

Reports for Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 6/3/2017

Area of Activity

Our Lady's Bereavement Team (Antonietta Tinney)

Activity since last PPC meeting

Our first meeting of the year took place on 25th January and was attended by all the members of the Bereavement Team and Fr. Tom.

Our next afternoon of prayers, reflections and activities for the bereaved family of our Parish will be held on Saturday 18th March at 2pm.

As the event will be held during Lent, it has been decided that the theme will be the Stations of the Cross.

This activity will be finalised at the meeting on 15th March

-Our coffee morning on 4th December was successful.

-Trish Bonnet has kindly printed new visiting cards and a Poster for our team.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

-It is important to have regular meetings (the next is on Wednesday 15 March). Our aim is to have a strong team for supporting parishioners in need of our “ministry”.

Objectives set

-To make our team more known within the parish.

-Continue to send sympathy cards to newly bereaved families. Also to send cards on the first anniversary.

Who

All

Area of Activity Report on Ecumenism for Parish Council

CTH Council Meeting held on 06/02/2017 at Our Lady's Church

Activity since last PPC meeting

- Father Tom was not able to be present at the meeting
- There was a thanksgiving for the lives of Chris Bryant and David Woodbridge
- There was a presentation on Herts Welcomes Syrian Families. This results from the previous government's decision to allow 20,000 refugees into the country over the next 5 years. 4 families are at present being housed in North Herts and more will come this year. There is a need for volunteers to help and for money to buy TVs etc.
- A meeting has been held on a Healing Ministry and on the possibility of setting up a Drop-In Centre for Life Changing Illness and Carers
- The new editor of the Comet is Nick Gill
- Appointments – the new Treasurer is Andy West from Walsworth Road and there is a possible Vice Chair
- The Executive will have a meeting on major disaster plans There will be a Council meeting led by Brian Simmonds soon
- The Bancroft Project on homelessness – Jill Shirley? Cooks Sunday lunch for 8-10 rough sleepers, 6 sofa sleepers and 7 mentally ill people each week. She could do with someone taking over the reins.
- Regional GEAR (Group for Evangelisation and Renewal in the URC) Conference, 17-18 March at Christchurch – everyone is invited
- Herts Regiment Memorial ceremony in Sint Juliaan, Belgium, 31 July 2017. It is near Ypres. There will be a ceremony in the morning and a walk to the area where it took place
- PHASE – report from Kieran - New team members Sacha and Helen. There is an annual Review on the Website and a review on children's support, staff training and creating 'Let's Talk' videos are on-going
- A meeting will be held by CTH on possible changes to CTH
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Forthcoming Events

- Ash Wednesday lunch for Christian Aid on 1 March 12.30 at New Testament Church of God
- Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 3 March 1 pm at St Mark's the theme has been set by women from the Philippines
- Lent House Groups from 6 March
- Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service 14 April – Preacher Dan Drew
- Christian Aid 14 – 20 May – leaders needed, overall funds were down £1 million last year
- Other Business – Fair Trade Conference in March, Food Bank in the last 3 months gave out 8,060 Kgs of food and fed 982 people (550 adults and the rest children)
- The cost of the Foodbank was £13k out of which £8k was rent to the Letchworth Heritage Foundation and they want to greatly increase the rent!

CTH dates and venues

- Next Meeting - Tuesday 23rd May 2017 at St. Faith's
- Wednesday 20th Sept – Friends' Meeting House
- Thursday 16th Nov – Walsworth Road

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Objectives set	Who

Area of Activity Inter-Faith Relations

Activity since last PPC meeting

On the 1st February Fr. Tom and Trish attended an Inter-Faith meeting at the House of Lords.

The last NHIFF will be on 28rd February, when we hope Fr. Tom will be attending the meeting at the Hitchin Youth Trust. I hope to be able to verbally report back at the PCC meeting.

I attended the “**Understanding Islam**” residential course for Catholics living and working with Muslims, which will be led by Father Damian Howard SJ a current lecturer at Heythrop College, and will be held at Focolare Centre for Unity in **February 13 – 16th, 2017**. There were 9 attendees, including: Bishop Paul Hendricks, co-chair of the Christian-Muslim Forum, two priests and the rest lay people. The course was rather intense but very informative and interesting.

