

ST GEORGE AND THE ENGLISH MARTYRS
MINUTES OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
12th MARCH 2014

Present: Father Graham Smith, Frank McEvoy, Suzanne Halvey, Charlotte Alexander, Bernard Chalk, Chris Wallen, Chris McPhillips, Adrienne Davison, Paul Schofield, Graham Alcock and Annabelle Smith.

Also present: Val McEvoy (Minutes Secretary)

Father Graham opened the meeting with a prayer.

No apologies were received. It was noted that Kelvins' wife had just given birth to their baby so it was understandable that he could not attend the meeting.

It was further noted that due to personal commitments, Chris Hodges has resigned from the Council and therefore Father Graham will consider someone to fill this vacancy.

Approve minutes of the last PPC meeting held on 5th February 2014

It was noted that since the last PPC meeting, the date for the Diocesan trip to Walsingham has been confirmed as 24th May and not 24th September as stated in minutes of 5th February. Following this amendment, the minutes of the meeting were agreed and approved.

Matters arising from Action list of 5th February 2014

- Pilgrimage to Lourdes has been re-advertised but Father Graham said there has been very little interest.
- The Befriending Group to be launched as soon as possible. Dianne has offered to help to co-ordinate this and once launched, Sharon could manage the rotas from the office. Father Graham to review the list.
- Work to update the sound and loop system at St. George's will hopefully start shortly once the new financial year budget has been agreed.
- Graham announced that Health & Safety for parish buildings has been outsourced to Precision and they are visiting the parish on 9th June as part of a whole Diocese inspection. Graham will approach Bernard Chalk who was the parish Health & Safety co-ordinator, to see if he would be willing to take on this role again in liaison with Precision.
- Charlotte confirmed that Emma and Dave will possibly consider additional Youth Masses in the future but were not able to at the present time.
- Frank confirmed that Tony Castle practises reading with the Confirmandi group.
- New lamp for the Memorial Book table – check with Sharon to see if this has been ordered.

Bernard Chalk arrived at this point of the meeting.

Receive update on Financial Report for Parish

Graham had circulated his updated report to the Council prior to the meeting and it was discussed briefly.

Frank said that he had obtained a copy of the school quote for a new external noticeboard.

A 1500 x 1200 board would be about £850 with anti-graffiti coating and including fitting and posts.

A smaller board of say 1500 x 300 to hang under would cost about £148 and could be considered for changeable information. It was agreed that Father Graham would need to consider both size and information to be included.

Preparations for Parish Mission

Father Graham reported that he had emailed the Sion Community and confirmed that, because of the overlap with the school summer holidays, the Mission will now start from Saturday 12th July and finish on Sunday 20th July. Amended dates to be advertised in the newsletter. The list of volunteers and what needs to be arranged to be reviewed and volunteers invited to a meeting to be arranged as soon as possible.

Other items raised by Father Graham

- Father Graham confirmed that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are not able to accept the invitation from the parish to help celebrate our 75th jubilee. Other dignitaries have been sent invites to attend the Bishops Mass to be held on 9th July.
- Quotes have been obtained to fell the big tree at the corner of the driveway and quotes will also be obtained to erect a 6foot high fence along the side boundary. Father Graham will discuss the possibility of fencing along the front of the hall with the Finance Committee.
- Father Graham said he would like to approach Southend Council with a view to white lines being painted on road outside the hall.
- It is hoped to hold a Folk festival on 21st June and Simon Smalley is looking into this with a folk band. The possibility of holding the event at St. Gregory's was considered but the hall would be booked in case of bad weather. The anniversary beers could be promoted at the event but 2 licences will have to be obtained (one for each venue) and Suzanne will speak to Olwen about this.
- The Magic Evening did not take place in February due to lack of ticket sales but they are holding our deposit for a future date. Father Graham felt that this was due to the fact that too many events have been held around the same time, parish, school and charity events, and a review of this and what to focus on in the future will take place.
- Father Graham said he would like a sign/light system to show if the Confessional was available and he will give further thought to this.

Other items raised by Annabelle Smith

- Paul Gwillam had spoken to the children at a recent school assembly about CAFOD.
- Annabelle thanked the parish for their understanding when the whole school attended the Ash Wednesday Service at St. George's. Father Graham said he would consider having a second service later in the morning to accommodate the number of parishioners who had to stand at the 9.30 Service.
- Annabelle confirmed that photos of the First Holy Communion children will be put on display on the noticeboard at St. George's.
- Father Graham confirmed that the Confirmandi photos could be displayed on the purple board.
- Annabelle offered Charlotte the use of the school facilities to prepare the display.

Any other business

- Suzanne said that archived photo display that Tony Shead is preparing for the jubilee could be displayed during the fayre and also in the hall for the Bishops Mass on 9th July.
- Bernard agreed to ask the Mayor or Deputy Mayor if they would be willing to open the fayre on 7th June.
- Charlotte pointed out that the light by the garage needs replacing as it is very dark on a Saturday evening when the Ushers leave after Mass. Frank pointed out that the fascia board has rotted which will be replaced, together with new lighting.
- Chris said that the school newsletters are being well received and Annabelle will increase the number she provides for St. Gregory's.
- Frank publicised the parish trip to Ingatestone Hall on 29th May. Mgr. David Manson has also said he would show us around his church at Ingatestone. Sharon will prepare an itinerary for the day.
- Two other items were raised, but as they were not considered PPC issues, they were referred to Father Graham for his attention.

Date and time of next meeting

The next PPC meeting will take place on Wednesday 7th May in the committee room at 7.30pm.

Please note: As the committee room is used by many other parish groups, it was difficult to set dates for future meetings, but Annabelle offered the school community suite so a further date was set for 10th September 7.30pm. in the school. Frank thanked everyone for attending.

Action List

Father Graham	Consider new appointment to replace Chris Hodges	
Father Graham	Befriending Group – review list and launch as soon as possible	
Finance Committee	Quote for work to update the sound and loop system	
Father Graham	Consider sign or light system for Confessional	
Sharon	Has new Sanctuary lamp been ordered for Memorial Book table?	
Father Graham/Sharon	Review list of Mission volunteers and call a meeting asap	
Suzanne	Speak to Olwen about licences for Folk Night on 21st June	
Bernard	Speak to Mayor/Deputy Mayor re: opening fayre on 7 th June	
Father Graham/Sharon	Ask Southend Council about white lines outside hall	

