

Reports for Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 18.7.2016

Area of Activity	
Our Lady's Bereavement Team	
Activity since last PPC meeting	
Our annual Remembrance Evening was held on 3 rd June. This was led by Fr. Tom. A good number of parishioners attended the evening.	
Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed	
No meetings were held since the 3 rd June due to family commitments but our aim is to make our team more known in the Parish. Our "ministry" is to offer support especially to the newly bereaved.	
Objectives set	Who
Continue to send sympathy cards to the newly bereaved families. Also to send cards on the first anniversary.	All

Area of Activity : Finance (Report by David Wilson on behalf of Finance Committee)	
Activity since last PPC meeting	
<p>Parish Accounts The Accounts for the 5 months through to the end of May 2016 showed a small operating deficit of £300, which included payments for Fr Michael's Jubilee celebrations and costs related to the Grove Road House Project, but the deficit had been offset by a legacy of £10,000 giving an overall surplus of £9,700.</p> <p>Electricity Supply The new electricity supply contract has been let with SSE, our existing supplier, but the Diocese has now joined with other Diocese in England and Wales (15 in total) in purchasing through a broker known as Inter-Diocesan Fuel Management (IFM) and better prices have been realised through using this group purchasing initiative.</p> <p>Planned Giving & Gift Aid Work has started on compiling the Gift Aid claim for FY 2015/2016 using the new Gift Aid module in the Parish accounts package (OPAS).</p> <p>Parish Audit We have been advised that, subject to agreement with Fr Tom, the Parish Audit will be carried out in November</p> <p>Asset Register and Documents Register Work continues on compiling an Asset Register and a Documents Register for the Parish.</p> <p>Text Giving and Easyfundraising The new Text Giving scheme, which the Diocese has made available, has been introduced. It is too early yet to say how much it is being used. We also continue to promote the use of the Easyfundraising purchasing scheme.</p> <p>Property Working Group and Grove Road House Project Team The Finance Committee continue to participate in and support the work of the Property Working Group and the Grove Road House Project Team.</p>	
Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed	
Objectives set	Who

Area of Activity Health and Safety**Activity since last PPC meeting****Fire alarms**

Diocese Property have stated no expectation on their behalf that Fire Alarms were fitted UNLESS it was a H&S recommendation and a requirement of the Insurance Company. On checking with Insurance Company they more or less said they "weren't bothered unless we had been told to install Fire Alarms and hadn't!!" However advice from Chris Fanning of the diocese was along the lines of we don't need an alarm in the church but good idea to have one in Parish House. It is proposed that we should go ahead, subject to costing and approval, and an understanding and agreement on where a system would be installed how it would be operated. John C to obtain costing.

John S and John C continuing investigating and resolving issues identified in last year's inspection report.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed**Objectives set****Who**

Organise Fire Marshall training for the Diocese

Richard /
Trish

Update policies for stretchers

Richard /
Hannah

Ensure parish audit H&S checklist in order

Richard

Follow up on stretcher orders

Richard

Area of Activity Inter-Faith Relations**Activity since last PPC meeting**

A possible visit to their Hindu Mandir (Temple) in Luton is being arranged this year for Saturday 10th September in the morning, to establish better contacts with the Hindu faith population in North Herts. The Luton Temple is their nearest.

Austin Smith and I attended this year's next Herts Inter Faith Forum meeting on the 21st June in St. Albans, we had two speakers: the first from the volunteering facilities team of HCC, and the second from Harriet Crabtree – Director, Inter Faith Network, she spoke about the frailty of Inter-Faith groups across the county and the country, and the difficulties with funding in today's austerity and funding cut-backs. It also appears that Inter-Faith activities are mostly supported by the "retired" population; do they have any relevance for the future?

The last NHIFF was on 25th May, we had as guest speakers two PCs from the North Herts Police, that came to talk to us about the increase in hate crimes of many forms (race, religion, disability, homophobia, gender, ethnic, etc) and what they are doing about it. They are looking for Hate related crimes reporting hubs in the community, which can be places of worship among other ideas. I have collected a bundle of information for our church/catholic community to see and would be good if our parish/ deanery could work with this project and offer to be trained to become such a facility in for our community.

(Better explained orally !)

Members of the NHIFF have been invited to join in with our parish for the HOOP walk that Ann Milner is organising on Sunday the 11th September, as part of Creation Time.

The AGM of NHIFF will be on 20th October (7:30pm start) when we plan to have two speakers looking at the Islamic Sunni/ Shi'i divisions from both Christian and Muslim perspectives.

From "Inter Faith St. Albans" we received an invitation to an open meeting on Wed 2nd November at 7:30 pm at St Peter's Church, St Peter's Street, St. Albans, for "Scientists of Faith – a personal perspective" given by the Revd Prof Nick Goulding.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Objectives set

Who

DME/

Area of Activity Justice & Peace

Activity since last PPC meeting

This Saturday 14 May 2016 from 10.30 - 4.00, Michael and I will be attending the NJPN AGM and Open Networking Day, at CAFOD, in Romero House- the theme was 'Hear Our Voice'- The experiences of children and young people who have experienced a family member being arrested, tried or imprisoned.

