

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** given by Gerry, with a special welcome to new members.
Opening Prayer by Peter McFall.
2. **Apologies for Absence** - none
3. **Minutes and Matters Arising** - no matters arising from previous Minutes, Minutes passed.
4. **PPC Membership**

Gerry welcomed four new members to the Parish Pastoral Council, Roque Fernandes, Elsie Ofili, Erica Thurbon, and Colin Wilding. We look forward to working with them. Gerry invited the new members to introduce themselves and to give some background history. He also asked if there was any particular area that the new members would like to see developed within the PPC.

Gerry gave a farewell speech and vote of thanks to Truda Hobbs, Liz Conway, and Karen Swain, the outgoing members of the PPC. He thanked them for their hard work, skills, and the dedication that they have brought to the PPC and to the Parish. They have made an enormous contribution to Parish life. Their stepping down has opened the way for new members to bring fresh ideas and skills to the PPC. They were presented with a pot of Spring bulbs each as a token of appreciation for all they have done.

5. PPC Priorities

Gerry gave a short introduction and explanation about the PPC Priorities for the new members. He explained how the shortlist was arrived at and that each member of the PPC has taken on responsibility for a specific priority these are: Youth, Elderly, Vulnerable, and Young Families. Each PPC member is aligned to a priority.

Gerry has a template for development plans, ways to approach the Priorities, best practice, resources, and a plan of action.

Each group then reported back on their latest developments.

a) The Youth - Penne and Pauline

Recently held a concert which raised just under £300 in which Surrey Harmony were invited to sing. Sadly it was not as well attended as hoped. Need to look at how future concerts or events are marketed as this will be an annual fund raiser. The money raised is to be allocated to funding the Aylesford Youth trip. The Youth groups meet on the last Friday of each month and the new Confirmation class members are eligible to attend the groups.

The point was raised regarding the Youth, that we need to ask what we can do for them, and what can they do for the Parish? How can we get the Youth more involved in Parish life in many areas?

b) The Elderly - Brenda and Bridget

There are various things already going on in the Parish. The monthly lunch club is attended mostly by elderly people.

We are trying to set up a rota of drivers for lifts to mass, the lunch club, and other possible needs. They need to link with the SVP. An appeal has been put in the newsletter for volunteer drivers, and a reminder that any volunteers would need to have a DBS check carried out.

A question was raised about insurance which has been investigated and as no money is exchanged volunteers' private insurance should cover giving lifts under the Social/Domestic clause, but will be best to check with own insurance companies.

In the summer there is sometimes an afternoon tea, the timing of which suits the lighter evenings. There is an annual coach trip to Eastbourne which is especially enjoyed by the elderly who do not have their own transport.

c) The Vulnerable - Bernadette, Sue, Bridget

The Vulnerable covers a very broad spectrum. The team met recently to review the groups that they had identified as vulnerable within the Parish, and to look at their immediate priorities. They are now focusing specifically on the Bereaved and those affected by loss. They have identified some long term proposals and have arranged to meet with Fr. Peter to discuss these possibilities. They proposed that as this will take an extensive amount of time over the coming year the other groups that they had identified could not be addressed, so could the PPC consider them being reallocated to existing groups, or be taken on by new PPC members.

Suggestion: Bernadette, Bridget and Sue continue to work to develop Bereavement support within the Parish.

The Elderly, and the Lonely could come under the heading of the Elderly which Brenda has responsibility for.

The Sick, Housebound, and People in Hospital could become a new area of responsibility. Could liaise with Mary Archer who already does hospital visiting and raise the profile of this valuable work.

Disabilities, both physical and mental health could become a new area.

Fr. Peter, Bridget, and Sue are the Safeguarding Officers for St. Aidan's. They can offer help and support to vulnerable parishioners, for example victims of domestic abuse and possibly put people in contact with other contacts in the Parish or the Diocese. This is a very specialised area so great sensitivity and care needs to be taken. The SVP can also offer a quick response, support and help.

We agreed we need a flier for the church porch, and possibly a notice in the newsletter.

d) Young Families - Peter McFall (Karen Swain, outgoing member)

Peter now needs a new PPC member to work with him on this area.

They have looked at neighbouring churches to investigate how they get young families involved in their parishes. They all appear to use their websites to disseminate information and give links to parish life, but there did not seem to be much available and Peter praised our new website as being very user friendly and welcoming. The St. Aidan's website is easy to navigate and is the only one with a welcome given by the Parish Priest. We have 33 active groups within our Parish.

Suggestions made:

Create a Volunteering Form, eg What do you do? What would you like to do? eg voluntary work within the parish, caring groups, etc.

Make a Parish Registration Form with a few details of each person.

Have a regular weekly item in the newsletter asking if someone is new to the parish, and containing information about the website.

Welcome Pack - could ask 'How much do you know about our Parish?' and be addressed initially to all parishioners, and containing information about the Parish and a Registration form. Lots of people may have been attending for many years but still be unaware of all that goes on and may still need to be made to feel welcome.

