



St Benedict's Parish

"A Place to Grow"



ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2015

Present: Alan Thompson (Chair) Joanne O'Hara (Secretary)
 Fr Gerard Susan Blackburn
 Karen Collings Nermine George
 Jim Guthrie Rena Paul
 Monica Walker

1.0 Welcome

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

2.0 Opening Prayer

Led by Nermine

3.0 Apologies for absence

Trish, Karen D

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

How can we bring the thoughts of the parish forward? How can we grow together?

After Easter/May time was thought to be a good time to hold the open meeting. We need to sort out how we are going to do it.

A suggestion box was suggested for questions from the parish, which would be looked at before the open meeting and then points discussed. Need to keep the suggestion form structured and encourage constructive comments eg. 'It is this ...' 'What can be done better.....' (nothing anonymous).

Invite parishioners to come after Wednesday evening mass and feel special for coming together. Have wine and nibbles for ten minutes before starting anything formal. SB suggested smaller groups to allow everyone a chance to give their opinion. We could use the parish centre lounge and throw ideas at a flipchart.

Susan, Rena and Monica agreed to organise the evening, to go ahead on 13th May 2015.

Re-iterate what the PPC is for, produce large copies of the constitution, members needed.

Pastoral plan

Opportunity for formation. As our parish is widespread can we use local volunteers as contact points and as people who can direct us? Can they help with bereavement? We need to know what it is like to live at St Benedict's up your street. We need to reach out and celebrate more. Are there fundamental questions that we dare not ask? Simple questions are the hardest to answer. We need neighbours to look in on parishioners. We need parishioners to spend time sitting by sick beds.

Can we link this to the open meeting? Don't use words such as formation and evangelisation without explanation. Can we use youngsters in the community to visit the elderly, help clean etc. They have free time and want to be valued and to feel important. Possibly link to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

KC asked about having a prayer list. We have a prayer book but can we do more? Can we read out the sick list and take a few moments to think of people living through difficult times? Could we send texts, use cards?

MW suggested having community connectors to team up with a member of the PPC. Let everyone know who it is. Reach out for volunteers. They would meet in their local area or house. Not a great commitment, half an hour to an hour per week. Relay back and rejoice in what is working well. It doesn't cost anything. Can we renew the parish register and remember a different family in church each day of the year?

It was suggested we bring this to the open meeting.

6.0 Willow workshop

The day went really well. School children came up in the morning and people who attended the lent lunch helped in the afternoon. We can now look at creating a Mosaic for the peace garden. SB asked that someone else take this on, as she is not available any weekend. We need to reach out to more people. If it followed on from 10am mass then everyone can take part. We will need a design – do we have a competition? A picture of the parish was suggested. A simple border map with a cross at the top, then parishioners could put the piece in where they live. Can it be tied in to the summer fair or confirmations? September was suggested as a fresh start, the start of the harvest.

7.0 John Bell weekend

John Bell is a prolific speaker and hymn writer. He has featured on thought for the day and songs of praise. We are very lucky to have him for two days. The PPC were urged to encourage anyone they know to come along. Churches Together were aware, but can we take it to the other churches in the parish, not just Garforth.

8.0 PPC membership

Renew for September. Five members who joined in May 2013 have another year to run. Those who joined in January 2010 should consider if they would like to stand down. Alan agreed to do another year.

9.0 Next steps action plan with the above

AOB –

KC brought up the transport issues for schools. Funding for secondary faith schools' transport will be pulled in September. Buses are being withdrawn as well as funding. Families need supporting to help them afford to send their children to catholic schools.

10.0 Date of next meeting

Short meeting one week before open meeting.

Wednesday 6th May 2015 at 8-8.30pm

Chairperson –

Prayers –