

Present:

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

Minutes:

Bernadette Hallett

Agenda:

Welcome given by Gerry.

Opening prayer by Bernadette.

Members check in

Update given by Sue who is a volunteer at the Coulsdon Covid Vaccination hub in St. Aidan's church hall where everything is running smoothly. There has been some media interest including from ITN, France, and Japan, who are looking at local initiatives between the Church and the NHS. South London press found out about Coulsdon through our online newsletter.

Apologies for Absence - Erica Thurbon, Roque Fernandez

Minutes and Matters Arising

A request was made for a review of the Christmas masses with regard to the system and procedures. Fr. Peter and Gerry were very grateful for all that Leonie did to organise proceedings and expressed their grateful thanks to her.

Review of the arrangements for church

Infection rates are going down nationally and locally and the situation is changing rapidly. Fr. Peter would like to look at the possibility of reopening the church gradually starting soon, especially in time for Holy Week, with no pressure on anyone to attend. He proposed that we could begin with weekday masses as these tend to be more spread out. Many elderly are less wary now that they have been vaccinated. Fr. Peter would not expect to see high numbers initially at a weekend mass, but would like to begin on Sunday 28th February. He is confident he will have enough volunteer stewards and will email the volunteers to ask for their preferences. If stewards are not available at any time then the church would not be able to open for that mass. There may be some new volunteer stewards willing to help. After discussion it was agreed that there would be mass on Saturday evening 6.00pm, and Sunday morning 11.00am. The 9.00am mass will be reintroduced when there is enough call for the extra mass.

Fr. Peter and Gerry can make decisions regarding mass openings and the way forward based on the discussion at this meeting and do not feel we need an extra meeting to discuss progress.

Brenda reported that many elderly and vulnerable are keen to return to weekday masses. The housebound and vulnerable are struggling with not being allowed any visitors but we are unable to do anything more. Brenda and her team will pass on the information about masses restarting in their contact phone calls.

The point was made that we must consider the safety of our own parish priest. It was agreed that Sunday masses will restart on 27/28th February. We will continue with previous health and safety practices. Information will be given out this weekend using all media platforms. People will be requested to attend only one mass, of their choosing, per week.

Parking could be an issue but should not cause concern. The hub use their own stewards to manage their parking.

Track and Trace details - people will be requested to register on line or bring their own details with them. There will not be the facility to register at the church in future.

Easter

Bookings for Christmas masses were started 6 weeks in advance. If this process is to be used for Easter masses then it too needs to be started well in advance. Fr. Peter hopes the church will be fully open for Holy Week and Easter. He does not think we need a booking system for Maundy Thursday, but that we will need a booking system for Good Friday, the Vigil service, and Easter Sunday. Colin was asked if he and Leonie would be willing to manage the booking system again which he agreed to but pointed out that the arrangements will be different from Christmas as some people will want to attend more than one mass or service at Easter, so this is more complicated. Easter tends to have the heaviest attendance at the Sunday morning masses. A request was made that the notice regarding the church opening for masses will be put in the newsletter first, with information regarding Easter mass arrangements to be announced the following week in order to avoid confusion. It was agreed that this will be announced over the weekend of 27/28th February which is the second Sunday in Lent, and booking requests will close a fortnight later.

Review of keeping the parish connected

This has mostly been covered within the discussions held so far.

Newsletters; Brenda had provided Fr. Peter with an updated list of parishioners who had requested paper copies of newsletters and these have continued being delivered throughout the latest lockdown.

Digital platforms; MailChimp is working very well, and the weekly email now has 160 subscribers and continues to grow. The PPC discussed whether there are any other ways we could make use of MailChimp. Possible daily Lenten meditations? People would need to sign up for any additional mailings, and could be tagged, but this is technically possible.

Streaming of masses; this has been very much appreciated both near and far. Many people have expressed how much they have enjoyed and appreciated being able to continue to participate in the mass online. It has eased the pressure to attend mass or to leave their homes and has made life easier for them. A vote of thanks was given to Fr. Peter for the way he has conducted the streamed masses and for making the mass so spiritual. The music has also been much appreciated and enjoyed. Roy Misra is thanked for his excellent IT skills, time and commitment in enabling masses to be streamed.

Financial update

The Finance Committee had a recent meeting. The summary of accounts was published last week and there is a link in the newsletter to these. Peter McF also circulated the summary prior to this meeting for PPC to see. Peter gave a Zoom Screen share of the Financial Summary which he then talked through. The parish income was £11,000 less in 2020 than in 2019, so substantially lower. Very grateful thanks were expressed to parishioners who have set up Standing Orders for their offertory donations. Many thanks to all parishioners for their generous donations.

Gerry thanked Peter McF for all his hard work, ideas, and appeals to parishioners and for keeping the momentum going. The Standing Orders have been a very successful way for people to make their contributions. Some churches are now using a contactless machine for their Offertory contributions which is an idea we will consider. We need to communicate our position to the Parish. People have been generous but we somehow need to make up for lost Offertory contributions. We also need to look at our other commitments, eg. the organ fund.

Communication to the Parish

A request was made to put the prayer for Spiritual Communion into the newsletter.

Minutes of the last PPC meeting in the documents section of the website need updating please as the last one shown was March 2020.

Could the parish website address be scrolled across the bottom of the screen the end of mass?
Fr. Peter will discuss this with Roy.

Gerry would welcome any fresh ideas for ways to communicate with the parish.

AOB - none

Volunteer to prepare Opening Prayer - Colin Wilding

Closing Prayer - a poem for Leadership by John O'Donoghue, read by Fr. Peter.

Date of Next Meeting:

Date: Thursday 8th April

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Zoom