

ST GEORGE AND THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

MINUTES OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 31st OCTOBER 2016

Present: Fr Brett Adams, Dianne Alexander, Malcolm Duncan, Catherine Harrold, Chris McPhillips, David Andrew, Frank McEvoy, Graham Alcock, Annabelle Delgado and Suzanne Halvey

Apologies: received from Paul Schofield, Charlotte Alexander and Brian Lish

Also present: Val McEvoy (Minutes Secretary)

Fr Brett opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approve minutes of the last PPC meeting held on 11th July 2016

The minutes were agreed and approved.

Matters arising from Action list of 11th July 2016

- Frank has prepared the proposed amendment to the Constitution to include the Steward of the Gospel appointment as a permanent member of the Council. This has to be signed by 20 parishioners before being presented to the Annual General Meeting for approval.
- Graham said that the British Heart Foundation have ceased grants to purchase defibrillators at the present time. In the light of this, the Finance Committee have allocated funds to purchase two, to be situated inside St. George's and St. Gregory's. Graham asked Dianne to confirm with him and Sharon which ones should be bought and they will purchase them accordingly. He also asked Dianne to confirm whether any training would be appropriate from St. Johns Ambulance Brigade.
- Refresher session for readers – Tony Castle has booked this to take place next spring.
- Write to parents of baptised children for September 2017 - Annabelle said that this was to be pro-active for Catholic families and Fr Brett will follow up.
- Malcolm said he has edged the steps temporarily with white paint but will re-do with non-slip fluorescent paint when he is able to source a suitable product. Frank said he has some day-glow yellow spray paint left over from doing the hall steps.
- Dianne confirmed that a further couple of volunteers had come forward following the newsletter notice so at present there are 9 befrienders visiting the housebound who would like visits.
- Steward of the Gospel questionnaire – see comments under Any Other Business.

Receive update on Finance report for parish

Graham had circulated his finance report to the Council prior to the meeting and he briefly outlined some key areas and said that a report will be circulated to all parishioners on the weekend of 12th November. It was noted that the Offertory had increased by only 5p per family despite pleas for families to re-consider their weekly donation. Work to remedy damp in 3 areas and repair the crack in tower will cost about £20,000. Loss of £4,500 rental income now that St. Edmunds has been sold and a regular income for St George's hall will cease when Richard retires from doing the Wednesday lunches in March.

Graham pointed out that the revenue from the sale of St. Edmunds matches the expenditure required to carry out repairs listed on the quinquennial report but does not include the £20,000 previously mentioned. A brief discussion took place on how best to raise awareness of the situation. Fr Brett could include this in a homily about Stewardship.

Graham said that he is speaking with the Diocese about possible refurbishment of the hall which would hopefully increase the potential to increase both rental income and attract new hirers. Also speaking to Consulting Engineers to consider converting the repository at St George's into a unisex disabled toilet.

In the light of recent atrocities in churches in Europe, both the Diocese and their Insurance Company have drawn up a schedule to enhance security in our parishes, which will also have financial implications. Frank thanked Graham for his comprehensive report.

Items raised by Fr Brett for discussion

- Fr Brett said that Fr Tom Saunders has left the Ministry and there are also a number of sick priests in the Diocese. Bishop Alan has a number of curates from Religious Orders who want to join the Diocese but Fr Brett said he feels that severe cracks are beginning to appear in not having enough Priests for all the parishes.
- Fr Brett also said that he is very happy in the parish and greatly appreciates all the volunteers who undertake much work in various roles in the parish.

Items raised by Annabelle for discussion

Annabelle confirmed that:-

- 31 children have enrolled for First Holy Communion and the first session took place today after school. FHC will take place on 20th and 27th May 2017.
- New P.T.A. committee voted in recently. They appear to be a strong working group and it is hoped that they will encourage more families to get involved in events both in the parish and school.

Frank said that there has been good feedback about the school newsletter being available in the porches and they are appreciated.

Any other business

- Frank confirmed that he has met with Fr Brett, Graham and Paul to consider the questionnaire and some amendments have been made and they are discussing how best to proceed. Copies will be circulated to various groups who are actively involved in the parish, then all the information provided will be collated to provide valuable information for both the parish and deanery for the future.
- Frank said that when he attended the Steward of the Gospel session, the Priests job description was discussed and ways in which parishioners can support and relieve the workload such as Baptism course, FHC sessions and Befriending group which are already set up in our parish and provide a support mechanism for Fr Brett. This sort of support will need to be increased as the priest shortage worsens.
- Suzanne said that the Firework Night will be on 12th November at St. Gregory's. The joint Christmas Fayre will be held at the school on 26th November. Help was offered to Suzanne while Brian is out of action following his recent accident.
- Malcolm asked whose responsibility it is to clean the hall as the ladies often have to sweep the hall before serving Wednesday lunches. Graham said that Marlene cleans the hall on a Monday morning and he will mention this to Sharon as each group who use the hall should leave the hall clean and tidy.

Date of next meeting

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday 20th November at 6pm in the parish hall with tea\coffee being served from 5.30pm.

It was agreed that the next PPC meeting will be held in school on Monday 6th February 2017 at 7.30pm. As Val will be away prior to the meeting, Graham agreed to circulate an agenda with his Finance report.

Dianne/Sharon	Dianne to liaise with Graham and Sharon re: purchase of defibrillators	
Fr Brett	Write to parents of baptised children for September 2017 intake	
Frank/Malcolm	Non-slip fluorescent paint for front and hall steps	
Graham	Speak to Sharon to ensure groups clean hall after each use	