Michael and I, Fr. Tom and Teresa and Tomaz Pernak will have just attended in full or in part this weekend's NJ&PN conference in Swanwick. This year's theme is so very timely: **Justice, Power and Responsibility; How Can Democracy Work for the Common Good?**

As we meet for the PPC the UK is likely to be voting on whether to renew Trident, let's hope that the many petitions campaigns and marches will have paved the way for the UK to be part of the "Global Zero – a world without nuclear weapons". Well in the teaching and spirit of "Laudato Si"

Also see item about race crimes in society in the Inter-Faith section.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Take part and involve the parish in the "Good vs Bad Climate Change Investments" campaign gaining momentum at present and into next year.

Objectives set

Who

PCC/
DME

Area of Activity LiveSimply

Activity since last PPC meeting

Ann Milner has just returned from her stint in China, and we have held our first meeting, also attended by Fr. Euloge.

I recently received an e-mail from POD, a electric car charging facilities company, that asked for customers to nominate places for future public charge points. I think this could be a good thing to pursue for the parish. Would the parish give me permission to follow this offer and suggest our carpark as a site for them? And see if they accept the suggestion or not? And also find out what is involved? (Like the one provided at the Queen Mary's car park)

It was good to mark in our parish “**Laudato Si Week**” last June 12-19, let’s hope that next year the 2nd anniversary will again be a Global Celebration of the Encyclical.

The LiveSimply project across the country has encouraged the many Dioceses across the country to re-negotiate their energy supply contracts for entirely renewably sourced. And so far out of the 22 Dioceses in the Britain and Ireland, 19 have changed over, including the latest contract for the Westminster Diocese which includes this parish. Others are in the pipeline as contracts come up for renewal.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Let’s continue to introduce the themes of Laudato Si into the liturgies of our Sunday masses throughout the year, especially in June and in **Creation Time/Season – from 1st Sept to 4th Oct.**

Suggested ideas to include then are: Cosmic Christ talk, Cosmic prayer walk possibly done with the last confirmation group similar to the Stations of the Cross at Easter, and the Cosmic Rosary in the week running up to St. Francis feast day, 4th October.

Objectives set

Who

Keep monitoring the energy usage of the parish over the next year.

DME

Keep visiting all possible energy saving ideas to make this parish environmental footprint as small as possible. Including the up-grade to the Hall roof insulation and addition of solar panels to the Pastoral Centre when it is converted.

The HOOP walk on Sunday 11th September – posters will be available in the parish.
Cosmic Rosary in the week running up to St. Francis feast day, 4th October.

AM

Area of Activity Maintenance

Activity since last PPC meeting

Summary

Please note the number of jobs done by many parishioners.
John Chamberlain , David Whittaker , Mike Eltringham in particular

Activity since report of Mar 2016

2106_1/ Water Utility meter inspection
2106_2/ shed roof ridge reinforcement (w' David Whittaker)
1706_1/ un-leak dodgy blue pipe in hall
1606_1/ bannister rail loose in GRHouse- David Whittaker
1706_2/ establish store/garage electricity comes from Parish house
1406_1/ track-down water meters (w' Mike Eltringham)
1406_2/ decommission old washing machine
0706_2/ gutters to new shed (w' David Whittaker)
0706_1/ replace cross in church
0506_3/ slightly busted kneeler
0506_2/ busted hinge in hall "bar area"
0506_1/ Mend Fr. James Whitworth's gold chalice.
2105_1/ repaint RESERVED spaces - with Philippe J.
1905/ Fr.M's shredder - NFF.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Outstanding Maintenance Snags

0/ house number for 16 Nightingale Road SG5 1QS
 0/ saggy hinge on church door - new hinges
 0/ bike store for Fr.Tom < jc - volunteered >

 0/ Glaxo offer to paint scout-hut and top of boundary railings

Objectives set	Who

Area of Activity Outreach

Activity since last PPC meeting

Outreach to Community

Decision made to continue Mass at Milford Lodge as attended by a number of residents. Mass at Gosmore will now start in September as busy sorting out Kathy Morgan funeral.

Proclaim 15

Helen Bailey leading on Youth group project and liaising with Maeve Green from confirmation group. Survey has been compiled and will be going out with this weekend's newsletter.

Mary Deuchar has agreed to lead on project focused on those who are caring for people who are long term sick/terminally ill.

Prepared materials and advertised meeting on Amoris Laetitia letter has given us food for thought about how we can focus on marriage and family life in the parish and Christine Laubin is supporting this initiative.

Other tasks

Liturgy

Sacristan role being developed with Wanda Neeves taking it on.

Communication

Updated various communication information with the change in parish priest.

Health and Safety

Begun the process of documentation required before the audit.

Michaelmas Fair

Supporting the fair on many levels mainly to do with the communication of messages about the fair.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Need to continue with the Proclaim 15 projects.

