

PPC Reports June 2017

Area of Activity	
Our Lady's Bereavement Team (Antonietta Tinney)	
Activity since last PPC meeting	
<p>Our meeting on 17th May was for planning the programme for the annual Service for The Bereaved to be held on Friday, 23rd June at 7.30pm.</p> <p>Posters are ready and the event has been announced on the latest Parish Newsletter.</p> <p>Invites to the families will be posted at the end of May.</p> <p>Another meeting will be on Wednesday, 15th June to finalize the programme.</p>	
Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed	
<p>-It is important to have regular meetings. 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	
<p>Report on Ecumenism for Parish Council</p> <p>CTH Annual General Meeting held on</p> <p>23/05/2017</p> <p>at</p> <p>St Faith's Church</p>	
Activity since last PPC meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Herts Sanctuary presentation by Grahame Williams and Peter Warren asked does anyone or any church have space where the Sanctuary could store items and would each church appoint a contact person to receive information from the Sanctuary. N.B. Trish has agreed to fulfil this role. - Gill Shinkins from the Bancroft Project has been providing a weekly meal to vulnerable people for a number of years is unable to continue so is looking for someone to take over this role - A presentation by Dr Sandra Moffitt and Michael Taylor reminded us that each GP practice has a Patient Participation Group we should look for opportunities to join these - It All Makes Sense Now a book by Jane Litchmore-Grant is now available - Tilehouse Street Baptist Church has various pieces of Youth Club type equipment if anyone would find them useful please contact Sam Hallas - A new Community Garden has been established near the Three Moorhens and help is asked for to build vegetable beds - Helen Deam from Christchurch is stepping down as Chaplain to Archers Court attached to Elmside Care Home. An advert is provided for anyone who is interested in applying 	
Forthcoming Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Election hustings at Hitchin Christian Centre at 7.30 on 2nd June. It went very well. • Hub Church inauguration service at Hitchin Christian Centre on Sun 4th June. • Taize service at St Mark's on 4th June • Foodbank fundraiser at Broadway Cinema on Sat 17th June for all of north herts. • Curry and Jazz evening at Our Lady's on Sat 17th June proceeds for PHASE. • Redeeming Our CTH community meeting to be held on Tues 20th June at Hitchin Christian Centre • Cake stall to be held at Christchurch for Hope's drug education work on Sat 1st July • Ceremony to unveil memorial to the many Herts soldiers who died in 1917 on 31st July in Sint Juliaan near Ypres 	
CTH dates and venues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting - 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	
<p>The last NHIFF meeting was on Wed. Apr 26th. There was a presentation from the Quaker Friends representative on their “Peace Garden” with invitations for Peace quotes from all faiths to be included in it, and the visit by Rev Michael Roden who spoke about the project on the India –Pakistan divide 70th anniversary this year.</p> <p>Michael and I attended the celebration event on Saturday 6th May in Stevenage, when the Copt Pope Tawadros II visited the UK, and received a small icon of St. George from them.</p> <p>On Monday 8th May in St. Albans I attended “The Arrival of Faiths on these Shores” with presentations from the Baha’i, Islamic and Jewish faith – very interesting and informative.</p> <p>Saturday 20th May 2017 Michael and I took part in the Westminster Interfaith 32nd Annual Multi-Faith Pilgrimage for Peace, though Michael dropped out at lunch time to return to the parish to help with confirmation, but it became a daylong event that I only got home close to 9pm. It included: Our Lady of Lourdes, RC Church Arnos Grove; the Baha’i Monument at the New Southgate Cemetery; the Jain Derasar (Temple) and Oshwal Centre in Northaw; Christ the King RC Church and the Chemin Neuf Community with an ecumenical vocation; the Sachkhand Nanak Dham International (Sikh Temple); MCEP Palmers Green Mosque; the Bhativedanta Manor and Hindu Temple in Aldenham, UK home of the Hare Krishna Movement; and the Nanak Darbar - a north London Gurdwara.</p> <p>Recently I read about a Catholic-Sikh retreat in the USA and an interesting nugget of information quoted from it is: Dr Butalia then proposed to take a step further than the Golden Rule (Do to others as you would want them to do to you,” Mt 7:12). He called his version the “<u>Platinum Rule</u>”: “Do to others as they would want you to do to them,” moving beyond the assumption that other people would like to be treated the way that you would like to be treated yourself.” He then invited the 130 participants to “listen more than we speak” and to never compare the “best of our religion with the worst of the others.” Referring to Islamophobia, Dr Butalia remembered that all religions are interdependent on each other and that we have to stand up against discrimination against any faith. Closing, he quoted a disciple of the Sikh founder Guru Nanak: “No one is my enemy, and no one is a stranger. I get along with all.” Very timely food for thought!</p> <p>At our next meeting on 28th June, we hope to hear from the part time chaplain at Luton Airport, Martin Stears-Handscomb of Tilehouse Street Baptist church.</p> <p>Up-coming event: Sat 17 June at 18:00 the Sikh community will present a cross community event in conjunction with North Herts Inter Faith Forum and other community volunteers, to raise funds for the local Foodbank serving Letchworth, Hitchin and Baldock. The evening will see displays of some classical Sikh music and Martial Arts (called Gatka) and classical Indian dancing and fashion. The Afro-Caribbean community will sing songs and recite poems and hymns sung by a local church Choir. Tickets will be £5.00 each - the Letchworth Heritage will take £2.50 and the rest will go to the Foodbank (the Trussell Trust). Fr. Tom has tickets available to sell in Hitchin.</p> <p>Advance notice: National Interfaith Week events from Sunday 19th November 2017 - there may be some local events.</p>	
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 <i>Faith and Ethics</i> , explore ethical teachings and values. Still to be decided in NHIFF meetings. – My life has become too busy and chaotic and I have not started to make any arrangements yet.	DME

