

All reports for January 2022

Chair's report to the Pastoral Parish Council – Roger Hyde
10th January 2022.

Just to refresh your memories for 2022

The steering group with Fr Tom, has met twice since the last meeting and positive acceptable ideas have come from lengthy discussions and help from Parish records.

The use of our facilities has been noted from records of stake holder use and with an expansive view of the future taken into account, we now have a good idea of what will be needed.

The idea is to approach the future in two ways.

Firstly to refurbish all the various properties on our estate to the standard required by our experience of living with Covid. This means ventilation, lighting, decorating and re furnishing where appropriate.

This will include the car parking area for Fr Tom and another and a look at the garden area between the Presbytery and Fr Andrews flat and hopefully the transfer of the stained glass windows in the hall to other places replacing with plain lattice windows.

This exercise, we feel should be commenced as soon as possible leaving any new Scout Hut rebuild to follow on in its due time.

The second plan after reviewing our meeting with the architects on Wednesday last is to make the new build a similar size to the existing Scout Hut and adjoin the new building in some way to the existing kitchen / toilet area which in truth has all the facilities needed for both buildings

Financially this makes very good sense.

Parts of the interior will need to be modified to allow for a shower and revamped kitchen to allow entry from both halls and storage areas.

By adopting this plan the parking place numbers will also increase from 30 to 36 places. Good news for some.

However the problem of random parkers will still be with us, and need to be resolved at a later date.

Ideas have been drawn to guide the architects and can be shown is required.

We now await what the technically design could look like in the very near future and also approaching the NHDC planning to see if it is an acceptable plan.

All modifications to the Kitchen / toilet area made will be to facilitate the new design.

More news to come during the first quarter of 2022

Roger Lawrence-Hyde
10th January 2022

Ecumenism Report PPC Meeting Monday 10th January 2022 - Michael Edwards

Churches Together in Hitchin AGM

Meeting held on 7th Dec 2021 at Tilehouse Street Baptist Church

Matters Arising 1) A Theological Society has started at St Mary's on Sundays at the end of the month (Bible Study)

- 2) The Hitchin Pantry has started
- 3) The Street Pastors has stopped

Report from the Executive 1) Consideration is being given to allowing and encouraging Tourists to visit all the Churches, mosques, Gurdwaras etc in the town

2) Reducing the use of plastic in the CTH churches

3) There would be no Carol service in the square this year but the riverside would be used instead

4) There would be no - Somewhere to go at Christmas - but Vouchers not hampers would be given

Appointments Fr Tom was appointed as Chair for the CTH for the next year

Rev Henton Pusey stepped down from PHASE Trustees and is replaced by Martha Inch from the Hub Church

There were 4 presentations on Emerging from the Pandemic

1) Baptist Church - Resilience, the old can learn e.g. Zoom, Pastoral care, Patience. Acceptance

2) Holy Saviour - Helping each other

3) Zeo Church - On-line Church


4) Our Lady's - Discovering new ways of doing many things

Accounts - Waitrose gave a cheque for £333 and £150 was received from someone else

There will be a week of prayer for Christian Unity 18th - 25th January

Preaching exchanges on 16th and 23rd January and there will a 'Journeying Together' session at Our Lady's on Sunday 23rd January

Maintenance Report PPC - 10 Jan 2022 – John Scott johnsletchworth@ntlworld.com

Area of Activity Maintenance	
Activity since last PPC meeting	
<p>I've shown where contractors have been employed , and highlighted where in-house work has either involved significant work or saved us money or distress. ### ----- snags addressed -----#</p> <p>Green = task done by contractor Yellow = significant task</p> <p>0401_2/ Busted lock PH Nightingale door(Philippe & JS)</p>	

