**Parish Council Meeting.** **Monday 25th May 2020**

**Present:**

Fr. Peter Mansfield, Gerry O’Donnell, Sue Carr, Roque Fernandes, Brenda Eydman,

Pauline D’Mello-Maplesden, Bernadette Hallett, Bridget Hanlon, Peter McFall, Elsie Ofili, Erica Thurbon, Colin Wilding,

**Minutes:**

Bernadette Hallett

**Agenda:**

1. **Welcome** to the Zoom meeting given by Gerry. **Opening Prayer** by Erica.

2. **Apologies for Absence** received from Penne Hutton

3. **Group check-in**

4. **Minutes and Matters Arising,**

No matters arising, Minutes accepted and passed.

5. **Current Status and Future Response**

Update given by Fr. Peter. His work has focused mainly on the Last Rites, and funerals. Thankfully there has only been one death in the parish as a result of Coronavirus. His main concern is in looking to the future.

Volunteering is going very well. Contact with parishioners is mainly by phone and most people are being supported by families, friends, and neighbours. People mostly need someone to talk to. There have been a few more requests for the newsletter which have been passed on to Leonie. Gerry thanked Brenda for co-ordinating all this.

\*Brenda to circulate list of people receiving newsletters.

Live streaming of masses; this is going well. The website is slow, and it was suggested we could make the link to the mass more obvious, but the weekly emailing contains quicker links. We are aware that the website is slow and are working on investigating an upgrade to improve speed etc. There are often glitches in YouTube and bandwidth availability. Gerry and all PPC members gave a special vote of thanks and appreciation to Roy Misra for all the work he is doing with the technology, and the time he is dedicating to ensure parishioners are able to access live masses.

Facebook; Erica and Richard have set up a parish Facebook group. It is being well used having 136 members so far, and is a good forum for communication. Thank you to them both for setting this up so quickly. A group is better than a page as it is only open to the group and a known list of people. It will be good to use this group to advertise forthcoming events in the future. Regarding safeguarding, no-one under the age of 18 should be joining the Facebook group. Erica, Richard and Gerry are monitoring this.

The PPC are concerned that no-one should be isolated especially during lockdown. Feelings of isolation may even increase as lockdown eases, we want everyone in the parish to feel that they have the opportunity to be in touch with someone and have not been left out or forgotten. We also bear in mind that not everyone wants to be contacted

A suggestion was made that we could possibly have another ‘Meditation’ evening which would give people the opportunity to become involved.

6. **Planning for the Church to be Open**

We need to consider how we will address the opening of the church building for private prayer when the time comes. Fr. Peter had sent out points for consideration prior to the meeting. The Diocese advise that this is likely to happen in forthcoming weeks and that we should start to prepare now. Discussion followed with some suggestions made:

* block off alternate rows and mark off benches
* need volunteers, a rota, monitoring, cleaning equipment, masks, etc. all need consideration.
* possibly have the church open for one hour after mass, maybe daily depending on volunteers, and possibly over a couple of evenings per week to allow for those people who are working. Over 70’s can’t volunteer, nor those from other specific groups.
* volunteers would need a job description. Would need to work in pairs; cleaning all benches, including after mass on Sunday. We will need a list of reliable volunteers.
* parishioners will need to queue outside the church to enter. Could possibly fit 3 people in every alternate bench, allowing for couples or family groups to sit together.
* need to get a system in place for private prayer first. Will need to mark out benches, cleaning areas etc, first before worrying about mass control.
* We need someone to manage and supervise the project, and to build a team. We need a volunteer from the under 70 age group, and not self isolating.

If the church is open for prayer we will need stewards, to ‘meet and greet’ similar to weekend masses. This will need to be done in a sensitive way. Suggestion made that we might be able to hold a few services out of doors at a later date as this could be safer, and possibly utilise the school grounds?

7. **Finance**

Peter McFall presented three items.

1. JustGiving; Canon Richard Hearn has sent out some suggestions for fund raising during this time. We could have a Justgiving page of our own. Gerry has been involved in setting up a test page of our own which has been seen by the Diocese who have made some suggestions for improvements . The money donated would go first to the Diocesan bank account, so the donor must stipulate that the donation is specifically for St. Aidan’s Parish, Coulsdon. The details have been sent to the parish Finance Committee. Gerry explained about the message for the Facebook page asking that people who donate regularly could contact the parish, suggesting that people could still set up a standing order, or use JustGiving. The message will appear on the parish website, in the newsletter, and on the mailing list, as well as on the Facebook group.
2. Standing orders; people have been setting these up as a result of the appeal in the newsletter. In the past month Peter MacFall has received an encouraging number of requests

c) Financial update; Most predictions are in line with the budgeting.

8. **Communication to the Parish**

Some children will be returning to school soon. Could we use the school newsletter to communicate with parents, and to promote the parish website? As the newsletter goes out electronically it could possibly include a link to our newsletter, and live streamed masses.

9. **Priest’s Notices**

Whenever mass restarts we will need to address how we organise people for mass attendance. This situation could continue for many months until a vaccine is found. We need to consider what we will do about First Communion and Confirmation classes. Preparation for the Sacraments is an issue. It was suggested we set up Zoom groups for preparation classes, as is being used by many schools and businesses.

The question was raised about whether it might be possible to stream masses into the church hall using the new smart tv to allow for more people to participate, although most people can currently do this from home but not everyone is able to use technology. This will be given some consideration at the next meeting.

**AOB**

Special thanks were expressed again to Roy Misra for all his time and efforts in enabling masses to be streamed, and with the music, the choir, and the readers being included in the masses.

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

**Closing Prayer** - said by Fr. Peter, giving thanks to the Holy Spirit for all the gifts that we have and are able to use at this difficult time, and asking for guidance in our way forward.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

Date: Monday 22nd June

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Zoom