Area of Activity Justice & Peace

Activity since last PPC meeting

5th–13th May, international: [Global Divestment Mobilisation](#) nine Catholic organizations from around the world announced their decision to divest their portfolios from coal, oil and gas companies in the largest joint Catholic fossil fuel divestment in history. They were:

- 1) The Mission Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Spirit (Global, General Curia)
- 2) The Diocese of Pescara (Italy)
- 3) Il Dialogo (Italy)
- 4) The Italian Jesuits (Italy)
- 5) Rete Interdiocesana Nuovi Stili di Vita (Italy)
- 6) Siloe Monastic Community (Italy)
- 7) MGR Foundation (USA)
- 8) The Wheaton Franciscan Sisters, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (USA)
- 9) St Joseph's Province of the Congregation of the Passion—English Province of the Passionists (UK)

In the couple of years, a total of 27 Catholic institutions have now divested – Praise God! See: <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/divest-and-reinvest/>

Saturday 13th May – NJ&PN AGM in CAFOD's Romero House, London – in preparation for September's **Creation Day and Creation Time** – sharing ideas and resources. I have brought them to the parish, more to follow, this is available to organise something for 1st September.

On Sat 3rd June – I will be attending the Pax Christi Annual Gathering 2017 at Maria Fidelis School.
Saturday 10th June – Operation Noah AGM – Birmingham

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 would be good to also share the conference with other parish members – I have invited quite a few people to also attend this year's conference, but so far only 3 people are known to have registered from this parish, any chance of an appeal to the parish from the pulpit?

- **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? This could easily become in time a date/event that rotates around the various churches in CTHitchin or we could choose to always host it.

