

ST GEORGE AND THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

MINUTES OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 5th JUNE 2017

Present: Fr Brett, Dianne Alexander, Malcolm Duncan, Catherine Harrold, Brian Lish, Chris McPhillips, Kelvin NCube, David Andrew, Frank McEvoy, Graham Alcock, Suzanne Halvey, Sharon Chambers.

Apologies: received from Paul Schofield, Charlotte Alexander, Annabelle Delgado and Paul Gwilliam

Also present: Chris Wallen (Assistant Headteacher) and Val McEvoy (Minutes Secretary)

Fr Brett opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approve minutes of the last PPC meeting held on 27th March 2017

The minutes of the last PPC meeting were approved.

Matters arising from Action list of 27th March 2017

Frank to supply Malcolm with spray paint for the hall and front steps. It was noted that all action points had been completed.

Receive Treasurer's report

Graham had circulated his report to the Council prior to the meeting and he briefly outlined some key areas.

He confirmed that the final bill for the recent repairs and maintenance totalled slightly in excess of £36,000 and a few snagging areas are still to be completed.

Projector system for St. George's – a meeting has been arranged to ensure that the proposed system meets all requirements and is fit for purpose.

Presbytery refurbishment – commences on 26th June when Fr Brett will move to temporary accommodation and the parish office will move to the Sacristy with a door bell fitted at the rear entrance to the church for office use.

Frank thanked Graham for his very comprehensive finance report.

Receive report from Steward of the Gospel

In his absence, Paul had sent a brief update to Frank as follows:-

'The completed questionnaire has now been submitted to the Diocese and is available on the parish web site. The next phase will be the 'Parish Development Plan' which I plan to start work on in July and would like to see in its final draft by April 2018'.

Items raised by Father Brett

Fr Brett confirmed that he hoped his move to temporary accommodation in the parish would be for a maximum of 2 months while the presbytery refurbishment is carried out. Sharon will move to the Sacristy and all telephone calls will be diverted to his mobile when the office is unattended.

Porch at St. George's Church – to be reorganised following conversion of repository into a disabled/unisex toilet. Graham said that draft plans have been drawn up for a new repository area including cupboards/shelf. Malcolm said he would pass on the name of a local recommended carpenter to Graham.

Fr Brett advised that Bishop Alan will make a visit to the parish on a Sunday in 2018. He is to speak to Janet in the Bishop's office to agree a suitable date.

Developing role of PPC from last meeting – look ahead to where there are needs to extend role of PPC so that Fr Brett can call on the PPC for support where required. Consider where particular roles may not be sustainable and ways to back-up these roles. One suggestion is for a simple information sheet to be prepared about all groups and activities in the parish for Sharon/Fr Brett and PPC to use. Ask how sustainable each group is and look to recruit more volunteers in particular areas. Fr Brett would like the PPC to consider the liturgical, pastoral and spiritual life of the parish and look at ways they could take more involvement to support him. He asked the PPC to come up with suggestions and then maybe split into different groups to focus on priorities.

- Graham said that more parishioners need to be encouraged to volunteer to help with events as it tends to be the same small circle of people all the time. Chris said she feels the same applies to the P.T.A. David said he feels that many parishioners are unaware of the need or automatically assume that everything is in hand. It was agreed that the target/personal approach needs to be adopted to extend the circle of volunteers.
- Catherine said that the young people had led a very meaningful Stations of the Cross so maybe consult them to see what they would like to do in the parish.
- It was agreed that David (Health & Safety) and Frank (parish website) both need to have back-up in case of absence.
- Dianne suggested that the survey about interests could be a good starting point to target people for particular areas.
- Frank agreed to draft a simple short questionnaire sheet to circulate to parishioners.
- Fr Brett suggested we all try to be 'Fishers of People' to try to encourage more people to volunteer.
- Frank – parish looking at idea of employing a professional Youth Worker with the other parishes in the Deanery so the Youth could meet on a regular basis and keep the young people involved in the life of the parish.
- Sharon said that the young people put forward really good points at the Focus group meeting held recently. Chris agreed to ask her family what they would like to see in the parish.
- Graham warned though of not raising expectations when wording the questionnaire.

Items raised by Headteacher for discussion.

In the absence of Annabelle, Chris confirmed that there was nothing to report at the present time but extended thanks to everyone for the marvellous response to the Easter Egg appeal.

Social events

- Race Night, Magic Night (with table magic), French evening, Murder Mystery Evening.
- Sharon said that she is waiting to agree a date with the Magic Circle. Dianne said she would speak to Gabrielle to see if the Youth Justice & Peace Group could help at the French evening, as a way to help get younger parishioners involved in parish life.
- Suzanne & Brian said they had found it more difficult this year trying to get donations for the Fayre which is being held on 10th June. They also announced that they will both be stepping down from organising the fayre after this year, together with Denise and Jim. It was agreed that the format for the joint Parish/School Christmas Bazaar will be reviewed. Frank thanked Suzanne and Brian for all their hard work in organising the very successful fayres over the last 10 years. It is hoped that other parishioners will step forward to take the lead in organising this event for next year/future years as an important parish fund-raiser, even if it is run on a different format.

Any other business

- Graham said that children are still playing unsupervised in the front garden during coffee mornings and he had prepared a statement on behalf of the PPC as follows: -

Safeguarding your Child.

*Despite previous requests, children are still being allowed to play unsupervised in the front garden during coffee mornings. As a Parish Council we would be failing in our Safeguarding duties if we allowed this to continue. As such we would ask all parents to ensure that their children are either supervised if playing outside or are kept in the hall. Thank you for your assistance. **Parish Pastoral Council.***

It was agreed that this statement will appear in the newsletter for several weeks and laminated copies will be posted on the hall doors and also put on the tables.

- Graham said that Donald Braybrook had kindly painted the gates at St. Gregory's and tidied the noticeboard. The noticeboard will eventually be lowered so that notices can be more easily read.
- David reported that a Health & Safety inspection had taken place today and the report will be forthcoming. He will provide the PPC with a resume when it is received so that the Finance Committee can prioritise expenditure for necessary health & safety issues.
- Fr Brett welcomed Sharon to the PPC.
- Kelvin thanked everyone for their support over the last few weeks while Lindy has been unwell.
- Photos of First Holy Communion and Confirmation for website.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next PPC meeting will be held on Monday 2nd October 2017 - 7.30 at the school.

There being no further business, Fr Brett closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing.

Action List		
Frank	Spray paint to Malcolm to paint steps	
Malcolm	Name of recommended Carpenter to Graham	
Frank	Draft short questionnaire	
Graham/Sharon	Safeguarding notices for hall	
Sharon/Frank	Ask Kim and FHC leaders for photos for website	
Fr Brett	Contact Janet about date for Bishops visit in 2018	