0401_1/ Repair dodgy microphone leads (Mike)	
2012_1/ Clean FlyExecutor prior to FoodCertInspection (Mike E)	
2012_2/ New 3phase meter not sending smart readings to British Gas (MikeE)	
1712_2/ Rescue 2 vacuum cleaners blocked by abuse (JVC)	
1712_1/ Rescue sound deck malfunction (Mike E)	
1512_1/ Rescue carpark twilight light controller (Mike E)	
1412_1/ Replace Church&Hall Heating Boiler (G&A Plumbing)	
0612_1/ CH top flat toilet cistern intermittent flush (js)	
0512_1/ Hall WiFi fix (JVC)	
2011_2/ Replace security lamp on hall kitchen (js)	
2011_1/ Cistern float ballast DH toilet (js)	
1911_1/ Change washer in Fr.Tom's kitchen tap (js)	
1911_2/ Season's first turret-gutter emptying - leaves and leaks(js)	
1911_3/ Free-up sticky motorised valve - hall heating (js)	
1811_1/ Catholic-proof reinforcements to DH toilet (js)	
1711_1/ Fr.A Ramp re-engineer (jvc)	
Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed	
Imminent/In-hand All of these are carried forward from last report .	
Not clear where these tasks are : balance hall de-strat fan (Justin?) extractor fan in UCR (Oliver ?) Get quotes for electrical / safety work (MikeE)	
Quite clear - no progress on this task : Re-inspect sacristy corridor roof in rainstorm (js) <i>this was stated to be "in hand" a year ago ... haven't found the source of the very occasional drips . have established several bits of structure that <u>aren't</u> leaking</i>	
Objectives set	Who

COP 26 Report for PPC Meeting 9th November 2021 – Robert Hitchcock

The general tone of Climate summit held in Glasgow was positive; which is unusual. The major announcements made during in the first week were in fact nothing new they were presented differently or new nations had signed up. However, it did set a tone of positivity and determination to bring about change.

The real sticking point that would determine whether this time in Glasgow is considered successful is the terms 'loss and Damage', the official terms are 'Adaptation and Mitigation'. In the simplest of terms this is like an insurance policy. Where there is damaged generally a payout is wanted. The developing world is currently experiencing the effects of Climate change. They want the richer nations to pay them compensation for their "Loss and Damage" that has been caused due to Climate change. The contention is of course that the richer nations have not provided the funds; the situation has intensified and the developing world's situation has not improved in fact the opposite it has deteriorated significantly. As a consequence, people are being left behind because they are unable to mitigate and adapt to the constant evolution of the planet.

The negotiation process is favoured by the richer nations because negotiations happen all round the clock and all through the night. They do not have sessions; negotiators come with an agenda some things are negotiable and others are not. Each nation sends as many people as

possible the greater the number of delegates the more influence the nation will have over proceedings. This is because nations will be able to have representation in a larger number of negotiations as all the negotiations happen simultaneously this also allows delegates to divide the time between each other to enable them to refresh and sleep. This obviously is not as effective if you do not have the luxury of having a large team of negotiators. This is where organisations like CAFOD play their part because they have the opportunity to converse with negotiators to voice the concerns of the developing world.

At the end of the negotiations a document will be produced each nation votes whether to agree to what has been negotiated, the document is not legally binding they are guidance meaning nations can interpret them to fit the country's situation. The exception is the 'Paris Climate Agreement 2015.' This is the only legal binding document on Climate change. If one nation votes against the proposals then the whole process collapses.

The Vatican delegation has a strong influence in the negotiations particularly in those countries that are strongly Catholic. An example of this is when the time came to vote on the proposals put forward during the Paris Climate conference in 2015 it was thought that Nicaragua would vote against the proposal meaning the process would have collapsed. The Vatican delegation conversed sternly with Nicaragua to convince them to vote in favour. They did vote in favour and the agreement was passed.

I think generally there is a lot of positivity to take from Glasgow but also recognition of the fact that there is still a very long way to go; which may be perceived as a daunting task. We need to keep the pressure on those who have the power to bring real change but also continue to do the things that we are able to do at grassroots level.