- **October 4**: 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 - as above, my life has become too busy and chaotic and I have not started to make any arrangements yet.	PCC/ DME

Area of Activity LiveSimply

Activity since last PPC meeting

Two activities took place to mark **Mercy to Earth** weekend: 22nd April, **Know the Creator through Creation**, a one hour session of video, prayer & reflection

23rd April, **Caring for Creation** by Litter Picking in our locale.
 These were both very successful though attendance at the 'Know the Creator' could have been higher.
 Livesimply coffee morning held 28th May. Very grateful to Maeve for help with cakes
 Livesimply team will fund a Declaration of Energy

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: Newsletter notice generated telling people its purpose. Signage still required

Objectives set	Who
Keep monitoring the energy usage of the parish over the next year.	DME
28th May: Livesimply Coffee Morning. This was given to us by another group who found they couldn't do it. Proceeds to go as usual to parish livesimply projects.	LS Team
11th June: Livesimply Coffee Morning.	LS Team
Discuss the marking of UN World Environment Day (5h June 2017) at Eucharistic Service with Trish	AMM
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/ AMM /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
Arrange for DEC to be done	DME
Investigate feasibility of encouraging participation in Woodland Trust scheme	AMM

Area of Activity Maintenance

Activity since last PPC meeting

Summary

Modest list of jobs again - but includes at least one big 'un
 Credit - as always - to the volunteers

Activity since report of April 2017

Ongoing/In-hand

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

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

2105_1/ secondary double glazing stuck in hall (JS & PJ)

2005_1/ install phones pastoral ctr & Christopher House(JVC)

2005_2/ internet & wifi to pastoral ctr & Christopher House(JVC)

1205_1/ Fluorescent tube replacement in hall (JVC)

1205_2/ Install test LED spotlight in hall (JVC)

0205_3/ Pastoral Office thermostat rad valve moves of its own accord (JS)

0205_2/ magnets and key silhouette in office keybox (JS)

0205_1/ busted doorlock in link (JS)

2904_1/ Toddler area storage overhaul

(Tony Brennan , "Bulldozer" Brian , JS, JVC , PJ)

2904_2/ de-slam gents loo door-closer (JS)

2504_3/ de-buzz back door bell (JVC)

2504_2/ Replace starter in Admin Office light (JVC)

2504_1/ EPC feedback - dhw cylinder was not set to 60celcius (JS)
 2304_1/ EPC feedback - dh vestibule light bulb hits door (JS)
 0804_2/ Candle(stick) fixes for PeterAppleyard (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

Follow-up from last time - MPBuild's plumber provided the hoped-for guidance - we know what to do to keep Fr.Euloge's bathroom warm.

Objectives set

Who

Area of Activity Outreach – Trish Bonnett June 2017

Activity since last PPC meeting

Outreach

- Proclaim 15 projects still not moved on. Every week I hope to but day to day and weekly tasks take up all the time. Met with the Diocesan co-ordinator on 28th April. Very useful to hear what is going on in the Diocese. Workshop for Proclaim teams on 10 June which I will attend.
- Have arranged counselling for a parishioner in residential care. Am still supporting another parishioner.
- Fr Euloge has begun visiting the housebound and parishioners in care homes on a monthly basis. We are logging these visits on the parish data base so that we know who is being visited and the last time they were seen.
- Fr Michael and Fr Tom continue to make regular visits to parishioners
- The first Mass at Gosmore is 5th June led by Fr Euloge in conjunction with Teresa Lawrence-Hyde who ministers there.
- Attended workshop on 23rd May on Emergency planning in the community. CTH have offered our church facilities and key personnel from their parish to support with counselling, befriending should there ever be a local emergency where there was the need.
- Met with Mike Kershaw (husband of our parishioner Loulla) from Holy Saviour who wants to arrange a Sing and Fit session with the Bethany club on a regular basis. Have passed on details to Chris Withers. Mike also asked on behalf of the Holy Saviour parish council if I would do a session on communication in the parish which I have agreed to deliver in July.

Other tasks

Liturgy

- We had a service to pray for the people of Manchester on 23rd May and over 30 parishioners responded and attended. The service sheet was sent to the parish to support their prayers for the victims.
- The service books for the Priests and MCs for the Triduum have been reviewed and updated following Easter.

