



St Benedict's Parish

"A Place to Grow"



ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st November 2013

Present: Trish Sandbach (Chair) Joanne O'Hara (Secretary)
Jim Guthrie Susan Blackburn
Nermine George Karen Derbyshire

1.0 Welcome

2.0 Opening Prayer

Led by Susan

3.0 Apologies for absence

Fr Gerard, Alan, Monica, Phillip, Rena, Karen Collins

4.0 Approve the minutes of the last meeting

All in agreement

5.0 Actions from previous meeting

Altar servers

AT distributed an altar server guide for approval, thoughts and comments. The document was thought to be very informative. By being an altar server children are actively involved in Mass, taking part in proceedings and taking more on board. It is a valuable and very important ministry that can help get children into church. Training and support can be provided.

It was noted that other churches have a wide age range of altar servers. Could we open up weekday masses to adult servers? The young need guidance from adults. In the past we have had a Master of Ceremonies but that is down to personal choice. An appeal for adult servers at weekday masses could be put in the bulletin, leaving the young people to cover weekend masses. It was felt that parents have been successfully minding the children in the sacristy before masses so it will be readdressed in future if necessary.

Live Simply Award

TS said that she had discussed the process with various people. She suggested that the next step should be to write to all the church groups and ask for a representative to attend a meeting to discuss the Live Simply campaign, to appeal for parishioners in the bulletin and any PPC members would be very welcome. A meeting date will be decided before Christmas.

Churches Together

Clarification was needed as to whether it was just the name that needed changing or do we just have to live with it. TS feedback that the constitution had been approved by all the churches. For the week of prayer a service has been planned in the Methodist church on 26th January 2014. This Eucharistic service will involve exchanging gifts symbolizing what each church brings to the community. St Benedict's will be represented by hospitality and listening. It was proposed that symbols to reflect this could be flowers and tea bags (any other ideas would be welcome).

Review of communication between all Parish groups, PPC and Parish

Live Simply Award should bring groups together.

Use AGM to put faces to Parish groups.

6.0 Teenager involvement in church

NG asked if we could think of ways of involving teenagers in church. She gave an example of teenagers in France coming to church with their girl/boyfriends and creating a different atmosphere in church. We shouldn't be ashamed to be Christian. Teenagers have lots of energy which the church should embrace. Could they help our ageing community, which would help the whole church mix together? Could they clean, provide music or read? There are not many 14-18 year olds attending church. Are there things that would interest both the old and young – tea parties, listening to readers? Researching the internet might be a source of other ideas.

It was felt that children are lost by the time they make their confirmation. If there were more targets say at age 21 and 28, would they keep coming to Mass? Young people should have happy memories of the church environment. Could they meet once a week or on a regular basis – Friday nights, Saturday mornings, movie nights. Even if we start with just two then they will bring friends.

If young people achieve something (say Duke of Edinburgh award) could we put it in the bulletin.

Is there a Diocesan youth person who could help?

7.0 Bishops' Conference family life questionnaire

It was noted that it is not the easiest questionnaire to complete but to do as much as you can. It was felt it wasn't for the average person but it was important to try. The questionnaire could have been better.

8.0 Date of next meeting – Thursday 23rd January 2014 at 7.30pm

Chairperson - Nermine

Prayers - Trish