

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th JUNE 2017 AT St. AGNES' CHURCH, CRAWCROOK AT 7.30pm.

Present: Father John James, Rev. Deacon Derek Gallagher, Geoff Laidler, Diana Carney, Lesley Gregory, Lindsay Burkinshaw (Chair), Margaret Jackson.

1. Time of Prayer.

This was led by Rev. Deacon Derek Gallagher.

2. Apologies for absence.

Rev. Deacon Chris Callan, Susan Kirkland, Bob and Rose Goldie.

3. Minutes of PPC Meeting held on 7th March 2017.

The Minutes were approved.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.

There were no matters arising.

5. Parish Partnerships.

Father James reported on the Clergy meeting held on 7th June 2017 which had been called to advise and update Fr. Adrian Tuckwell, the new Partnership Dean, on progress and arrangements emerging from the FTIH consultation process. Fr. Peter Leighton is the new Episcopal Vicar.

- The primary task for the Partnership is to set up a Partnership Development Group (PDG). This is to consist of one representative from each parish (8), one Primary School Head Teacher and the Head Teacher of St. Thomas More Academy (2), plus Clergy from all parishes. Final PDG numbers would total around 16 representatives.
- The first meeting of the PDG had been arranged for Thursday 5th October 2017 at 7pm at St. Joseph's Church in Blaydon.
- A meeting of FTIH teams from all parishes had been arranged for Sunday 2nd July at 3.30pm. at a venue to be confirmed.
- Geoff Laidler volunteered to act as Primary School Head Teacher representative on the PDG. It was **agreed** that he would contact Fr. Tuckwell.
- Fr. Tuckwell would approach St. Thomas More Academy to arrange representation.
- Information on Partnership Arrangements had been made available through displays in all three parishes, with material available for parishioners to take away and read at home. An item detailing the above points had appeared in the Parish newsletter on 11th June.

6. **Formation of a Liturgy Group (G. Laidler, D. Carney)**
The Liturgy Group would initially combine resources from all three parishes and would work to enhance existing celebrations of Mass and lay-led liturgies. It would be open to all interested, and would consider ways to reach different age groups. It would enable an overview of the Liturgical Calendar and how best to celebrate special occasions such as Remembrance Sunday, Youth Sunday the CAFOD/Christian Aid Advent Service and First Holy Communion Masses with, for example, appropriate music and homilies. It was **agreed** that the group would consult closely with the Clergy on any proposals. It was **agreed** that D. Carney, in consultation with G. Laidler, would produce a paragraph to be included in the Parish Newsletter in September 2017. This would be sent to Rose Goldie for forwarding to all members of the PPC. It was also **agreed** that the idea would be presented via a short announcement at the end of Mass in each Parish in September.
7. **Concerns regarding St. Thomas More Academy.**
It was **agreed** that, in his absence, Bernard Lynch's presentation would be held over to the next meeting of the PPC.

Fr. James reported that communication by St. Thomas More Academy with local Clergy was poor, perhaps not helped by the absence of the School Chaplain on Maternity Leave. Fr. Tuckwell would be a member of the governing body, which should improve the situation. This had not yet met.
8. **Social Event for all three parishes.**
It was **agreed** that this was desirable. A very successful dance had been held at St. Barnabas' hall earlier in the year. It was **agreed** that publicity was a key element and had not been effectively managed in the past. It was further **agreed** that there should be at least 3 events each year, one in each parish.
9. **Progress Report on Parish Website. (G. Laidler)**
G. Laidler reported that there had been 5,500 visits to the website up to April 2017. The most popular pages are the Newsletter and Parish News and Events followed by the Parish Pastoral Council page. It was **agreed** that members of the PPC would send photos and a paragraph about themselves for that page as soon as possible. Fr. James thanked G. Laidler for his work on the website. The site would be further updated when new Partnership arrangements were in place.
10. **PPC Elections.**
It was noted that the 2-year period of service for current representatives was due to expire. Fr. James requested that current members consider remaining on the PPC to provide continuity while the new PDG is being established but it was also suggested that others in the parishes should be given a chance to serve, and that elections would be held as necessary. It was noted that Lindsay Burkinshaw

wished to stand down as Chair. It was **agreed** that a new Chair would be elected at the next meeting.

11. Finance Report. (Bob Goldie).

In the absence of Bob Goldie, Fr. James reported on balances held at the Bank, which Bob Goldie had reported on as follows:

Balance at end May 2017	St. Agnes'	OLL	St. Joseph's
Current a/c	£57,480.00	£34,757.00	£24,319.00
General Deposit A/c	£167,700.00	£75,448.00	£246,506.00
Deposit re sale of school	£435,281.00	£0.00	£0.00
Legacy a/c	£37,647.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£698,108.00	£110,205.00	£270,825.00

The Annual Accounts had been sent to the Diocese and have been publicised in all three parishes. There had been no large payments this year. Two cabinets had been bought for St. Barnabas (£598.00).

12. Carers' Trust – Room Sponsorship.

This Charity uses the former presbytery at St. Joseph's Highfield to provide respite care for carers. A request had been received from the Trust for finance to be provided through sponsorship of rooms. It was **agreed** that the three parishes would adopt and sponsor the 'Rome' room and contribute £1,000.00 towards this. It was also noted that the proceeds of St. Joseph's Pantomime would be donated to this cause.

13. Minor Items and Items for a Future Agenda.

- a. New Hymn Books for St. Joseph's. It was **agreed** that St. Joseph's Music Group would review their choice by seeking advice from Fr. Adrian Dixon and G. Laidler. L. Gregory would also consult with Deacon Chris Callan. It was **noted** that Fr. James wished to be involved in the consultation.
- b. Decoration of St. Agnes' Church. Fr. James reported that B. Mannion was pursuing lighting options (to paint the ceiling white and install 'mood' lighting) but was currently on holiday for a month. Some areas of loose carpeting had been re-affixed.
- c. St. Agnes' gardens and grounds. Fr. James commented that the Church front and back gardens had been transformed by the Gardening Team. An outside tap was to be installed to facilitate this work. Lighting for the crucifix had recently been installed.
- d. St. Joseph's carpeting and fittings. The old carpet had been lifted and a new Sanctuary carpet would be fitted. Two Tambour cupboards with lockable sliding doors had been purchased for use by St. Joseph's and a Holy Water Stoup had been installed at the main entrance. A votive candle stand for the icon of St. Joseph was in place. Altar frontals in

liturgical year colours were to be purchased. A decision on purchase of banners of Our Lady and St. Joseph had been postponed.

- e. Photographs of parish events. Fr. James urged parishioners to take photographs of parish events and forward them to G. Laidler for the website.

14. Date and Venue of next Meeting.

Tuesday 19th September 2017 at 7pm. at a venue to be confirmed. It was **agreed** that G. Laidler would lead the Time of Prayer. The meeting would be preceded by a Finance Committee meeting at 6pm.