On Wednesday 22nd February, at Holywell Lodge in St. Albans, is planned a meeting on “*Objects of Faith*” with contributions from 3 faiths, one of the speakers was Bal Sandu, the current NHIFF chair who spoke for the Sikh faith, with contributions from Judaism, and the Coptic church. Fr. Tom and I attended this meeting.

This year Michael and I have not taken part in the 44th International Conference for dialogue amongst Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe - February 20th-26th 2017 in Vallendar, Germany, on the theme “Migration - a new normal”.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Please do ask all questions you may have.

Objectives set	Who
Looking forward to explore the topic of Faith and Ethics , explore ethical	DME/

teachings and values.

Would like to bring an event on “good and bad climate change investment”

Area of Activity Justice & Peace

Activity since last PPC meeting

Peace Sunday on 15th January was marked in our parish this year. A total of £316.73 was raised in aid of Pax Christi.

Wear a Green Heart and share a green Heart was also marked on Sunday 12th February, for the 14th February.

The NJ&PN has launched a campaign for the UK government to recognise the state of Palestine. We have requested 100 petition cards for our parish. 100 years has passed since the Balfour Declaration, which led to the creation of a homeland for Jews in Palestine, whilst promising to also protect the rights of the Arab majority. The creation of Israel has, however, deprived 750,000 Palestinians (both Arabs and Christians) of their land, their homes and their freedom and today there are some 5 million Palestinian refugees around the world.

The cards have been available for some weeks, but not yet promoted in the parish. They should be in by Easter, so we hope to highlight it in the parish soon.

Saturday 11th March from 10.30 til 12.30 in our parish hall - **Justice and Peace Fairtrade Event 2017** organised by J&P Westminster with guest speaker Mary Milne, the Campaigns Manager for Traidcraft. Focusing on getting all local deanery parishes included and possible others in Herts and Beds. All are welcome. Frances Chamberlain will have her stall.

The OWG has asked Fr. Michael to lead this year's Lenten meditation looking at Pope Francis' call for a 'poor church', the date and venue has not yet been fixed. Possibly around Monday 20th March.

APR 22-23: #MERCY2EARTH weekend - On the occasion of **Earth Day** (April 22, 2017) and **Mercy Sunday** (April 23, 2017), GCCM will offer material to engage Catholic grassroots communities around the world through videos and a compelling program to reflect on Pope Francis' recent message "**Show Mercy to our Common Home**". Learn more at Mercy2Earth.org

Taize Birmingham Gathering update - participants from 17 different countries have signed up for the young adult Weekend Meeting in **Birmingham**, 28 April – 1 May. Young adults can still register, if intending to come (or encourage someone else to come), then it is time to do so! (See http://www.taize.fr/en_article20934.html#cost) Any young adults in the parish interested?

The 2017 Annual Justice and Peace Conference will take place from 21 to 23 July 2017 at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. On the theme of **A Sabbath for the Earth and the Poor: The Challenge of Pope Francis**. I have several booking forms available. It may be possible for Fr. Euloge to attend it, and it would be good to also share the conference with other parish members.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

5th–13th May, international: Global Divestment Mobilisation Organise in the parish a “Good vs Bad Climate Change Investments” event that could be both ecumenical and inter-faith – Can the parish host such an event?

Objectives set	Who
	PCC/ DME

Area of Activity Liturgy**Activity since last PPC meeting**

Divine Mercy Picture supplied by Mary Hollingdale. It will be placed in the Sacred Heart Alcove in the Church.

We have several **new volunteers** after the appeal for help but still need more volunteers.

Ministries needing help :

Choir ; Music Group; Technical Support; Eucharistic Ministers; Readers; Altar Servers; Children's Liturgy – two new volunteers have come forward.

Peregrin Muncaster has agreed to play the organ on the fifth Sunday if there is one.

Reflection on Advent and Christmas was positive overall. Not many more at the Christmas Eve Mass but many more families were able to attend. Will repeat this year.