Area of Activity Outreach – Trish Bonnett Jan 2022**Activity****Outreach**

- We are reaching more people now with Br Adams visiting and Teresa Hyde has trained new Eucharistic ministers who will be able to visit when we have completed DBS checks
- Milford Lodge Care Home Mass took place in December and we also delivered a carol service with Tim playing the guitar. Fr Andrew's sister is currently resident there.
- Hitchin Pantry continues to do well. Liz seems okay for volunteers at present.
- All sessions have taken place for the Synodal gatherings and are now being typed up. They will be published for the parish to read soon, including the Share your thoughts input.
- Sorted support for a new mother without any family to help – group helping to support her as she recovers from the birth.
- Sorted transport for a parishioner undergoing treatment at Mount Vernon hospital.
- Played Innkeeper at Wintershall nativity and reached hundreds of people with the good news of Jesus!

Liturgy

- Thank to Julian Sweeny for organising the bookings for the Christmas Masses, with a few exceptions it all went very well though numbers attending were lower than booked.
- Have two new MCs for Sunday Masses (8.30am). Can always do with more.
- Carol service happened and was well attended and appreciated.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed**Objectives completed from last report**

All meetings were set up for the Synod and

Who

Trish

Objectives set

Look at ways to ensure Synodal process is an ongoing process in the parish.

Who

Trish

Area of Activity GDPR – Trish Bonnett Jan 2022	
Activity since last PPC meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children who were on camera for the Children’s Mass had a GDPR form completed by parents. 	
Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed	
Objectives completed from last report	Who
Objectives set	Who

Area of Activity Safeguarding – Trish Bonnett Jan 2022	
Activity since last PPC meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Educare modules. Maria has sent out forms to new catechists and Eucharistic ministers. Need to complete this process. 	
Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to do the new Educare modules and encourage all those who are having a DBS check to do the same. 	
Objectives completed from last report	Who
Objectives set	Who
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Educare training to all group leaders and catechists in the parish. Strongly encourage them to register and do modules. 	TB/MG

Area of Activity Gender Diversity - As I am Jan 2022	
Activity since last PPC meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further action at present 	
Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider if we still going to put up the banner. 	
Pastoral objectives set in motion since last report	Who
Pastoral objectives set	Who

Sacramental Co-ordinator report Jan 2022

Baptism

In October we had our first online group Baptism course this was a success. I plan to keep the format. The next one is Saturday 12th February currently we have 5 people signed up.

FHC

The course has reached the halfway stage the fifth session is on Tuesday 18th February. We have 40 children signed up. This is great, with continue positive feedback from the parents of the group. Another change that I have decided to do is not celebrate the Sacrament of confession in January. I have put this back to co-inside with the liturgical season of Lent. This will take place Saturday 12th March. Due to the large numbers, I have planned to have 4 masses. The families have started to give me their finally preference so I can start to create a seating plan for the final masses. The dates are as follows Sunday 12th & 19th and 26th June 2022 and Saturday 26th June

Confirmation

The confirmation course for this year is due to commence Tuesday 11th January (tomorrow). We have a total of 13 candidates. I have provisionally booked two dates for Bishop Paul to celebrate the final mass Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th June 2022. Due to the low numbers, I will cancel one of the dates if we can fit the candidates and their families comfortably into the church. I have managed to recruit some extra Catechists to assist with this year's program.

Marriage prep

The next marriage prep course is due to take place Saturday 26th March 10-4. It is hoped to take place in person. I have asked for it to be advertised on the diocesan website.

RCIA

The RCIA group is going strong and is always ready to welcome new members. This year we are going to have 3 people fully received into The Church at the Easter Vigil. I arranged a pilgrimage to Walsingham for the candidates. I also gave them an opportunity to participate in the Synod sharing. I plan to organise in the future.

Youth & Young Adults

The youth project that I have been tasked with is still in the early stages. I have organised a survey. I am also planning to create following some feedback that I have received a young adults group. This is open to anyone 18-35. It is hoped to meet monthly for a time of socialising and prayer.