- Supported preparation for Confirmation service but was unable to be there myself.
- Preparing for a busy Pentecost weekend. At time of writing not sure how many attending the parish picnic but am hopeful of a good turn out.
- Teresa Hyde has organised a reflection for Eucharistic Ministers on the eve of Corpus Christi and all EMs in the deanery have been invited to attend.
- Led the singing from the musicals at the Bethany club for one session.
- Arranged for a parishioner to provide regular transport to Mass for an elderly parishioner and another who is going to support one other elderly parishioner visiting another one. One by one we are supporting where we can.
- Arranged Christian Aid distribution as a group leader.
- Supported healing service on Sunday.
- Pastoral team planning meeting being hosted at my house on 7 June.

Side Chapel project

Drawing have been received and some adjustments need to be made before they can be submitted for planning permission. Just need the time to do it.

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

Publicise Novena for *Thy Kingdom come*

Set up Mass at Gosmore

Who

Currently being prayed by parish
5th June first Mass

Objectives set

Move Proclaim 15 projects forward

Prepare check list for Pre-Ms

Secure costings for Christ figure for crucifix

Invite other parishes to Lourdes pilgrimage

Who

TB

TB/Fr E/TLH

TB/Peter Rock/BS/WW

TB

Area of Activity

Sacramental Preparation – Susanna Hawksley

Activity since last PPC meeting

First Holy Communion

The last session has taken place and the First Holy Communion Mass will take place on June 11th at 2pm. I intend to invite feedback from parents.

Marriage Preparation

Our next course is being held tomorrow. This is the final time that Jon and Lucy Bonnett will be facilitating our marriage preparation course; they are moving away. I am in the process of discerning what our new set up will be. When that is clear, I will need to recruit!

RCIA

On Pentecost Sunday we will have two baptisms and two confirmations! I have a further two adult confirmation candidates in the pipeline, so to speak. The mystagogia will follow Pentecost and then I will relaunch invitations to the course. As the course is a year round catechumenate, there is no beginning or end – it's a cycle but advertisement is necessary every once in a while.

Baptism

I am getting enquiries for baptisms so a new course will run soon.

Confirmation

The candidates have all been confirmed at a lovely Mass with Bishop Paul. I am going to call a meeting of catechists to have a post mortem of the course. I would like to make some changes. On the whole, I think it went well. My heartfelt thanks to the catechists Maeve and Nigel Green, Barbara and Catherine Thoele, Mary McCready, Rosie Sheils and Tomek and Teresa Pernak should be recorded. I could not have done it without them!

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Objectives set	Who
Gather feedback from people about completed courses.	Me

Area of Activity Safeguarding – Trish Bonnett April 2017

Activity since last PPC meeting

Spoke to Jackie at Diocese and have agreed a way forward for the current applications. (bit of a compromise but she is so nice what could I do but agree?) Now just need to find the time to do it.

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

For Sale and Free items page doing very well. Have also added a page for job vacancies. Some increased interest and activity on the website.

Area of Activity YOUTH

Activity since last PPC meeting

There have not been events within the scope of Youth Ministry activities since Sunday Sunday

held on 12th of March 17'.

The next Funday Sunday is planned for 9th of July.

Youth Ministry team will meet on the 26th of June to prepare activities for the event.

Initially the next Funday was scheduled for the 4th of July, however it collided with the Pentecost picnic at our parish, so decision was made to move Funday Sunday to the 9th of July.

Other topics:

I received the email from Rebekah Curran who is a youth worker for Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry informing they have had a few requests for support/training on supporting our young people who may be struggling with mental health issues. It's an important topic and one that is having a big impact on our young adults.

Caritas Westminster (the social outreach arm of the Diocese) are teaming up with Mind and Welcome Me As I Am, to run workshops across the diocese aimed at helping parish communities to increase their support of people with mental health issues.

Currently, these are focused on parish rather than youth specifically, however it appears to be a great opportunity to look also into young people mental health needs.

There are 3 different dates/locations available, the training is **free**, and does **include a lunch**. The upcoming workshops the closest to us are:

1. **North Harrow:** 17 June

2. **Welwyn Garden City:** 1 July.

More information can be found on the website:

<http://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/theres-no-health-like-mental-health-parish-workshops-635.php>

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

We could possibly advertise those workshops in our parish – there may be parishioners who have an interest in receiving training and helping people with mental health issues.

Objectives set

Who

TP