Poor attendance for **St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day)**. Need to boost it this year as it is 40th Anniversary of the Guild of St Stephen in the parish.

Lent will follow usual plan as in previous years. Parish Lent Group will follow the Diocesan course which is accessible on line – no publication There will be stations every Friday after the 10.30 mass.

Palm Sunday will start in the Garden at all masses weather permitting.

Confirmation Group are preparing a presentation of the **Stations for Good Friday** Evening.

Bishop's visitation – Sunday 12th march all day & Saturday 18th March afternoon and evening. Questions for the Bishop for Sunday afternoon open for all to attend. Focus on support for Carers

Timetable: 12th March 2017

8.00 am Arrive at Church
8.30 am Mass
9.30 am Meet parishioners in hall - see set up of Fun Sunday
10.30 am Mass reception of children from Fun Sunday at end - Report at all Masses on Comeback Prayer Group
11.30 am Meet parishioners in hall
12.30 pm Lunch
14.00 pm Visit housebound parishioners at Anderson House
15.00 pm Back to Church
15.15 pm Meet with Finance Chair David Wilson and Safeguarding representative Trish Bonnett
15.45 pm Meet with Pastoral parish council and other parishioners more formally with tea & cakes
5.00 pm Mass
6.00 pm Meet Confirmation Candidates Departure

18th March

15.00pm Arrive at church
18.00 pm Mass
19.00 pm Social in hall with parishioners – all invited
21.00 pm Departure

Next Liturgy Committee Meeting 20th March 19.15 LCR

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Objectives set	Who

Area of Activity LiveSimply

Activity since last PPC meeting

Last meeting was 21st January

JS attended a **CAFOD information evening** in Letchworth & was invited to talk about our experience with livesimply. Audience also very interested in the parish recycling projects AMM, DME & Fr Tom attended a session on **Science, Justice, Faith and Care for the Earth** organised by the Westminster Justice & Peace group on 6th February.

DME created Livesimply Calendar for Lent for the parish with some input from AMM

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Reaching Out to local 'Eco' Groups: Some contact made during the Laudato Si Event on 24th September but further contact needed.

100 Livesimply Ideas Review: to be continued when possible

Parish Wild Flower Garden: Supplier for small wooden fence found, chosen on basis they use sustainable wood sources

Objectives set	Who
Keep monitoring the energy usage of the parish over the next year.	DME
Discuss the marking of UN World Environment Day (5h June 2017) at Eucharistic Service with Trish	AMM
The action to <i>Plan a series of Climate Justice & Social Justice events starting February 2017</i> has been replaced by suggestion to hold an awareness morning/day comprising information stalls, short presentations etc in September.	DME/ AMM /LS Team
Identify when local litter pick events will take place See also the Livesimply Lent Calender	PJ
Research office equipment timers	JS
Design & produce plaque for Wild Flower Garden	AMM/ DW
Make contact with other local 'Eco' groups to share ideas etc.	AMM
Investigate feasibility of encouraging participation in Woodland Trust scheme	AMM
18 th March SARX Conference to explore animal issues theologically and practically within the Christian life	AMM
11 th March parish is hosting a Fair Trade event organised by Westminster Justice & Peace. The aim is to encourage other local parishes to go Fair Trade	AMM/ PB

Area of Activity Maintenance

Activity since last PPC meeting

Summary

A more modest list of jobs this time, tho' a few jobs were stinkers (some literally). Credit - as always - to the usual suspects. Well done Trish for rounding-up some new volunteers.