Objectives completed from last report	Who
Youth project has robust timeframe set by Helen and team	HB
Objectives set	Who
1. Ensure future projects have teams and a project plan with timeframe.	TB/Members of project teams

Area of Activity

Sacramental Preparation

Activity since last PPC meeting

The First Holy Communion programme has finished and all the children have received the sacrament for the first time. All the Masses were prayerful and joyful. The Mission Mass was a lovely event and my thanks go to Susan Brown, Andrea Shannon and Rosa Phillips for their help and to Greg Hewitson and the music team for theirs. I have received positive feedback so next year's programme will get minor tweaks. This marks a full circle of sacramental preparation since I have been in post and it would have been dust and ashes without the help of Trish Bonnett, to whom go my heartfelt thanks and admiration.

I attended a Coordinators' Day at Westminster on June 15th, where we shared good practice. There was food for thought, which I am following up.

The RCIA process has begun again, with the 'Thinking About Life and Faith' programme serving as the pre-catechumenate period for the enquirers and an opportunity for discussion for the parishioners who attend. It was a very lively evening. It is worth noting that we had fourteen adults in the tiny pastoral meeting room on a very warm evening. This was because the hall and committee rooms are always fully booked on a Thursday; RCIA needs to be on a Thursday to suit the enquirers this year. In planning evening catechesis for other sacraments, I have found that available evenings for venues suitable for numbers is very limited.

Trish and I have been clearing out the parish house for the impending works and poms.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

I need to be better at administrative tasks in the First Holy Communion programme. Mea culpa.

Objectives set**Who****Area of Activity Website****Activity since last PPC meeting**

Updated with Fr Tom as parish priest and Cheryl Saunders.

New pages on website:

Recycling information

Proclaim '15 page

Parish building, maintenance and restoration projects

Pastoral Parish Council reports page

Scot will be away for three weeks in August so I will need to update whilst he is away.

Objectives set**Who**

1. To encourage groups to make more of their webpages, with regular updates and pictures.

TB

Area of Activity YOUTH

Activity since last PPC meeting

1. Helen Bailey and Maeve Green have started working together to help organising a youth group in our parish.

The plan is to introduce a questionnaire/survey targeting a young people where they could indicate what would be interesting for them and what kind of activities they would find useful.

The questionnaire is now created and is awaiting an approval.

Maeve has been in contact with PHASE, other Hitchin youth groups and other contacts to collect relevant information. At the moment the impression is we need to do a lot of more research and work before we should officially open the youth group. Helen has proposed an official start in January 2017. There is an idea to organise Halloween party and/or Christmas party to test the Parish whether they are aiming at the right age groups, etc.

Helen has welcome Michael Kyeyune, who is a new to the parish and would like help with the Youth group.

There will be a meeting on 19th of July regarding a progress with Youth group in our Parish.

Upcoming Youth events:

2. Catholic Medical Association Annual Conference

The conference will provide the opportunity to discuss a number of topical issues with other Catholic medical professionals from a variety of backgrounds. The price includes the opportunity to join other delegates and speakers for a three course dinner in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's University.

- Date: Saturday 30 July - Sunday 31 July
- Location: St Mary's University, Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, London, TW1 4SX
- Cost: Students: £20. Normal: £150

3. Faith Summer Session 2016

- Date: Monday 1 August - Friday 5 August
- Location: Woldingham School, Marden Park, Caterham, CR3 7YA
- Organiser: [FAITH Movement](#)
- Category: [Festival](#)
- Cost: £175

Set in the beautiful grounds of Woldingham School, Surrey, the Faith Summer Session is five days of talks on the faith for 16-35 year olds which take place along with daily Mass, opportunities for discussion and social time.⁷⁵

4. Rejoice Boat Party 2016 – 6 August 2016, the 5th edition

Time: 19:15, Location: Westminster Pier, London; Price £20

Rejoice is a Christian party on a boat over River Thames. A great opportunity to have fun, dance and chat in a Christian environment surrounded by some of the most beautiful landmarks of London. Rejoice Boat Party is hosted by the Shalom Catholic Community based in St Patrick's Church (Soho) and St Monica's Church (Hackney).

5. Fighting Temptations – 9 August

Time: 14:00-17:00, Location: Centre for Youth Ministry, 20 Phoenix Road, London, NW1 1TA

An opportunity to meet other young people interested in growing in their faith! There will be opportunities to meet new people, talk about relevant topics, eat some food, pray together and have some fun.

6. Youth 2000 – 25 August – 29 August- RETREAT, age 16-35

Location: Roman Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham, Norfolk, NR22 6 AL

Conquerors is a five-day Prayer Festival, packed with dynamic talks, live-band worship, powerful prayer times, fun social activities, creative workshops, in-depth discussions, evening entertainment and loads more. With top speakers from the USA and all over the UK.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

My suggestion is to hand out a questionnaire/survey directly to young people, not to their parents. It would be good to have a young people as well as leaders involved in spreading the word about Youth group

Objectives set

Who

1. Complete and approve a survey for young people in our parish
2. Set up a date for official launching the Youth Group in our Parish
3. Co-operate closely with Phase with regards to Youth programme to make sure the proposed work scheme with our Youth fulfils diocesan requirements and specific of our RC parish.

TP