

Pastoral Parish Council reports July 2017

Area of Activity	
Our Lady's Bereavement Team (Antonieta Tinney)	
Activity since last PPC meeting	
<p>The prayer service for bereaved parishioners and friends was held on 23rd June. Around 30 people attended the service led by Fr. Tom.</p> <p>After the service light refreshments were offered in the Church hall and that gave the chance to people to chat. It was positive for the team to see how the service is appreciated and our intention is to keep this yearly event going on.</p>	
Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed	
<p>-It is important to have regular meetings (next meeting will be on 4th September). Our aim is to have a strong team for supporting parishioners in need of our "ministry".</p>	
Objectives set	Who
<p>-To make our team more known within the parish.</p> <p>-Continue to send sympathy cards to newly bereaved families. Also to send cards on the first anniversary.</p>	All

Area of Activity – Finance Report
Activity since last PPC meeting
<p><u>Parish Accounts for 2017</u></p> <p>The Parish Accounts for the period through to the end of May 2017 show a deficit of just over £5,000, which includes payment for the new Photocopier and the new Hall Dishwasher.</p> <p><u>Parish Audit Follow-Up</u></p> <p>The follow-up to the Parish Audit was carried out on 6 June 2017 and the Parish was re-scored at 99% Compliant. The only remaining problem area is "insufficient oversight of Parish Group activities". This is not an unexpected observation and ways of improving the oversight will be discussed with the Council over the coming months.</p> <p><u>Grove Road House Project</u></p> <p>The Parish has taken back responsibility for Christopher House and the Emmanuel Centre.</p> <p>With a small number of "snags" still to be fixed, the final invoice from the Builder is awaited.</p> <p>The Order has paid over to the Parish its contribution to the Project.</p> <p>Building and Contents valuations have been carried out and the Parish Insurance Policy covering these buildings has been reinstated.</p> <p>An application has been made to NHDC to formally name the Grove Road property as Christopher House and that is in process.</p> <p>The Lease for the Order's use of Christopher House is still being negotiated and, so, to enable Fr Michael to move into the upstairs flat, a Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing the main terms of the Lease, has been signed between the Parish and the Order.</p> <p>(Roger to give an update on arrangements for a formal opening and naming ceremony)</p> <p><u>Solar Panels</u></p> <p>Installation of the solar panels on Christopher House has been completed as has the work to pipe back the electricity generated to other Parish buildings and to feed-in and sell back any surplus to the</p>

National Grid.	
Arrangements have been made with the Order such that the Parish has “beneficial ownership” of the system.	
(Deolinda to give further details, as required, on the installation and FIT negotiations)	
Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed	
Objectives set	Who

Area of Activity Health and Safety Richard Bradford	
Activity since last PPC meeting	
<p><u>Hall capacity</u></p> <p>In order that our Hall User Agreement is correct Precision have been contacted to confirm if the maximum capacity of the hall changes based on its configuration / use e.g. a Theatre production, a reception, a board meeting etc.</p> <p>Our H&S reports details a general max capacity as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum capacity of the Church Hall is considered to be 120, or 50 if there is an ambulant disabled person in the group unable to walk up the stairs to escape via the front exit, provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All emergency exit doors are clear of obstructions, unlocked/unbolted on left and right sides (This is included in the Hall User Agreement) and opening devices are signed using photo-luminescent signs. The Hall kitchen door and shutters are to be closed before vacating the Hall. This is to be included in the Hall Users Agreement. <p><u>Fire Training</u></p> <p>On we have confirmation that Father Tom has approach Fr Nobert of the Deanery we plan to arrange Fire training for the Diocese at our Church in Hitchin</p>	
Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed	
Objectives set	Who
Complete Fire Pack Arrange Fire training with Deanery.	Richard Richard

Area of Activity Inter-Faith Relations Deolinda Eltringham	
Activity since last PPC meeting	
The last NHIFF meeting was on Wed. June 28th. I was not present, but Fr. Tom may be able to make	

some comments. There was meant to be a presentation from hear from the part time chaplain at Luton Airport, Martin Stears-Handscorn of Tilehouse Street Baptist church.

