

ST GEORGE AND THE ENGLISH MARTYRS
MINUTES OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
10th SEPTEMBER 2014

Present: Frank McEvoy, Suzanne Halvey, Charlotte Alexander, Chris Wallen, Chris McPhillips, Graham Alcock, Bernard Chalk, Adrienne Davison and Jill Bryan

Also present: Val McEvoy (Minutes Secretary)

Frank opened the meeting with a prayer.

Apologies were received from Father Graham, Paul Schofield and Annabelle Smith
Frank welcomed Jill Bryan to the meeting. Jill has been appointed by Father Graham to replace Chris Hodges who retired from the PPC due to family commitments.

Approve minutes of the last PPC meeting held on 7th May 2014

Graham pointed out that the date of the summer fayre should have read 7th June 2014.
The minutes of the meeting were then agreed and approved.

Matters arising from Action list of 7th May 2014

- Father Graham has confirmed Jill as his new appointment
- The Befriending Group will hopefully be launched by Father Graham as soon as possible.
- Wording for new signboard will be amended (see Father Graham item) below.
- Blank cross for Mission was prepared by Brian and flags prepared by Frank for display.
- Copies of school Ofsted report now left in porches
- Candle holder in side chapel cleaned.
- Storage for prams at St. George's – to comply fully with legislation, Fire Safety recommended that 2 designated fire exits be kept clear, i.e. right hand side and rear doors. It was noted that the door from the meeting room will also be replaced with a fire door.

Receive update on Financial Report for Parish

Graham had circulated his updated report to the Council prior to the meeting and he briefly outlined the up-to-date financial position. It was agreed that general awareness needs to be raised concerning offertory donations from parishioners, in particular the need to Gift Aid if applicable and the possibility of including the Parish as a beneficiary in personal Wills. In this particular case Graham pointed out that there is specific wording that would need to be included in a Will and he can notify parishioners of this where necessary. Frank thanked Graham for his very detailed report.

Feedback on success of Parish Mission

Two members of the Sion Mission Team recently returned to attend a meeting in the hall for all co-ordinators and volunteers who helped in any way with the Mission. Following this, Father Graham, Frank and Graham will meet to consider what positives can be used from the Mission to improve our Parish for the future. Very positive feedback had been received and Father Graham will consider more prayer centred services to try to promote Adoration and The Rosary. Frank will ask Father Graham to give an update at the next meeting.

Frank pointed out that a registration form is included on the website for people new to the parish. If this is completed with their name, telephone number and email, the parish office will contact them to register and make an appointment to see Father Graham if they wish.

Charlotte said she has received feedback from some youth of the parish that those at Secondary schools did not feel involved in the Mission. Frank pointed out that Secondary Schools often hold their own Mission and Mission week started with a Youth Mass.

The parish register to be updated following feedback from the Mission Visiting Team.

Other items raised by Father Graham

- Father Graham has taken advice from Bishop Thomas and Bishop Alan who both feel that the 2 Sunday morning services are too close together. Father Graham has given this consideration and would like to amend the times to 8.45am at St. Gregory's and 10.45am at St. George's. He will publicise this to parishioners for feedback but considers this to be a good compromise to enable him to have more time between the two services.
- New noticeboard for St. George's – waiting for revision of Mass times to be confirmed.

- The maintenance of parish properties was briefly discussed.

Other items raised by Annabelle Smith

- On behalf of Annabelle, Chris confirmed that all staff and families had returned safe and sound from their summer break and the new Reception class children start school tomorrow. Letters and registration forms were now available for First Holy Communion classes and school Masses have been booked for the year with Father Graham.

Any other business

- Encourage new parishioners to complete a registration form and Adrienne asked if these could also be available at St. Gregory's.
- Graham said he felt that a Welcome Pack could be compiled for new parishioners which would include details of parish finances, website etc.
- Frank said that the new parish website has been launched (saintgeorgeschurch.co.uk). Parish groups should let Frank know if their page needs to be updated. Bernard said maybe some parishioners could need help with using the website and this could be considered.
- Chris McPhillips said that bikes are being left by the side gate by the front steps and it was pointed out that Fire Safety require that this area must be left totally clear as an exit from the side fire doors. A note to go in the newsletter requesting cyclists not to leave bikes in this area.
- Suzanne confirmed that the Firework display will take place on Saturday 1st November at St. Gregory's. Donations on the gate but parishioners must sign up in advance so numbers are known for catering purposes.
- Parish/School Christmas Fayre – to be held at the school on Saturday 29th November.
- Next summer fayre – provisionally booked for 6th June 2015.
- School Carol Service will take place in St. George's on 17th December.

Date and time of next meeting

Frank will consult with Father Graham to confirm the following meeting dates:

- Next PPC meeting - Wednesday 22nd October, 7.30pm in the school community suite (apologies from Adrienne).
- AGM of the PPC - Monday 17th November 2014 in the parish hall at 8pm. preceded by refreshments at 7.30pm.
- Following the AGM – the next meeting of the PPC is scheduled for Wednesday 10th December in the school at 7.30pm.

Frank thanked everyone for attending.

Action List

Frank	Confirm future meeting dates with Fr Graham	
Father Graham	Launch Befriending Group as soon as possible	
Father Graham	Publicise possible revised Mass times in newsletter	
Graham/Finance	Raise awareness to increase Offertory/Gift Aid/personal Wills	
Fr Graham/Frank/Graham	Consider positives from Mission to help improve Parish for future	
Fr Graham	More prayer centred services to promote Adoration and Rosary	
Fr Graham/Tania	Parish Registration forms for St. George's & St. Gregory's	
Fr Graham/Frank/Graham	Mass times for new noticeboard	
Fr Graham/Frank/Graham	Consider Welcome Pack for new parishioners	
Tania	Note for newsletter – no bikes to be left by side gate (Fire Safety)	