

Present:

Gerry O'Donnell, Sue Carr, Penne Cecil, Liz Conway, Pauline D'Mello-Maplesden, Bernadette Hallett, Bridget Hanlon, Truda Hobbs, Peter McFall,

Minutes:

Bernadette Hallett

Agenda:

1. **Welcome** by Gerry O'Donnell **Opening Prayer** - by Sue Carr
2. **Apologies for Absence** - Fr. Peter, Brenda Eydman, Truda Hobbs, Karen Swain,
3. **Minutes and Matters Arising**

Fr. Peter sent apologies for his absence and sent a brief update on his health. He is now gradually resuming his duties in the parish. The priests who have been helping in his absence will continue to be with us during December so that Fr Peter can ease himself back into celebrating Mass.

It was suggested we would like to show our appreciation to the covering priests by Fr. Peter hosting a meal sometime in the spring for them which Bridget offered to organise and cater for. A few Parish Council members may also be included to represent the parish.

4. **Parish Pastoral Council Priorities**

- a) Youth - Penne, Pauline

Pauline gave out a handout with an update about the Parish Youth Group. She talked about the need for fund raising to support the Youth Group and their activities. They are looking to invite some speakers to some of their meetings. Bridget suggested she may be able to find some contacts, and it was also suggested that Janet O'Donnell may be able to help as she has invited people to talk at her school in the past and will have contacts.

Penne is very concerned about knife crime and is going to contact the Mayor to request a meeting to discuss what is being done about this issue. She and Pauline are also meeting with Faith Together in Croydon on 9th December. They have a contact with Croydon Council and may have access to facilities, eg a free room for meetings.

Penne explained the Youth Charter in their report which has rules that have been drawn up by Youth across the age range.

SMART TV, Update; Fr. Peter was going to deal with the purchase of this. Funding has been approved by the Finance Committee.

* (This has subsequently been actioned and the TV has been delivered)

Organ; Nikki Langford may know how to play pre recorded music through the organ as it does have this facility, for use at Youth events.

A request was made for table games etc for the Youth Group. We used to have a Games Table in the Social Club after mass on Sunday mornings.

*Gerry will organise an appeal to the parish for games to be donated.

The group needs to fund their refreshments for their weekly meetings.

The volunteer helpers have regular meetings and also communicate using a WhatsApp group. They also communicate regularly with the parents and guardians of the youth members.

b) Elderly - Liz, Bridget,

The importance of continuity was stressed when dealing with the elderly. It is important to reach out to the elderly, maybe with offers of help with shopping, taking Communion to the sick, elderly, or frail. The SVP are very short of volunteers to help with visiting the housebound or sick. The elderly are very appreciative of having visitors and some company. Loneliness is a big issue for many elderly people. The biggest need or appeal is for volunteers to help with home visits. The SVP meet each Monday.

* We need a recruitment drive to ask for volunteers to assist the SVP with visiting the elderly.

* Liz will speak to Andrew Dunlop regarding appeals and what would be helpful.

c) Vulnerable - Bernadette, Sue, Bridget,

The PPC were shown the list which identifies which groups or support is currently available in the parish, a list which identifies groups of people who may be vulnerable, what we think their needs might be, and some suggestions for discussion of what could be made available or set up in the long term. Vulnerable people are a sensitive issue as not everyone wants to be seen as vulnerable or needy, or at risk.

Gerry suggested that we now need to sub divide the list into smaller groups, select one group, and work out how to reach out and contact them.

Eg. The Bereaved. With sensitivity, find some people who have been bereaved and ask them what was their experience, and what they would have found helpful at the time.

We need to find out what other parishes have in place to support the bereaved in their parish.

What is 'best practice' in other parishes?

What support or counseling is available?

d) Young Families - Peter

The areas that already exist are Family Social events, Baptism group, Children's Liturgy, and Altar Servers. Need to look at the needs of new families, those with new born children, those with young children at St. Aidan's School, and those at other schools. Also, children starting or moving schools. Their needs are identified as needing to feel welcome, possibly providing welcome packs, maybe set up fun sessions after the 11.00 mass, and coffee mornings or afternoon tea. Need to explore best practice in other local churches.

The Parish Day was successful in that it showed the things that are already going on in the parish. Another similar day could be useful but would be better to have in the term time.

Need to look at how to increase or improve the long term engagement of families. Also need to look at how to strengthen ties with St. Aidan's School.

* Gerry asked for all groups to email him a copy of their findings so far.

Gerry talked about the Parish Pastoral Development Group and what the next step should be for them. This is now an opportunity to approach them to see whether they are interested in developing these Priority areas with the PPC.

* Gerry will update the PPDG.

5. Parish Pastoral Council membership

For several members of the PPC their term of office reaches 4 years next February. Members may serve another term if they are nominated or elected.

The Chair and the Secretary (Gerry and Bernadette) started their term of office when the Constitution was adopted earlier this year so this will not affect their current appointment.

Those PPC members affected need to start thinking about whether they would like to stay on for a further term. We need to advise the parish of an election in February 2020.

Gerry asked that affected speak with either him or Fr. Peter to indicate their wishes.

* Gerry will put an item in the newsletter to explain the situation and stating that he would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining the PPC.

6. Communication to the Parish

Gerry will put items in the newsletter to report back on the meeting, and also about the future membership of the PPC.

7. AOB

Penne and Pauline are Welcome Ministers at Midnight Mass this year. They can act as ushers at Communion time to ensure a smooth flow of people approaching the altar.

It is suggested the reader can instruct the congregation how to proceed for Communion and for the Chalices, this can be done while the priest is giving out Communion to the Special Ministers. This will be for the 6.00 mass and Midnight Mass, both of which attract a large congregation.

Leonie has offered to write out the explanation and instructions for the Reader to read out.

A suggestion was made that maybe we could have a Christmas tree on the roof of the church.

(This was subsequently discussed by the Premises Team but is impractical due to Health and Safety reasons)

Volunteer to prepare Opening Prayer - Bridget

Closing Prayer by Gerry

Date of Next Meeting:

Date: Tuesday 14th January, 2020

Time: 7.30pm

Place: The Presbytery, Portnalls Road, Coulsdon.