Sat 17 June at 18:00 the Sikh community presented a cross community event in conjunction with North Herts Inter Faith Forum and other community volunteers (Hindu, Afro-Caribbean and an Anglican Soprano) to raise funds for the local Foodbank serving Letchworth, Hitchin and Baldock. The evening was interesting but poorly attended. Don't know if any funds were raised for the Foodbank as had been planned.

News item of interest: **19th June:** United Arab Emirates: Mosque named after Our Lady - A leading mosque in the United Arab Emirates has been renamed after Our Lady. The mosque in Abu Dhabi, was renamed last week as the **Maryam Umm Issa** (Mary, Mother of Jesus Mosque), a decision taken by the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed. Previously it was named after him. The mosque is immediately adjacent to the Catholic Cathedral, the Anglican Church and the Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Abu Dhabi. The initial news brief see:

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/32834> for the full article see:

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/32836> - Inter-faith is contagious!

Advance notice: National Interfaith Week events from Sunday 12th to Sunday 19th November 2017 - there may be some local events.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Please do ask all questions you may have.

Objectives set

Who

DME

Area of Activity Justice & Peace

Activity since last PPC meeting

On Sat 3rd June – I attended the **Pax Christi Annual** Gathering 2017 at Maria Fidelis School.

Saturday 10th June – I attended the **Operation Noah** AGM – Birmingham

On 1st July CAFOD launched a new campaign to highlight the large numbers of children around the world without access to electricity in their school and homes, that impair their ability to develop and become better educated, called **“Power to be ...”** it is both meant to raise awareness and campaign to MPs and World Bank for funds to provide renewable solar energy to deprived communities so they benefit as we are now benefiting in our parish. Launch week is 1st to 9th July. Info:

<http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Power-to-be/Energy-campaign>

This is a good place to express my thanks to the Augustinian order for their donation to the parish and everyone involved over the last 2 years that contributed to the parish project. I attach the first graphs on energy for your enjoyment!

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 handed out several booking forms to various parishioners, but I believe none told me they are going. It would have been good to also share the conference with other parish members –but so far only 3 people are known to have registered from this parish: myself, Michael and Fr. Euloge.

Sun 6th Aug there will be **Hiroshima commemorations** organised by Pax Christi in **Westminster Cathedral Piazza**, Victoria, London SW1P. *Prayer times at 11.30 and 3.30.* All are welcome. Leaflet here http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/August_-peace-events.pdf

Wed 9th Aug there will be **Nagasaki Commemorations** at the **Westminster Cathedral Piazza**,

Victoria, London SW1P and organised by Pax Christi. *Prayer times at 11.30 and 3.30.* All are welcome. Leaflet here http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/August_peace-events.pdf.

Wed 9th Aug To mark the anniversary of execution of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, martyr (beheaded) for peace in WWII. Resources on Pax Christi website <http://paxchristi.org.uk/> The annual service will start at 6.30 pm in the Crypt Chapel, of Westminster Cathedral. Access from Ambrosden Avenue, through car park. Followed by the annual interfaith peace walk to Battersea Park Peace Pagoda (Japanese).

Friday 1st September : World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, could we host an ecumenical prayer service in our parish to mark the start of [Season of Creation](#) (through October 4) as a trial this year? If Friday is not a good day, could the masses on weekend 2nd and 3rd be on the same theme and plan the ecumenical service for the Tuesday 5th Trish evening service?

October 4 Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi: Joint Catholic [Divestment](#) Announcement - another opportunity for announcements.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Objectives set	Who
Global Divestment Mobilisation Still hoping organise in the parish a "Good vs Bad Climate Change Investments" an event for November that could be catholic, ecumenical and inter-faith – I have started making contacts but have not firm commitments yet. My plan is to have a poster out by the end of August to be advertised during and after Creation Season.	PCC/ DME

Area of Activity **LiveSimply Ann Milner**

Activity since last PPC meeting

Not much extra to report since last PPC meeting
DEC has been done on parish hall
UN World Environment Day (5h June 2017) was marked at Eucharistic Service thanks to Trish
Livesimply coffee morning held 11th June. Very grateful to Maeve for help with cakes.
Livesimply meeting held 11th June had to be curtailed due to members participation in First Holy Communion Service. To be continued on 2nd July

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.

