

ST GEORGE AND THE ENGLISH MARTYRS
MINUTES OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

16th OCTOBER 2013

Present: Father Graham Smith, Frank McEvoy, Chris McPhillips, Suzanne Halvey, Annabelle Smith, Adrienne Davison, Charlotte Alexander and Graham Alcock

Also present: Val McEvoy (Minutes Secretary)

Father Graham opened the meeting with a prayer.

Apologies were received from Chris Hodges, Chris Wallen, Paul Schofield, Bernard Chalk and Kelvin NCube.

Approve minutes of the last PPC meeting

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th July 2013 were agreed and approved.

Matters arising from Action list of last minutes.

- Father Graham confirmed that the Parish Quiz will take place on Saturday 6th December 2013. Annabelle agreed to provide a '12 days of Christmas' themed quiz. Bring own drink/nibbles. Warm mince pies to be served. Raffle. Tickets £2 a head and will be advertised in the newsletter.
- Wine Tasting evening confirmed as 23rd November. Father Graham said he would like to see more parishioners from St. Gregory's at the social events and Adrienne said she would follow this up.
- Hall ceiling now safely repaired and guards placed on the light fittings
- List of dates for parish and school events now finalised and will be distributed with the newsletter.
- A parish calendar with historical pictures of the parish will be printed to celebrate the 75th jubilee.
- Term of office for both Adrienne Davison and Chris Hodges renewed by Father Graham.
- Support for our Youth wishing to go to Lourdes should be confined to agreeing that they can have a fund-raising event and that we would urge the parish to support this. The intention being we help the group rather than specific individuals.
- Father Graham confirmed that Father Paul Keen is available to talk to the parish on 4th May 2014.

Receive update on Financial Report for Parish

Graham had circulated his report and balance sheet to the Council prior to the meeting and they were briefly discussed. It was noted that the hire of the hall for both Wednesday and Friday lunches will raise a further income. Parish events being held on regular basis in the hall to support building works etc. Graham said he will update the Council at the next meeting regarding any fund-raising for works at St. Gregory's. Expense incurred recently for repair of hall ceiling, and repairs to hob and dishwasher. Annabelle asked if the sum of £15 paid by parents for FHC resources could be shown as a separate heading on the accounts sheet under restricted spending and Graham agreed that this would be done.

Other items raised by Father Graham

- Bernard had confirmed that no planning permission would be needed to erect a flag pole at St. George's nor would there be any height restriction.
- Father Graham said he is designing a coat of arms to celebrate the 75th anniversary.
- A discussion took place on extending the use of St. Gregory's to provide additional income, together with future plans for St. George's hall and St. Edmunds at Gt. Wakering.

Other items raised by Annabelle Smith

- Annabelle confirmed that she has decided not to proceed with medals for the children as previously mentioned but instead would like the parish to continue to fund the 'Wednesday Word' pamphlet which is sent home to each family weekly and which gives them the opportunity to prepare for the Sunday liturgy.
- She also confirmed that there are 25 children for the FHC 2014 programme which will be celebrated on 10th and 17th May. It was agreed that a FHC board of all the children will be displayed in the church asking parishioners to pray for them on their journey.
- Annabelle will give Chris and Tom dates of the Family Masses so they can ensure that sides-people are available to meet, greet etc.
- School Carol Concert to be held at St. George's Church on 18th December.

Diocesan Pastoral Council

Adrienne reported that she had attended the recent DPC meeting with Helena Cochrane and she circulated a list of Mission Action suggestions for each parish to consider which had been discussed at the DPC meeting. Parishes are asked to list what they achieve over the next 5 years with their priorities and this will be shared with the new Bishop. Frank thanked Adrienne for attending the DPC meeting on behalf of the Parish.

Any other business

- Graham said that the timer had been adjusted for the new light which illuminates the front of St. George's Church. Frank will ask Lynnette for the details of who provided the school information board as a new information board will be erected at St. George's.
- Suzanne said she had been asked about possibility of replacing some of the old hall chairs. It was agreed that this is not a priority at present but will be considered for future planning.
- Suzanne confirmed that the Fireworks party will take place at St. Gregory's on 9th November and a joint Parish/School Christmas Fayre will be held at the school on 23rd November.
- Charlotte said that some of the youth had asked if the monthly Youth Mass could be called a Youth Event but Father Graham said it is a Youth Mass followed by a social event in the hall. Charlotte will prepare posters to display in the schools and contact the Walsingham House team to invite them to support our parish youth at their Masses. Annabelle said she would advertise the Masses in the school newsletter.
- Father Graham said that, as well as the present young choir/musicians, he would like to extend this to a Youth choir/musicians for the older ones.
- Youth Masses – It was agreed that Gabriella, or whoever she delegates, will be asked to ensure that readers, collectors and anyone needed for the Youth Mass are prepared in advance and the hall is securely locked afterwards. The sides-people can then make sure that everything runs smoothly for the Mass.
- A notice to go in newsletter asking anyone who requires a Gluten Free Host should let the sides-people know when they arrive so that Servers/Ministers can be notified.
- Tressa Parker had reported that ivy in the gutters had again caused flooding at the back of the church and Graham confirmed that the roofing contractors are coming back to clear.
- Graham suggested that the Justice & Peace group could list in advance the items that are being collected for the Homeless so parishioners can take advantage of special offers in the supermarkets when available.
- Adrienne reported that Shoebury Baptist Church are organising a Food Bank where items are distributed to the needy on a points system and she will put a notice in the newsletter to this effect.
- Adrienne said that she had been asked to raise the concerns of a parishioner who feels that Sex Education in Catholic Schools is too prescriptive and after a brief discussion, it was agreed that any parent who has a concern should make an appointment to see the relevant Head Teacher.

Date and time of next meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the PPC will take place on Monday 18th November starting at 8pm. with refreshments being served prior to the meeting from 7.30pm.

The next PPC meeting will take place on 12th December at 7.30pm. Apologies were received from Annabelle and Adrienne.

Frank thanked everyone for attending.

Action List

Annabelle	'12 days of Christmas Quiz' for 6 th December	
Frank	Tickets for Wine Tasting and Quiz	
Annabelle	Provide Chris & Tom with list of Family Mass dates	
Frank	Ask Lynnette for provider of school noticeboard	
Charlotte	Contact Walsingham House team to invite them to Youth Masses and prepare posters to advertise in schools	
Annabelle	Advertise Youth Masses in school newsletter	
Justice & Peace Group	Homeless collection – provide list of requests in advance	
Adrienne	Food Bank - newsletter	