



St Benedict's Parish

"A Place to Grow"



ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26th January 2015

Present: Trish Sandbach (Chair) Joanne O'Hara (Secretary)
 Fr Gerard Susan Blackburn
 Karen Derbyshire Nermine George
 Alan Thompson

1.0 Welcome

Trish (chair) welcomed all present to the meeting and received apologies and absences.

2.0 Opening Prayer

Led by Father Gerard

3.0 Apologies for absence

Rena

4.0 Approve the minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

5.0 Matters arising from the minutes

Open meeting for the parish

New ways of meeting the parish were discussed, that are open and transparent, where we can meet and share concerns, thoughts, issues and reflect on them. The PPC must not feel like a closed shop. TS said that having some structure or tasks would help. It was suggested putting charts in the narthex for items to talk about at the meeting. Important to offer good hospitality – a social with a purpose, allowing us to look to the future but not in a critical way. We need to encourage ways of celebrating a vision for the future. SB suggested the structure of 'What are we doing now', 'Are we doing it well', 'It would be better if ...'. An evening in May was suggested after the pressures of communions, confirmations and exams are over and before holiday time.

6.0 Update on Live Simply – Trish S

TS said that a small group had met to complete the Live Simply forms. These were posted in late October but only to be returned by the Royal Mail mid-January, undelivered. The forms have been resent. The next meeting will be looking at implications for the parish. Certain projects may need finance and a process to go through. Solar panels had been looked into before but at the time the financial climate was not healthy. A staged installation, starting with the presbytery, may be easier to implement. Live Simply plans should be in place by summer, with evidence of things done and ongoing. GK expressed his thanks to TS and Mandy particularly for their hard work during Advent.

7.0 Safeguarding – reflections on Ampleforth announcement

The Abbot's announcement caused many different reactions in the parish, from shock, disbelief, anger and some not surprised. The silence was tangible after the announcement at Masses. We are blessed to have a very healthy parish. GK said that it had been a long 18 months since the initial contact, involving much work. He has written to the Bishop and the Diocesan coordinator of safeguarding with personal reflections and how it has affected the parish and himself during and after the announcement. The Abbot and victims support were very visible after all Masses. Preparations had to be made in case the press arrived on our doorstep. They did not, but could still at any time, as investigations are underway in elsewhere. GK is to visit the Bishop on 18th March 2015 to feedback. Could the process be improved in any way? Feedback from PPC members included:- thought it was handled well, shocked that it was a girl, put it in a box and move forward, don't let it overwhelm, we are all good and sinners, good that the children were taken out of mass, why now (life was different-they wouldn't have been believed), how does this affect the future. AT brought up the need to ensure that current CBS/DRB checks need to be kept up-to-date.

8.0 Pastoral plan for 2015 – 2016

Formation

Catherine and Emily have started a pre-school age Sunday liturgy, involving scripture of the week, singing, candle lighting, activities. They need formation, how do we support them? Who takes over when they move on? Fresh look at way of doing things. Why does children's liturgy stop in the school holidays if it is parish, not school, run?

We invite the baptised children back for the feast of The Baptism of the Lord. Can we continue this to toddlers, first Holy Communion children and confirmation candidates? GK mentioned the parents of this year's first holy communicants, and how they are taking time to reflect on their practise and how life is for them. Looking at the audience is important. We need to bless and thank people and share good practise. Our visit to the Mosque was well attended, could we offer a formal return invitation to visit our church, with good hospitality.

Evangelisation

Conference in Birmingham. We need two representatives to attend for further evangelism. Baptism courses run from St Benedict's but how can we support families going forward

Bereavement

The majority of our funerals are at local crematoriums and not in church. The bereaved may only get a phone call from Father before it is time to move onto the next one. At the ecumenical lunches there was a suggestion of a bereavement café. Experts would be needed for this. Come and share. It was felt a church situation would be best so they could access church if wanted. Is church open when you want it to be? During lent doors are open from 7.30am but it could be possible to open from 8.30am – 11.30am every weekday when the office is staffed.

Sick and housebound

GK expressed the need to be kept in touch with parishioners who are unwell. It is not possible for GK to visit the housebound more than once a month. Could we have parishioners visited by not just Eucharistic ministers? Some housebound are happy for communion from anyone, others will only accept from Father. They give blessings back.

GK asked that the PPC take the lead on the pastoral plan next time we meet. The PPC also needs a reflection evening for members and to visit other PPC groups to share good practise.

9.0 Next steps action plan with the above

AOB –

SB asked if we are having Lenten talks or something similar this year. Can we look at the gospels and how they are written? Why do we do things during Mass? Can we sit and look at aspects of how we celebrate our faith? GK said that there are churches together talks during Lent. The liturgy group are planning evening reflections on the Stations of the Cross.

SB asked about progressing the Seagulls mosaic – GK suggested we wait until after Willow workshop is complete (cancelled again due to bad weather).

Christmas mass times – Midnight mass was well attended (93) so at present there is no need to change the time. There were too many to count at the 6pm vigil and 127 people at 8.30am and 153 at 10am.

10.0 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 8pm

Chairperson – Alan Thompson

Prayers – Nermine George