Parish Wild Flower Garden: is now looking very colourful

Parish Community Garden: Signage still required

Objectives set	Who
Keep monitoring the energy usage of the parish over the next year.	DME
2 nd July. Continue livesimply meeting No 23	LS Team
4th November: Renewable Energy & Divestment Information Day. The hall is booked for an information morning about renewable energy and divestment from fossil fuels. DME will contact some local groups to invite them to take part.	DME /LS Team
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

Area of Activity **Maintenance JohnScott**

Activity since last PPC meeting

Summary

Modest list of jobs

Credit - as always - to the volunteers who have DIY'd much of the installation in Christopher House and Emmanuel Centre : Roger Hyde , Phil Shakeshaft , John and Frances Chamberlain.

Activity since report of April 2017

Ongoing/In-hand

0/ co-ordinate phone and IT upgrades (JVC)

0/ key safes for new build (JVC)

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

2706_1/ box for dangerous detergent in kitchen (JS)

2706_2/ 3 keysafes for new buildings (JVC)

2006_1 / dripping tap in ladies-NoFaultFound (JS)

2006_2/ busted plunger in ladies loos (JS)

1006_1/ decommission unused bingo (JS)

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Outstanding Maintenance Snags

0/ Fernox into UCR radiator

0/ The on/off valve on the towelrail/radiator in Fr E's bathroom - date TBD

Objectives set

Who

Area of Activity Outreach – Trish Bonnett July 2017

Activity since last PPC meeting

Outreach

- Attended Proclaim 15 workshop and found it very useful and stimulating and made lots of helpful and supportive contacts. Will be a part of a deanery initiative to have a similar workshop in the future.
- The first Mass at Gosmore was led by Fr Euloge in conjunction with Teresa Lawrence-Hyde and Pauline Darby came. There were 6 residents in attendance and it had a lovely feel to it. The second one is July 3rd in the afternoon.

Other tasks

Liturgy

- Pentecost weekend not widely attended but all who came had a good time. The baptism and confirmations were joyful and the blessings of married people and the sick went very well also.
- Teresa Hyde's reflection for EMs had an attendance of over 30 people from across the deanery and was a beautiful and prayerful occasion. Great thanks to her for organising it.
- Pastoral team planning meeting sorted out a pastoral calendar for the year. This can be updated by all the team.

- Have met with MCs Ben and William with Fr Euloge and have a plan for them to train Fr E to train the new altar servers.

Other support

- Took Fr Michael to and from procedure at Lister
- Took Fr Euloge to first service at North Herts Crematorium
- Gabriella is still doing admin support on a Tuesday as part of her DoE. She is currently checking that all the baptism records are up to date on the database.
- Attended Michaelmas fair planning meeting.

Side Chapel project

Drawings have been sent back to architect showing the adjustments to be made. Awaiting response.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Still 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

Mass at Gosmore done and next one also happening

Who

Tb TLH

Objectives set

Move Proclaim 15 projects forward

TB

Secure costings for Christ figure for crucifix

TB/Peter Rock/BS/WW

Invite other parishes to Lourdes pilgrimage

TB

Area of Activity

Sacramental Preparation Susanna Hawksley

Activity since last PPC meeting

Holy Communion

All the children have received the sacrament and have received their certificate. The programme went well, judging from feedback. The Mass for FHC was really lovely: it was a warm and prayerful atmosphere. Huge thanks to the musicians, especially Greg, who sang for about 30 minutes straight while the children received the sacrament! Owed a pint, for sure. Thanks also go to Fr Euloge for preparing the children who do not go to RC schools.

RCIA

The RCIA group is flourishing and is about to undergo an advertising campaign. My current group is undergoing mystagogia/ preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. I have one adult baptism coming up and two adult confirmations in the pipeline. It seems a steady trickle of people have gone through this year, rather than a whole group all preparing and peaking at the same time. What has happened is a direct result of holding the course as a year round

catechumenate; it is a relaxed fit for the people who come to it. I will be interested to see what happens when I advertise the group again later this year.