Activity since report of Jan 2017

Imminent/In-hand

- 0/ read meter in Christopher House (JS)
- 0/ sort out proper lo-power solution for spotlights in hall. (JVC)
- 0/ Divine Mercy Picture & Icons (Eric Fox)
- 0/ storage boxes for CribFigures (JVC & JS)
- 0/ co-ordinate phone and IT upgrades (JVC)
- 0/ failed D-light os parish office (JS)
- 0/ tiles falling off parish house kitchen (Volunteer Sought)

----- snags resolved below this line -----

2702_1/ architectural salvage from Christopher House (JS)

2702_2/ busted cupboard door under Hall "bar area" (JVC)
 2702_3/ put up nameplates for stations of the cross (JVC)
 2102_1/ Unblock Urinal... (JS)
 1802_2/ AntiColin chain for Terracycle Container (JS)
 1802_1/ remove obsolete copier (JS & PJ)
 1102_1/ 2 falls and a submission Fr.Tom's cistern - slow leak (JS & PJ)
 0902_1/ hall HWboiler/microwave/shelf reorg. for access to switch (JVC)
 0902_2/ PIR lamp in Bethany cupboard (JVC)
 0702_1/ D-light failing in hall bar-area (JVC)
 0702_1/ D-light failing in hall gents (JVC)
 0202_1/ wallsafe behind C's door - for sacristy safe key (JVC)
 3001_1/ check DH room loft insulation is DeolindaCompliant (JS)
 3001_2/ carpet needs gluing down in sacristy corridor (JS)
 3001_3/ D-light failing outside loos in hall (JVC)
 3001_4/ wall lamps in UCR 4 bulbs needed (JVC)
 2001_1/ Fluorescent Starter Rescue in Hall (JVC & FMC)
 1701_1/ new locks parish house front/back/kitchen doors (JS)
 1501_1/ ServerSacristry curtain rail busted by ChildrenOfGod (JS)
 1501_2/ Fluorescent Tube Starter in Hall (JVC & JS)
 1401_1/ emergency lighting for scout hut (JS & PJ)
 1401_2/ Dyson lead (failed PAT) (JS)
 1201_2/ Extra keys for Hall (JS)
 1101_1/ UCR non-PAT plug (JVC)
 1101_2/ Fr.Tom's shower riser rail (JVC)
 1101_3/ Sort out garage locks for BobBuilder (JVC)
 1101_4/ Temporary re-fix ScoutHut door handle (JVC)
 0801_1/ Relocate shower head to ParishHouse bathroom (JS)
 0301_1/ Emergency fix to ParishHouse Sink Drainage (JS & PJ)

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Outstanding Maintenance Snags

0/ house number for 16 Nightingale Road SG5 1QS
 0/ wheelbarrow and lawnmower store
 0/ flat tyre on wheelbarrow
 0/ PIR for hall "back door"
 0/ couple of small holes in car park... w' tony.
 0/ Outstanding Precision H&S Report items..many already done
 0/ FernoX into UCR radiator

Objectives set	Who

Area of Activity Outreach – Trish Bonnett

Activity since last PPC meeting

Outreach

Have begun two more Proclaim 15 projects – appeal by Fr Tom for the Faith Development helpline at all Masses and appeal for people to join the Comeback prayer group. 10 people have signed up so far. Letters sent out to 30 others so hopefully will be able to give a positive report to the Bishop for his visit. Mike Edwards is spearheading this project.

Have met with Jane Mainwaring, Mary Deuchar and Andrew Henton Pusey about the launch of a new project to support people with life changing illnesses and their carers. Three strands of this project including social support (looking at launching a drop in social coffee afternoon twice a

month at Walsworth road Baptist church), spiritual support and practical support. Mary will be heading up this project.

Other tasks

Liturgy

The leaflet was devised and given out at Mass and appeals made for a variety of ministries. We are okay for candlestand cleaning and cleaning wax off the carpet and visitors. We have only had one volunteer to be an MC and she cannot start the training until May. We are covered for MCs for Holy Week. Will endeavour to recruit people to shadow the MCs at these services this year so we have successors for the following years.

Statues are still being repainted by Janina. She will have completed the nativity set soon.

Safeguarding

This work is still ongoing also. The Bishop wants to discuss this at his pastoral visit in March.

Marriage Preparation

Prepared materials for this event..

Baptism preparation

Prepared Sacramental Passports.

Side Chapel project

The meeting with the Diocese went well but need to drive this project forward and slightly short on time to do this but will make it a focus in the next two weeks.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Meeting organised by Owen McFarlane attended by a number of people and materials provided to support this. Need to extend this to other parishes in the Diocese.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Need to continue with the Proclaim 15 projects.

