November.

4. **Reviewing Actions from last meeting (20 February)**

4.1 Actions 1,2,4,5,8,10 & 12 were completed.

4.2 Food Collection at the Back of Church

- Any food donations/other items left at the back of church Susan will take to the family who teach at the Ecumenical Centre. Crates returned to the food bank.

4.3 Universal Synod

- April's edition of the Catholic Pic has an article about the Liverpool diocesan synod, the workload of the clergy and how we can better support them.
- The opportunity was taken to thank our clergy for all their hard work in guiding us through the uplifting Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

4.4 Workshops to promote Social Action organised by Pablo Guidi

- Peter and Des gave feedback on the workshop for Deacons. Participants from a number of parishes explained what they are doing in areas such as addiction, homelessness, foodbanks and refugees, followed by discussions on how parishes might expand their current work.
- With many needs in our communities, if it isn't always possible for parishes to undertake activities directly maybe parishes act as hubs, bringing volunteers together and then approaching local churches and organisations with offers of help.
- Monday after the Coronation has been named "The Big Help Out", encouraging organisations big and small to offer volunteering opportunities and also encouraging people to volunteer their services. It isn't clear how/if the parish could make use of this initiative.
- The session that Pablo offered to run with the PPC is still under discussion.

4.5 Bereavement Support

- The annual bereavement Mass will continue, but for now there will be no drop-in sessions.

4.6 Summer/Autumn Events 2023

- The proposed dates for summer events, discussed at the last PPC, proved not to be possible with other events booked in the parish diary, including First Communion Masses being celebrated on most Sundays from 14th May to 2nd July.

- The national “Heritage Open Days” festival this year covers 8-17th September. The environment group has offered to register (by 10th August) events at St Anne’s parish.
- On Sunday 17th September the environment group has organised for Peter Gately to conduct a guided tour of the church grounds.
Provided volunteers come forward, on Sunday 17th other events could also include:
 - an outdoor Mass at 10.30 followed by a parish picnic.
 - Church Tours taking place between 12.30-14.00.
 - afternoon tea in the parish centre from 14.00-15.30.
- On Sunday 24th September after 10.30 Mass, a Craft/Creation Time activity will be held in the pastoral centre.
- The Blessing of the Animals service is planned for 3pm on Sunday 3rd September.

4.7 Fairtrade and Live Simply

- As parish groups have confirmed that they are/will use Fairtrade products at parish events on parish premises, Susan will contact Margaret Wiechers and re-register the parish.
- Consideration to be given to refreshing the Live Simply ideas/ideals.

5. **Following up on post Lenten ideas/events**

- The series of Lenten talks were well received. It was agreed that further talks should be held throughout the year. Suggestions included a talk on Medieval Manuscripts by Brian Farrimond, a presentation on Charles Dickens (Frank Kennedy) and further talks by Fr Peter Philips. Any suggestions for a diversity of speakers and of topics to be passed to Fr Godric.
- The re-introduction of May processions and/or Whit walks was discussed - possibly involving this year’s First Communicants.
- The Lenten House group for men and the general house group were both appreciated. The men’s group is now discussing the possibility of a retreat day for men.
- An event to celebrate diversity within the parish was suggested at the last parish meeting.
- Having event/s after the Saturday 5pm Mass and not just after the Sunday Mass had been mentioned.

6. **Next Chair of the PPC**

As Ann will be stepping down a new chair needs to be appointed, ideally to be in place by the end of the year. The role could be filled by more than one person. The key responsibilities are:

- with the Parish Priest, drawing up the agenda for PPC meetings
- chairing these meetings
- liaising with the vice-chair and/or Minutes secretary, as needed
- following up agreed actions, where appropriate

7 **AOB**

7.1 Finance Matters

Will reported that:

- The future of the parish centre will be the subject of a parish meeting on Thursday 20th April.
- The status quo is unsustainable with maintenance and upkeep only possible due to the dedication of a small number of volunteers.
- Replacing the flat roofs will cost c. £175k, the heating is difficult and inflexible, usage of most of the centre is low.
- The uniform groups use the downstairs. The youth room is also used, but much of the rest of the building is underused.

- The finance committee have considered options to increase revenue by advertising space to let, but for this to be financially viable it would greatly decrease availability to the parish. Fund raising is also problematic as we are still raising funds for the church roof.
- We need to consider what might be the needs of the parish in 20 years' time. Perhaps a smaller building with kitchen facilities, and a separate hut for the uniform and youth groups.
- The land and buildings are owned by the Douai Abbey Parish Trust so ultimately they will make decisions, informed by the parish consultation.

7.2 Sessions offered by the Archdiocese

A number of on-line events are being held by the Archdiocese:

- 26th April – Cost of Living
- 29 April - Welcoming People with Autism
- 6 July – Social Action

7.3 Coronation Weekend. 6th/8th May

- On the day of the Coronation, there will be a big screen in the parish centre where people can watch proceedings together. On the Sunday the uniform groups have organised a lunch.

8. **Date of Next Meeting: 7pm on Monday 5 June**

10. **Closing Prayer: Fr Godric**

ACTION POINTS – 17April 2023

1	Agree ideas and programme for further parish talks	All members
2	Write article for Bulletin on the Social Action workshop	Peter & Des
3	Continue contact with Pablo about possible work with the PPC	Ann & Claire
4	Re-register parish as Fairtrade. Suggest Fairtrade products available locally	Susan
5	Ideas on how the parishes Live Simply status can be refreshed	PPC
6	Talk to Maria and St Anne's school about possible processions, involving First Communicants	Fr Godric
7	Follow up on the idea of a retreat day for men.	Paul
8	Consult Pablo on his idea of an event celebrating diversity	Ann
9	Draw up a job description for the chair of the PPC	Ann
10	Encourage parishioners to attend parish meeting on the Pastoral Centre's future, 7pm 20 th April	All members
11	Register for Heritage Open Days. Continue with plans for summer/autumn events	Environment group