Baptism

I advertised a course for this summer but only had two takers. It has been postponed until September. There are some occasional issues with parents having their children baptized without having attended the course... ahem.

Confirmation

The catechists had a meeting and meal to discuss next year's course and review the last. We have identified some key areas to work on and I have come away with ideas to create/improve next year's course. We had 23 candidates – not a vast number. I would be interested to compare this to the number of potential candidates but we don't, at present have the human resources to undertake that type of work.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Objectives set	Who

Area of Activity Safeguarding – Trish Bonnett April 2017

Activity since last PPC meeting

Nothing to report at present. No progress on objectives below.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Ensure the parish is much more aware of our commitment to Safeguarding

Objectives completed from last report	Who
Discuss with Diocese the need for all the Diocesan safeguarding paperwork.	Completed and plan to go forward
Objectives set	Who
Make time to complete the agreed plan.	TB

Area of Activity Website

Activity since last PPC meeting

Nothing to report at present.

Area of Activity YOUTH Teresa Pernak

Activity since last PPC meeting

Youth Ministry meeting took place on 19/06/2017. Items discussed:

1. **Name, Logo & Strapline** need to be put together by the children, we will do this at the next Funday Sunday which is on the 9th of July
2. **Missal** – The idea is that we need to amalgamate the ideas to create our own Our Lady Immaculate & St Andrews missal which can be printed off and either given to children and / or left in the porch for children to pick up at the start of mass. Thank to Trish who had bought 2 missals' one appropriate for older children and 1 for younger children.
3. **First Aid** training for our youth workers and volunteers – is planned to be organised in September 17'. The cost of this is £300 for a 6-hour course that would train 10 – 12 people.

4. The next **Funday Sunday** is taking place this Sunday (the 9th of July) – activities will involve liturgy, craft, games, art/acting. The plan is to use church garden, if weather is friendly.
5. **Children's masses**- they are in the dairy
6. **Future events:**
7. 22nd October – Funday Sunday Harvest
 29th Oct – Halloween Party – to follow the same format as last year with more games, donuts etc
 26th Nov – Youth Sunday / Children's mass – Christ the King
 10th December – Funday Sunday or Advent event in the afternoon – suggested that we have a craft afternoon so that children can make calendars, decorations, cards, presents etc.

Other areas to explore:

- Justice & Peace – Teresa Pernak is to get in touch with Julia Corcoran, who is a newly appointed youth worker for J&P. The idea is to see what she can offer and how she can help to take further our Youth Ministry mission.
- Caritas – Love in Action, Liz Wills is in touch with OLS and JHN to push this project forward and it is also something we as a Parish need to embrace and pull into our youth community
- Crime prevention and first aid is provided by a group that Antoinetta Tinney attends, may be something that we could introduce to the parish and children.
- Get in touch with Urban Saints - the movement for Young people (aged 3 to 18+). We could use **Energise – Web-based resources, from [Urban Saints](#), for transforming young lives and** possibly ask for an advice Bekkie Woods-Stark who is a youth worker from Christchurch, and is involved in the movement, so perhaps she would be able to help us with this.
- Mind – Could ask them to come in and talk about Emotional wellbeing and aim it at our older children.
- To liaise with Phase – would be helpful to get them more involved.

Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry is running an exciting project called ECHO.

ECHO is a retreat for young adults aged 16-25. It is an opportunity to explore the beauty and depth of what the Church teaches about what is to be human, and how we can be happy. Young people are invited to join a journey to discover more of who they were made to be; we will have live music, sports, art, times for questions, times for prayer, times to learn and lots of good food and conversations. Event details:

Friday 20 October - Friday 27 October

Location SPEC Retreat Centre, 125 Waxwell Lane, Pinner, HA5 3EP

Price 18+: £100. 16-18: £80 Age range 16-30 years

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

To put information about Echo Retreat project to the Parish newsletter.

Teresa Pernak to get in touch with Julia Corcoran, a newly appointed youth worker for J&P in order to see whether she can help with our Youth Ministry mission.

Teresa Pernak to contact Bekkie Woods-Stark from Urban Saints/Christchurch asking whether she could support us with ideas for our mission.

Objectives set

As above

Who

TP