

**Present:**

Fr. Peter Mansfield, Gerry O'Donnell, Sue Carr, Penne Cecil, Bernadette Hallett, Pauline D'Mellomablesden, Brenda Eydman, Peter McFall, Karen Swain.

**Minutes:**

Bernadette Hallett

**Agenda:**

**1. Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Opening prayer prepared and said by Brenda.

Gerry opened the meeting by welcoming in particular the newly elected members, Sue Carr, Pauline D'Mellomablesden and Penne Cecil. He thanked them for being prepared to step forward and serve the parish.

**2. Farewell to Michael O'Callaghan**

Gerry thanked Michael for the enormous contribution he has made to Parish life and the Parish Council over many years. He is a past Chairman and set up this current Parish Pastoral Council at a time when the parish was without a priest, for which we are very grateful. Fr. Peter expressed his appreciation and said it had been of great benefit to him to have a Parish Council in place and their support when he arrived here and wished to add his special thanks to Michael. Michael was presented with a gift of a silver plated photograph frame in appreciation of all he has done for the parish.

**3. Apologies for Absence** received from Liz Conway, Bridget Hanlon, Truda Hobbs.

**4. Minutes and Matters Arising**

No matters arising, minutes accepted and passed.

**5. Election to the PPC**

The Constitution as recently written and adopted by the PPC requires voting for the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Officers terms of office are now re-set.

Voting took place:

Chair - Gerry O'Donnell, nominated by Brenda Eydman, passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair - Brenda Eydman, nominated by Peter McFall, passed unanimously.

Secretary - Bernadette Hallett, nominated by Gerry O'Donnell, passed unanimously.

**6. Parish Pastoral Development update**

Started with a recap of previous discussions where priorities of needs in the parish had been decided;

1) Youth

2) Elderly

3) Vulnerable (this needs to be better qualified).

Following the Parish Sharing Day we also recognised a cohort of parishioners were not being engaged with, namely parents of young families, They need to be added as a priority, their needs identified, and a plan made for future engagement.

We need 4 plans for the 4 priorities. The PPDG was started last year as a project that will have a defined timescale. It now needs 'ownership' of the priorities to provide leadership and a focal point to represent the respective groups and their needs.

## **7. Roles within the PPC**

The council looked at the different priority areas and discussed the principle of ownership at PPC level, with all PPC members assuming responsibility for at least one priority. Sub-committees could be set up in order to support the nominated PPC person. In this way progress can be made in between meetings. The groups then need to be self-sustaining. There will be a series of monthly meetings on each priority area starting after the summer break. Any issues arising will need to be brought back to the PPC.

Other additional topics have also been identified and need our focus. They are:

- 1) School
- 2) Fund Raising
- 3) On-line
- 4) Spirituality (although this might come under the leadership of the Liturgy group)

Gerry made a list of PPC members and the priorities that need to be allocated

Priorities are:

- 1) Elderly 2) Vulnerable 3) Young Families 4) Fund raising 5) School 6) Digital 7) Spiritual 8) Youth

After discussion some people volunteered to take responsibility for certain roles:

Elderly	Brenda
Vulnerable	Bernadette and Sue
Youth	Pauline and Penne
Young Families & School	Karen and Peter McF.
On-line	Gerry

- \* Spiritual to be discussed with Truda
- \* Gerry will discuss with Bridget and Liz their preferred priorities.

## **8. Organ Fundraising**

The PPC have a target to raise £4,500 towards the cost of the new organ.

Brenda recently organised an Organ Recital evening. Edward, the organist who presented the evening was excellent, the organ sounded great, it was lovely to hear the range of what it is able to do and Edward says it is one of the best we could have bought; there was a lovely social evening afterwards. £665 was raised on the night, so £2789 has been raised so far. We now need to plan for the balance of the amount we need to raise.

- \* Gerry will set up a Just Giving website page.