A Parish Sharing Day - need to review the last event which was a great success in many ways but failed to recruit new volunteers. Need to look at how to do this with the clear aim of recruiting new volunteers and also make it known that we would welcome people getting involved.

* Gerry will send out a list of PPC members and their responsibilities for Priority areas, and will invite new members to align themselves with a current or new group.

6. Diocesan Pilgrimage to Aylesford, Saturday 27th June 2020

Fr. Peter spoke about the proposed pilgrimage within the context of the Year of The Word. The Bishops have designated this as the Year of the Word - God Who Speaks to Us. All Catholic groups and organisations have been asked to focus on this during this year. The question posed to us now is how to enable our community to focus on this? A booklet explaining this focus has been distributed. This has already begun to be addressed within our parish, eg. Advent Scrolls, which were greatly appreciated. In April and May there will be a programme of six evening talks held at St. Aidan's and St. Mary's, Old Coulsdon, dedicated to The Word. The dates have been in the newsletter. The programme covers 1) Christian Meditation, 2) Praying with the Psalms, 3) Praying with Scripture. It is expected that Readers and Eucharistic Ministers will attend these evenings.

The focus of the Diocesan Pilgrimage on 27th June is to address the Year of the Word. We hope to fill a coach from our parish. We need to support and promote these events, particularly as members of the Parish Council. We need a reason not to go rather than a reason to go! Colin and Leonie Wilding are planning to walk as a pilgrimage to Aylesford for the event, leaving from St. Aidan's on Thursday 25th June, they would welcome fellow pilgrims to join them.

* Bernadette will investigate cost of coach hire, refundable deposit, insurance against cancellation, etc.

7. Premises Team

a) The chairs currently in use in the church hall are very uncomfortable and there is also a potential health and safety issue regarding stacking and storage. There was a discussion about the type of chairs we might consider, banqueting chairs seem to be a favourite style. It was also felt that better chairs would be more conducive for people looking to hire the hall for events which is important as the hall rental is good revenue for the parish. It was unanimously agreed to replace the current chairs. The Finance Committee will need to agree and authorise the expense. They have suggested that the Parish raise funds to cover the costs of the replacements.

* Bridget will report back to the Premises Team.

b) Church House Gardens. The garden is in need of attention. The Premises Team wants to look at developing an area which will be low maintenance. Members of the Premises Team are writing a specification proposal which can then be sent for outside quotes.

One suggestion is that a small private area be developed for the Presbytery and may be used for small group meetings, and the slope be developed as an extension to the church grounds. We will need to fund raise to cover the costs. Bridget proposed that we develop a five year plan for spending priorities and submit this to the Finance Committee.

Fund Raising is a skill that is urgently required. Gerry asked the PPC members to consider again whether they would be willing to take this on.

A further suggestion was made that we make an appeal for the Offertory collections to be increased, and for people who don't already but who would be eligible to please Gift Aid their donations.

8. Forthcoming Ecumenical Events

Churches Together in Coulsdon (10 local churches) are organising a Walk of Witness between Coulsdon Methodist Church and St. Aidan's Church prior to Easter.

On Easter Sunday there will be a Sunrise Service at 6.30am followed by breakfast at St. John's Church.

Pentecost in the Park will be held at St. John's Church on 31st May at 5.30pm.

Details of all events to follow.

9) Fete Update

Parish Fete date confirmed as Sunday 5th July. The date has been checked with local schools to ensure no clashes, and confirmed with St. Aidan's School. Thanks went to Bridget and Brenda for making appeals at masses for volunteers to run the fete. Danni has volunteered to lead the fete team working closely with Pauline D'Mello-Maplesden. Still need more volunteers as Danni needs a team to lead! A plea will be put in the newsletter for a third week. Pauline updated the PPC with what has been planned so far and what will need to be done. Fr. Peter stated that we need a team now, not in the future, as the hard work starts here. This is a very important event for the Parish as it is our biggest fund raiser.

* Gerry will arrange for an item to be put in the school newsletter to appeal to parents for volunteers.

* Fr. Peter will make an appeal at the end of masses when he highlights items from the newsletter.

10) Organ Fundraising Update

Our target was to raise £4,500. We have raised £3,500 so far, so still need to raise £1,000. It was suggested we could hold a Tabletop sale.

Erica Thubron volunteered to organise some Fund Raising events.

11) Social Club Update

The Social Club have booked the hall for a St. Patrick's celebration on 25th March, with permission for extended Bar hours.

Curry Night on 21st March in aid of HCPT funds.

12) Communication to the Parish

Colin had found a historical St. Aidan's Pastoral Newsletter from 1992. It gave reports and updates in paragraphs on priorities and developments within the parish.

* Colin will scan the Pastoral Newsletter and forward it to Gerry.

13) Priest's Notices – none

14) **AOB**

Reminder about the importance of welcoming new people to the parish, and discussion about the ways we might go about this.

Volunteer to prepare Opening Prayer - Brenda

Closing Prayer by Fr. Peter

Date of Next Meeting:

Date: Monday 27th April

Time: 7.30pm

Place: The Marian Room