

ST GEORGE AND THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

MINUTES OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 5th FEBRUARY 2018

Present: Fr Brett, Dianne Alexander, Malcolm Duncan, Brian Lish, Chris McPhillips, Annabelle Delgado, Suzanne Halvey, Kelvin Ncube, David Andrew, Graham Alcock, Catherine Harrold, Sharon Chambers, Paul Gwilliam and Brian Fitzgerald.

Apologies: received from Paul Schofield and Frank McEvoy

Fr Brett opened the meeting with a prayer.

David Andrew to chair the meeting in the absence of Frank.

Approve minutes of the last PPC meeting held on 2nd October 2017

The minutes of the last PPC meeting were approved and signed.

Approve minutes of the AGM held on 19th November 2017

The minutes of the AGM were approved and signed.

Matters arising from Action list of 2nd October 2017

- Sharon will display list of trained defibrillator users in church porches
- Dianne reported that the Befriending group is not functioning at present but will be kept under review. The request to look out for Mass neighbours had prompted a few calls which were followed up.
- Malcolm reported that as no volunteer had come forward to take over the 300 Club, he was quite happy to continue for the near future.

Receive Treasurer's report

Graham had circulated his report to the Council prior to the meeting and he briefly summarised some key areas from the report. In addition he also reported:

- Marlene has retired from cleaning the parish hall. A temporary contract cleaning company is cleaning at the moment until a decision is taken on whether to continue such an arrangement or advertise for an employee, in accordance with Diocesan regulations. Both have their pros and cons.
- Letter rack in porch to be moved to inner porch and a cross to be hung in the main porch. In addition the lighting in that area is also being reviewed.
- Graham will be meeting with David to review any Health & Safety issues.

David thanked Graham for his very comprehensive finance report and all the financial guidance he gives.

Receive report from Steward of the Gospel

The report from Paul, Working Together to Evangelise our Diocese, had previously been circulated and he briefly summarised some key areas.

- Development Plan – after report by Bishop at the beginning of Advent, a new timetable will be set out.
- Next Diocesan SOG meeting to be held on 24th February.
- Paul to discuss with core group (Fr Brett, Graham, Frank and Paul) the 3 main areas.

David referred to the document from the Diocese and the proposed timetable as it is important for parishioners not to get demoralised or anxious. Paul said he had no idea of timescales at present. Some changes are proposed for 2025 and other 2035 but this could be brought forward depending on circumstances.

Brian Fitzgerald commended the idea for the Deanery getting together as both he and Sharon had recently attended a Caritas 'setting-up' meeting at Brentwood with emphasis on the young people. Sharon said that Fr Dominic was very impressed with our Youth J & P group and would like to use

them as a model for the Diocese. Thanks were extended to Brian and Sharon for attending the meeting.

Responses to the Diocesan report have been requested by the end of March, but David suggested that any comments should be given to Paul to co-ordinate by the end of February.

Paul will be stepping down at the end of March.

Items raised by Father Brett

- Fr Brett reported that he was pleased that so much has been covered over the last year including the new toilet in the porch at St. George's, the new projector system and others.
- He said he feels really blessed to have so many parishioners involved in the parish community life and is always pleased to hear complimentary comments from visitors. It is important to keep the momentum going and to develop further, by involving even more people, making links and building relationships.
- Summer fayre – Shawn to call a meeting at end of the month to try and get more involved in running this event as Suzanne and Brian have taken a step back from this. Provisional date for summer fayre Saturday 9th June. Brian said he feels that Fr Brett entuses people to come forward and volunteer in our community as it is a constant battle to get/keep these volunteers.
- Succession planning is an important part of any parish team, such as Priya & Gabriella with the Youth J & P group, Malcolm with 300 club and others, where other parishioners need to be sought to back-up these organisers in the event that they are not available for any reason.

Developing role of PPC.

- It was agreed that the previous discussion covers many aspects of this.

Items raised by Headteacher for discussion.

- Annabelle said that small schools no longer function on their own, but get together as a Deanery group of 7 other Primary and 2 Secondary Schools and take part in Deanery events such as Year 6 Day, Catholic sports, Cross country.
- She said that on a more formal footing, an application has been made by the Deanery schools to the DfE to apply to become a MAT school, changing to Academy status, which she feels will firm up and secure Catholic Education well into the future. The school will always remain as St. George's Catholic Primary School with Christ at the centre of everything we do.
- She reported that the 6 children who form the school liturgy group lead the Lenten group, Rosary group, act as Welcomers at class assembly and help with school Masses.
- Admissions for 2018 – 21 practising Catholic applications received together with an additional 12 practising Christian denomination applications.
- Malcolm said that when any St. George's children are involved in Mass/parish life, they are very confident young people. David extended congratulations to Annabelle and all her Team.

Social events

- Magic Night – it was a joy to see so many families at the event which raised £313 for parish funds.
- The Fireworks Night held at St. Gregory's and the Christmas Fayre were both excellent and very well attended by families and parishioners.
- Graham reported that a date will be set for another Murder Mystery night once Antonia has confirmed when the drama group would be available. A Race Night may also be organised for later in the year.
- Graham confirmed that he hopes to organise an Easter raffle. Prizes will be the wines kindly donated by a parishioner, to raise more funds for the parish.

Any other business

- Stations of the Cross – It was agreed that the PPC will lead this on Friday 2nd March. Dianne agreed to co-ordinate this year with Malcolm, Sharon, Kelvin, Graham and possibly David available. Other members were asked to let Dianne know if they would be available as soon as possible.
- Dianne has noticed that some parishioners do not clearly indicate if they wish to receive communion or a blessing which has caused confusion, particularly for new Ministers. Fr Brett said he would remind the congregation of the procedure for those wishing to receive a blessing at Masses and on special occasions.

- Chris said that she had received comments from a lady who she takes communion to about the Youth J & P Christmas tea asking if it would be possible to hold a summer one.
- Brian & Suzanne said that the hall kitchen badly needs a deep clean and clear out which they hope to do over the half-term holiday with Jim & Denise.
- David said he would review the Health & Safety signs and possibly the school Caretaker could instruct the hall cleaner on how to use the floor cleaner/polisher.
- Sharon reported that a clash has occurred on social bookings for 2 events which have been booked for fund-raising at the Polash within a couple of weeks of each other. Having promised to advertise one event for a parishioner, she then had another request for a similar event which would occur before the previous request. It was agreed that a note should appear in the newsletter reminding everyone of our policy regarding advertising events for them, the number of weeks for notice that is required and that we cannot guarantee to advertise an event if it clashes with one already agreed. Also that dates for events must always be cross-checked with the parish diary.
- Catherine asked if a hot water heater could be fitted over the sink in the Sacristy kitchen, instead of having to boil the kettle when cleaning the chalices etc. Graham confirmed this will be arranged

Date of next PPC meeting

It was agreed that the next PPC meeting will take place on Monday 23rd April 2018 at the school at 7.30pm.

David thanked all for attending. Fr Brett thanked David for conducting a great meeting. The meeting closed with a prayer.

Action List		
All PPC	Let Dianne know if you are available for Stations of the Cross on 2 nd March.	
Fr Brett/Sharon	Remind parishioners/visitors to indicate clearly when they wish to receive a blessing.	
Finance/Premises	Fit hot water heater in the Sacristy kitchen.	
All PPC	Comments on Diocesan report to Paul by end of February.	