

**Present:**

Fr. Peter Mansfield, Gerry O'Donnell, Sue Carr, Roque Fernandes, Penne Hutton, Brenda Eydman, Pauline D'Mello-Maplesden, Bernadette Hallett, Bridget Hanlon, Peter McFall, Elsie Ofili, Erica Thurbon, Colin Wilding,

**Minutes:**

Bernadette Hallett

**Agenda:**

1. **Welcome** Gerry welcomed everyone to the group which was the first attempt at using Zoom for a meeting. **Opening Prayer** by Brenda.
2. **Apologies for Absence** - none.
3. **Members check-in**

Each member of the PPC was given the opportunity to say briefly how they are faring under current lockdown conditions. All doing well.

**4. Minutes and Matters Arising**

No issues or concerns raised. Minutes accepted and passed.

**5. Current Status and Response**

Gerry asked everyone to consider the question whether we are doing enough to support and connect with parishioners during the crisis, and to ask whether there is anything more that we could or should be doing. Masses on line have received a very positive and appreciative response, there has been lots of feedback from parishioners who have enjoyed being able to participate remotely in mass from our church.

There have been a few teething problems but on the whole it is all going very well. We are all very grateful for this ongoing contact and for all that is being done to enable masses to be streamed. Roy Misra is master-minding the technology and that is hugely appreciated.

Brenda has been co-coordinating a network of volunteers to respond to any requests for help or contact.

Everyone that has been phoned has greatly appreciated the contact and having someone to speak to.

The PPC are concerned that some people may have slipped through the net and may be missing out on contact. Each newsletter contains an item advertising that anyone in need may contact the parish office.

We are aware that not everyone is online and may miss out on receiving the newsletter or regular contact with someone. Brenda is working closely with Bridget and Leonie to reach out to as many people as possible. There is a concern that some families may be left out from receiving contact or help.

The school has a Food Bank which is thought to be open daily, Any surplus food may also be donated to the Food Bank in Purley, run by Purley Reformed Church, who will happily accept donations.

Please see: [www.purleyfoodhub.net](http://www.purleyfoodhub.net) for up to date information, and how to donate food, money, or time.

Brenda said that as she has a very big focus on supporting the Elderly and Vulnerable, she asked whether anyone else would be willing to help out with Families. Erica volunteered.

Gerry suggested that he, Colin, and Erica should meet at a separate time to give more thought to how we can investigate further to ensure all parishioners have at least some contact during this period.

Colin asked whether we could have a version of the newsletter on a clear white background making it more user-friendly for printing. Fr. Peter is happy to print off extra newsletters for distribution to housebound people who are unable to access the newsletter online.

There are 85 people who have signed up for the weekly mailing and newsletter, so that is working well.

The newsletter continues to be published weekly, and we are also reaching out to people via the parish website, live streaming masses and recorded masses on YouTube.

A suggestion was made that we could advertise the website in the CR5 magazine which reaches many people. Suggestions were also made that we could put details of the website, masses, etc on a large board outside the church, advertise in the supermarkets, or on local roundabouts. The school newsletter could also be utilised to promote the website, and newsletter mailing.

Gerry said that he would welcome any further ideas or suggestions at any time.

## **6. Financial Update**

Prior to the meeting Peter McFall circulated a revised financial projection.

There has obviously been a big drop in income during lockdown and many expenses are still incurred therefore there is a significant shortfall in the year end projected balance.

The revised forecast presented is based on lockdown until the end of the year. The biggest drop in income is from the Offertory. This will also have a knock-on effect to the amount that can be reclaimed through Gift Aid. Standing Orders are bringing in around £1,000 per month for which we are very grateful, however, the balance of cash donations of £3,000 per month is now zero. We will also lose out from income from the fete, hall bookings, the social club, etc. and we expect a £42,000 drop in income by the end of the year. There was a disappointing result from the appeal to the parish to change from cash donations to standing orders and Peter McFall and Fr. Peter would like to put a weekly appeal in the newsletter regarding this.

The parish is not eligible for any government financial support. A 'Just Giving' page could possibly raise some funds but these would go initially to the Diocese who would take a percentage before passing on any balance to the parish.

Pauline asked whether the parish fete is now officially cancelled. She is concerned as some sponsors have pulled out. Although there has been no official statement about a timescale for the lockdown it is highly unlikely that we will be returning to big social events by July, and the return to activities is likely to be a staggered return over months.

## **7. Communication to the Parish**

The minutes of this meeting will be put on the parish website, and an item prepared for the newsletter. This will also include an appeal for financial donations with details of how to do this. Fr. Peter reminded people that we need to be careful how this is worded as some people will be experiencing financial hardship at this time although many are still able to contribute. Parishioners need to be reminded that we all still have a financial responsibility for bills and running costs of the church and presbytery.

Also, people need to be made aware of how much is still continuing to happen within the parish despite being unable to attend mass together.

### **Volunteer to prepare Opening Prayer - Erica**

**Closing Prayer** - offered by Fr. Peter with special mention of those people suffering from, or being affected by, the Coronavirus in any way.

Fr. Peter thanked Gerry for organising this meeting and for setting it up. None of us are now Zoom-phobic!

Special mention and thanks were given to Roy Misra for all his technical expertise and support over recent weeks, for enabling mass to reach so many parishioners, and for so many people to still be able to be involved in the mass in different ways.

### **Date of Next Meeting:**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May via Zoom . .**