Objectives completed from last report	Who
Objectives set	Who
Discuss with Diocese the need for all the Diocesan safeguarding paperwork.	TB
Focus on recruiting volunteers in many areas of liturgy and church support.	TB

Area of Activity Sacramental Preparation

Activity since last PPC meeting

First Holy Communion

We have had our first meeting for parents. We begin catechesis with the children on 25th March. I am making some changes to the input after reviewing last year's work.

Marriage Preparation

The next course takes place on March 4th and we have 18 couples signed up. We are still getting applications from all over the Greater London area, as well as a few local ones from all over the deanery. This does mean that the whole thing has a particular flavor and one which does not invite

follow-up for each couple. I do intend to organize something for couples from our own parish in the near future.

RCIA

RCIA continues. I am hopeful that we will have a Confirmation at the Easter Vigil and that perhaps by Pentecost we will have someone ready to be received. I have a little girl who is being given catechesis for baptism by Teresa Lawrence Hyde; I am very grateful to Teresa for providing this.

Baptism

I have three couples for the imminent baptism course. We are hoping that, baby allowing, we might have a baptism at the Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday morning. This is still being arranged.

Confirmation

The group is currently undertaking challenges – a personal challenge connected with justice and a challenge to raise awareness of and funds for Solar Aid, a charity which educates about and makes available solar lights for rural African communities. I have had some fantastic feedback about the efforts of the young people doing this. Our next stage is to plan the Stations of the Cross for Good Friday.

Passover Meal

Trish and I are planning the Passover Meal, which takes place on the evening of Monday 10th April.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Objectives set	Who
Still to pick up on Amoris Laetitia project. Seem to be running out of time all the time - if that's not a philosophical impossibility.	Me

Area of Activity Website

Activity since last PPC meeting

Various groups are now taking interest in their pages and asking for information updates.

Area of Activity YOUTH

Activity since last PPC meeting

Youth Ministry Events since the PPC last meeting:

1. Epiphany Funday Sunday – 8 January 2017

A very successful and busy event with 56 children attending. The group of Confirmation Programme candidates also participated in the event; they were a great help with the younger children and bonded very well with them.

Youth Ministry team might consider splitting off into activities and using the UCR and LCR in the future, if the numbers continue to grow. It was also suggested to consider having the Funday's on a Sunday afternoon when the coffee mornings have finished.

2. Children's Mass – 22 January 2017

Janet from Covenant Praise Church led the homely.

Fr Tom suggested performing readings and Gospel in a child friendly version and advised website bible gateway: <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/Easy-to-Read-Version-ERV-Bible/>).

3. Children's Mass – 26 February 2017 – very well prepared and received.

*** Youth Ministry Team now have an email address: oliasaym@gmail.com ***

Coming up events organised by our Youth Ministry team:

1. Funday Sunday for Transfiguration – 12 March 2017

This event will be run by Kieran Murphy from Phase. The Bishop will also be visiting the parish on this day.

2. Flame 17 – 11 March 2017 – Conference – the largest National Catholic Youth event of the year taking place in the SSE Wembley Arena.

Throughout the day speakers will give bursts of input, interspersed with world class music and drama, in an atmosphere full of joy!

Music will be provided by double Grammy award-winning Matt Redman and his band. The day ends with a time of Adoration led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. It is open to anyone in the second half of secondary school, up to young adult.

The event has been advertised to our parish; however, we haven't had satisfactory response so far.

Maeve Green presented Flame 17' to our Confirmation candidates and encouraged them to participate in the event.

The emails with the details have been sent to the candidates' parents.

Our parish subsidizes the tickets (£15.00 per ticket) and the plan is to take the train.

It is a great opportunity the young people in our confirmation group to get to know each other a little better and to realise we are a part of a huge community.

Our catechists are ready to help with the day out trip.

We are still waiting for response from the candidates and their parents.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Youth Ministry team needs a **name and logo**. The plan to email parents in our database and ask for help with the children thinking up a name and logo. This will be a competition with a £10 iTunes voucher for the winner(s) (maximum of 2).

Objectives set	Who