St Bernadette's Parish Church
Hillingdon

PARISH TEAM MEETING
26th October 2016

Present
Fr. Matthew Heslin (chair), Jane Landi (minutes), Sr. Ignatius, Sr. Winifred, Catherine Fitzgerald, Joanna Simpson, Mary Mudge, Noel Verissimo, Michael Simpson, Jim Doyle and Ita Driscoll.

Apologies received from
Reg Abrahams, Deji Ogundero and Detta Martin.

The meeting started with a prayer.

Minutes of meeting on 15th June approved.
The minutes were approved and signed.

Matters Arising
Coffee Mornings. The Friends of St Bernadette are happy to help, but cannot commit to a regular spot.

Westminster Diocesan Medals. The Team warmly congratulate Ita and Sr. Teresa on their richly deserved Diocesan Medals, presented on 22nd October by Dean John Deehan. Many thanks to those who prepared the food in the Hall afterwards.

International Day. Thanks and congratulations also to Noel and his team, who made such a success of our second International Day. The Hall was comfortably full and our Philippino parishioners provided most of the food.

It was noted that not many Europeans attended. We need to reach out to them. However, there were a decent number of national costumes and lots of food, and the event was appreciated by those who were there.

Photos are on the website.

September Deanery. Fr. Matthew thanked Mary and the team who helped to serve the meal for the monthly Deanery meeting of the local parish priests, which was held here in September.

Planned Giving Appeal
These should be held every three years, to inform parishioners that we do not have other sources of income, and that we have to pay the same bills as everyone else. People leave the parish for various reasons and income can drop. It is helpful if income could be gift aided and makes a lot of difference to administration/security if it can be paid via the bank. We haven't had an appeal for some time because we were due one when Growing in Faith was on.

We are holding a campaign in November over three weekends: 20th, 27th and 4th December. Volunteers are needed to help hand out leaflets and answer questions etc.

We have had a number of requests for money lately: the Cardinal's Appeal, legacies, Walsingham. It can get a bit much for the parishioners. Money that they may intend to give to the parish gets directed away.

Auditors: Due to various new pieces of legislation and other issues, we are under pressure to get the finances right. This can be a real headache for priests, who are not trained to deal with financial details, as well as running the parish pastorally.

SVP
Down to eight members who continue to meet every Monday evening. They will be getting small Christmas presents for their contacts, and will purchase one tree as last year. It was agreed that when the tree is removed the area will be cleaned carefully.

The SVP continue to offer help to those who ask. They plan to hold a senior citizens party in February.

Christmas
We will have the timetable sheets as usual.

January 1st is a Sunday this year but will still be the feast day of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. The usual New Year's Day luncheon will still take place in the Hall after the 11 am Mass.

Tim Oakley and team will be constructing the Crib again this year.

Choir
John and Barbara have decided to leave St Bernadette's and we said goodbye to them at the beginning of September. They had been coming to St Bernadette's for 13 years and would be happy to return if asked for any specific event.

Sr Ignatius will now play for the early Christmas Eve mass and Christmas morning, and the Antioch choir will do Midnight Mass.

Andrew's choir are learning St Anne's Mass for special occasions. Everyone agreed that they are fantastic singers and musicians. There was some discussion about how the volume could be turned down.

Eucharistic Ministers
All good at the 6 pm.

Some of the 11 am EMs are asking a third person to arrange their swaps for them. They are reminded that they have been provided with phone number and email addresses and should make the swaps themselves.

5.30 pm. The rota is not always working. Not so many people attend this mass, so if the EMs/readers are not there the pool for replacements is small. If Reg is away it can be difficult. Joanna will attend to see if she can identify potential hopefuls.

The meeting thanked Noel, Catherine and Joanna for all they do in organizing the readers, ministers and the rotas.

Disclosure and Barring
All volunteers need to be checked before they can start working and, as this can take a while, it would be useful to know who they are in advance. Unfortunately, because our volunteers come on board when the courses start this isn't always possible. We have nearly 70 children for FHC this year, and would expect their catechists to come from the parent group. Unfortunately, parents tend not stay once their child has moved on, which is a shame, as a small nucleus of people who can help train newcomers would be welcome.

As most of this year's FHC catechists have indicated that they intend to stand down at the end of the course, we should start asking early for those who will replace them. We are aware of a few people who have shown an interest – we need to approach them and get them on board.

Reg, Noel and Maxwell are going to run the Confirmation course again next year.

It is believed that the members of the music group do not need Disclosure and Barring checks.

Any Other Business

Mary's Meals. They were last here last December and we have no current plans for a re-visit. It may be possible to contact them if anyone needs to know if they are in the vicinity in the near future.

Operation Christmas Child. Steve is unable to co-ordinate our annual shoebox appeal at the moment, but Reg has it in hand and will organize a shortened campaign.

Cleaning in the Church. More volunteers would be welcome. We could do with someone to hoover the main body of the church. A different area is cleaned on different weeks. The window cleaner does the new glass panels every six weeks.

It was suggested that the school might be able to help – children like to please, and they can get into the small spaces!

We need to continue our campaign against food in the church. Mention in Newsletter?

The meeting finished with a prayer.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd February at 7 pm.