

All Pastoral Parish Council reports

Area of Activity – Chairs report to the Pastoral Parish Council - Roger Hyde

Little to report for this meeting

We have moved on with the replacement building for the scout hut.
A second meeting was held with further ideas proposed.

No decision was made re- the new outline drawing.

Quotations for the refurbishment project were submitted to The Finance Team for approval. No news yet.

The Stained Glass window project has been put on hold for the foreseeable future.

Objectives set	Who

Area of Activity – Finances & Administration – David Wilson

Parish Finances

The Parish Accounts continue to show an operating deficit now running at £12,468 for the year through to the end of May.

However, with the re-introduction of taking a Collection at Mass, there has been a slight improvement in Offertory income and there are also signs of an increased interest in hall rentals although, at the moment, these are mainly “one-offs”.

The anticipated increase in gas and electricity charges will put further pressure of the Parish finances but the tax rebate on Gift Aided donations (see below) will help towards balancing the books.

Gift Aid Claim

The Gift Aid tax rebate claim for the 2021/2022 Tax Year has been completed, signed-off by Fr Tom and passed to the Diocese for approval and submission to HMRC. It will realise just over £23K. This is down on normal but has held up remarkably well considering that income is still well down on pre-Pandemic levels

Christopher House

Terms and conditions for the Order’s continued use of Christopher House have been agreed with Fr Tom and an updated Tenancy Agreement has been sent to the Property Dept at the Diocese for approval.

Parish Audit

The date for the Parish Audit has now been set. It will take place on 10 and 11 August 2022.

Objectives set	Who


Area of Activity Gender Diversity - no report

Area of Activity GDPR – Trish Bonnett July 2022	
Activity since last PPC meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual update completed in time for Diocesan audit in August. . 	
Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed	
Objectives completed from last report	Who
Objectives set	Who

Area of Activity Health and Safety - July 2022

Activity since last PPC meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Safety Inspection took place on 12th May. Thanks to Helen and Cheryl for being there to support the process. Comment from Chris Horsfall Concerning my visit today, the 12th May 2022. Please pass on my thanks everyone for their time in reviewing the reports and policies with me and for the very positive attitude to all matters concerning safety within your Parish. The standards continue to improve and you remain one of the very few Parishes without any RED issues in your report. 	
Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed	
Objectives set in motion since last report	Who
Objectives set	Who
Helen and Michael will generate future reports for PPC	Helen Feehan Michael Hughes

Area of Activity Maintenance John Scott

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.</p> <p>no contractors this time thanks as always to all volunteers ...</p> <p>### ----- snags addressed -----#</p> <p>Green = task done by contractor Yellow = significant task</p> <p>1906_1/ clear umpteen gutters, prepare diocese report (js+PhilippeJ) 1306_1/ tap drip + waste leak in hall cleaning cupboard (js) 2405_1/ replace failed striplight in Hut food area (Mike+John) 2405_2/ best-of-bad-job striplight swaps - Hut main area (Mike+John)</p>	
	

2205_1/ drain and assault dishwasher - left on by user group (MikeE)
 1005_1/ hand held microphone psu & lend spare psu (ME)
 1005_2/ H&S Socket Change in Parish House (Mike+John)
 0605_1/ C2P bulb in scout hut loo (MikeE)

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Imminent/In-hand: failed lamps in link

Not clear where these tasks are : balance hall de-strat fan (Justin?)

Unsatisfactory Progress on this task : Re-inspect sacristy corridor roof in rainstorm.

Recently - I checked the loft during a heavy rainstorm. <Small quantity of> water was visible in the church on the wall behind the servers' bench . However, there was absolutely no sign of water in the loft. That means we have established several bits of structure that aren't leaking, but we are no closer to resolving the problem. Any and all advice would be welcomed.

From PPC Minutes 9th May : " *The skylight windows in the Church need to be cleaned* "

Philippe James and I recently cleared the gutters in the skylight windows while preparing the annual report for the diocese. The task takes several man-days to complete. Other gutters are cleared once a year, skylight gutters twice a year - to prevent water ingress to the church.

We gave the glass a superficial cleaning while we were there.

We can instruct parishioners <not just PPC members> on safe access to the skylights if anyone wants to volunteer for regular cleaning.