A few suggestions were made of possible ways to fund raise, eg. cake sale, raffle, social event, barn dance. Bernadette has sent a list of some suggestions of ways to fund raise, and some website links with ideas to Gerry. We need to decide who is going to organise and run these events. The PPC did agree that we would cover half the cost of the purchase of the organ. We are half way to this target.

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## **9. Finance Review**

Peter M distributed spreadsheets for the PPC members to look at and explained the breakdown in detail. We are hopefully heading for a surplus above that which was budgeted for. The offertory collections are currently down on last year but we still have July and summer months to come. Gift Aid has a new finance system. The diocese has not yet provided the figure-work for the finance sheet.

The Finance Committee priorities are:

- for the parish to live within its means
- all expenditure to be properly controlled
- Comply with money regulations, eg. as in money laundering

The Hall is a tremendous asset, and could be used more to raise money and we could market the facility in order to increase revenue. Hall enquiries have increased but there are restraints, including the fact that someone has to open and close the hall. There is a small group of people who are key holders and already have a lot of responsibilities all of which is voluntary. More use of the hall would increase the use of heating and lighting and therefore raise bills. We would need to increase hall use significantly in order to employ a person to be responsible. Church events would always take priority over outside bookings.

## **10. Fete Review**

Pauline provided a detailed overview of the fete. The committee consisted of 2 core members and a supporting team of 4 others, which worked well. Planning and preparation for this year was based on feedback from the previous year. Adverts alone raised £2,500 which well surpassed last year. Income from Estate Agent advertising boards is a good source but the team found it difficult to get the required number of people to agree to have an advertising board.

The Committee decided to make a point of targeting more youth volunteers from the parish this year, and to appeal to a wide age range, and felt this worked well.

A large order had been placed with Tesco, paid for in full, and accepted, but Tesco failed to deliver on the day. The committee therefore then had to arrange to go down to collect the order themselves. Fr. Peter proposed that we write a letter of complaint.

\* Gerry will write a strong letter of complaint to Tesco on behalf of the Fete Committee and the PPC.

Gerry gave an enormous vote of thanks to Pauline and her team for all their hard work, time, and dedication. The church fete is the single biggest fund raising event in the year, and is also a huge social event. It was felt that the atmosphere was wonderful this year, despite the setbacks experienced by the team. It was well supported and enjoyed by the parish. He fully appreciated all the problems that they had encountered, but without Pauline and her team the event would not have happened. We are all most grateful.

## **11. Development of Liturgical Music**

Fr. Peter spoke about his wish to develop the music at the 6.00pm and 9.00am masses. (the 11.00am mass is well catered for). Some people have expressed a wish to have some hymns, especially at the 6.00pm mass. All efforts to find musical support for the 6.00pm and 9.00am have been exhausted and consideration should now be given to payment for musical services.

There is a suitable candidate currently available who played at the recent Confirmation mass. We would need to specify the number of sessions, possibly looking at around 36-40 masses during the year.

There was a high level of support for this proposal from the PPC. It was also recognised that there might be the potential to develop music in other areas in the church, such as a children's choir.

## **12. Communication to the Parish**

- \* Gerry will prepare an article for the newsletter to feedback about this meeting. He will also ask for volunteers for help with fundraising for the organ.

## **13. Priest's Notices**

None

## **14. AOB**

A request was made by Pauline for a Smart television for the hall for use in the first instance with the Youth. Fr. Peter said it would need to be a 60" screen, and thought it was a good idea. A TV would need to be mobile and a set of wheels would cost around £150.

- \* Pauline will send a request to the Premises Team for discussion. The Premises Team would apply to the Finance Team if agreed.

## **Date of Next Meeting:**

Date: Thursday 26th September

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Marian Room, St.Aidan's Church Hall,

- \* Peter McFall volunteered to prepare the Opening Prayer.

Gerry expressed his thanks again to the new members of the PPC and wished them well in their forthcoming term of office .

Fr. Peter and the committee wished Gerry and Group 510 a wonderful week in Lourdes.

Fr. Peter closed the meeting with a prayer, with particular mention of Bridget and Truda.