Objectives set

Who

Area of Activity Outreach – Trish Bonnett July 2022

Activity

Outreach

- We have been hosting a Ukraine mother and child since 24th May. There are a range of opportunities for the Ukraine community in the Hitchin area:
 1. Coffee mornings at Christchurch on a Tuesday morning
 2. English lessons at Christchurch on a Friday morning
 3. Monthly meet up at the Orange Tree on a Sunday evening – all non-alcoholic drinks are free
 4. Hitchin Pantry offers their service free to all Ukrainian families
 5. Universal Credit applications are treated favourably
 6. Leave to stay applications for 3 years are treated favourably
 7. NHS is being very supportive
 8. Schools are also being supportive and there is funding for education places
 9. Bim Afolami organised an event where guests could meet people from education, the council and prospective employers
 10. Some are attending local churches

- Hosted CTH sharing meeting using questions from Synodal process.
- We have had Masses at Milford Lodge and Elmside and hope to continue monthly again now.
- Support and transport to a number of parishioners with hospital appointments
- Support to the Skeet family following the death of Mary
- Support to the Burns family following Tony Burns illness and death.
- Supporting Br Adams in his taking up the visiting that Fr Euloge did.
- Rehearsals and delivery of 6 performances of Life of Christ at Wintershall to approx. 5000 people.
- Bereavement service planned and invitations to 60 people from the past two years. Team preparing the materials.
- Trying to relaunch the Parent and Toddler Group – gathering interest and will aim to relaunch in September.
- Support Catholic Listeners service out of Landings which was launched at Easter. Initial results published in newsletter.

Liturgy

- Thanksgiving celebration for Fr Euloge went very well and was well supported by parishioners in the church and in the hall.
- Healing team have planned their service for September. The June service did not happen because of the Jubilee bank holiday celebrations.
- Homily support for Br Adams
- Colouring box reintroduced. Rob now delivering to Janina for processing.
- Delivered children's liturgy at Pentecost with Teresa Hyde. Trying to recruit to get this more regular by the autumn. Children's Mass, 4th Sunday now more firmly established. Br Adams has delivered his first children's Mass
- Supporting the choir and trying to recruit new members there. Supporting the music at Tony Burns funeral.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Objectives completed from last report

Who

Pastoral team

Objectives set

Who

To relaunch the Parent and Toddler Group

TB with parishioners

To recruit more people to deliver children's liturgy

TB TL-H

Area of Activity Sacramental Preparation – Rob Hitchcock July 2022

Activity

First Holy Communion

This year's the course had around 40 children in total there were four m Masses across June and a Mass of thanksgiving 10th July. I have sent a feedback form out the parents. At a glance parents seemed to have a mixed response no how they felt this year course went. I have a meeting tomorrow with Teresa Lawrence Hyde to discuss how best to implement the feedback for next year's co-hort.

Confirmation

Bishop Paul came to confer the sacrament of confirmation at the vigil Mass of Ss Peter and

Paul. It was a great occasion. There were 20 candidates in total. I would like to thank those who helped in preparing the young people. Margaret, Rosalia, Teresa, Tomek and Roshani

Baptism

The first in face person baptism preparation course took place in the parish for over three years. The feedback from the session was extremely positive. I would like to thank Christine and Teresa Lawrence-Hyde for volunteering to help prepare the newest members of the family.

Wedding

The next Marriage prep course is due to take place on Saturday 29th October 10-4

Youth

Friday 29th July 6-8 pm is planned a post confirmation youth night. It is hoped that this is the foundation of something more regular in September. Currently as it stands since sending the invitation I have 3 young people signed up.

Our Lady's School

Throughout the academic year I have been cultivating a relationship with Our Lady's school. This mainly has been working the school to help prepare them for Masses that have taken place throughout the year. I have invited Our Lady's School to come to the church to lead the parish in Mass more frequently Sarah Snowball (head teacher) envisioned that the school comes to church at least once a term to celebrate Mass in the parish. I invited the school to the Holy Days of obligation; the next one will be 1st November All Saints Day.

Catechists Day

A day aimed at those who are involved with the FHC course was organised by The Evangelisation department for the Diocese. The first half of the day was looking at how to include those children who have Special Educational needs. The second half of the day looked at Family Catechesis. The speakers in the morning were two representatives from the diocese one from the education department and then a person from St. Josephs (Caritas) this is a project specially works with parishes to assist where possible to help with people who have additional needs not limited to Young people. The speaker in the afternoon was a lady called Ingrid from Southwark Diocese.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

Objectives completed from last report	Who

Objectives set	Who

Area of Activity Safeguarding – Trish Bonnett June 2022

Activity since last PPC meeting

- We are still waiting for DBS checks to be processed for 3 people. We will be challenging that very soon.

Suggestions for change/improvement/issues to be addressed

- Need to review the status of all volunteers re DBS as limited regulated activities still in parish. Will do this prior to the audit in August.

Objectives completed from last report	Who

Objectives set	Who
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="156 120 948 226">• Promote Educare training to all group leaders and catechists in the parish. Strongly encourage them to register and do modules.	TB/MG