

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 5th December 2017 at 20.00

Meeting held in the Presbytery.

Attendees- Father Philip, Chris Hills, Mia Bernedo, Joseph Gargaro, Caroline Pung, Lawrence Fernee and Peter Brazier.

Apologies received from Clea Harmer, Tom O'Neil and Eileen Tomkins

Joseph had already distributed the agenda prior to the meeting.

1 Meeting opened with a prayer led by Father Philip.

2 Previous minutes- already circulated- were approved

3 Matters arising

Parish Office; Fr Philip advised that looking at the budget we could not afford to pay for extra hours for the Parish Office. Sharon is paid the going rate rather than the minimum hourly rate and extra expenditure is not an option. In the New Year the aim is to regularise opening hours.

Safeguarding Officer; Whilst progress made this is still in the pipeline. The diocese requires an On Line Course be completed as well as a formal interview. The aim remains to ensure that we are fully compliant. It is hoped that a formal announcement will be made soon.

Adoremus Eucharistic Conference; Officially no update but Fr Philip understands via the grapevine that names will be required shortly. The plan is that early next year we need to have some idea of attendees. **Urgent Action;** we need to agree a way to find suitable candidates and for Plan A it is intended to put a newsletter notice early in 2018 to identify candidates **ASAP**. There may also be another Adoration Evening. Fr Philip reiterated the desire to make the selection as open as possible. As soon as interested parties are identified we can investigate travel and accommodation etc. It may be possible for local parishes to share resources. Plan B the team were asked to think about ideal candidates.

Father Philip's remarks/update

Fr Philip advised that (hot off the press) the Ofsted Inspectors would be visiting the school.

Diocesan Finance Seminar; Joseph attended and updated. There had been a walk through of the Diocese Accounts. The Cardinal joined the team for Grace before lunch and the afternoon session included Parish Benchmarking. Joseph advised that Royston was 'middle of the road'. There is always a need for more income and this is only received from 'contributions' from parishioners. We are overdue to run a new 'Planned Giving Campaign' and the Finance Committee are aware of this.

The summary was that we could do better both on expenditure as well as income!

Review of 2017

A headline sheet was handed out which included 2017 highlights and 2018 Forward Planning.

Various items listed were mentioned/expanded;

The Penitential Event was poorly attended during Advent but the Lenten event had better attendance. The 2016 Christmas services were very well attended and successful.

It is proposed to review 'how we do it' next Lent but it was agreed Holy Week was a success.

The First Communions were successful although a bigger team is required.

There was a readers evening with an external speaker.

The AGM was successful.

The Bridwell Pilgrimage was not well attended and it was disappointing that after a lot of work there was little take up.

Faith Sharing- The 'Downloading' formula was not well received in the diocese.

Day of Recollection. Well attended and the sacristy was felt to be a good venue.

The October Count was down on last year but it was noted that last year figures were possibly inflated by a Sunday Wedding.

Fr Philip felt disappointed by the lack of response/interest from the parish about his work and time in Kenya.

The Justice and Peace Group are looking for ongoing support.

The SVP has been re-launched.

The Evangelisation team is growing in strength and activity and a welcome letter has been agreed and launched in the Newsletter. The welcome team is gaining in numbers but there is still a requirement for more

ACTION- A few words require about the PCC from the PCC which will be included in a booklet being produced as part of Evangelisation initiative.

It was felt that the blessing for Carers had been a success and this will be carried forward.

Forward Planning for 2018 and beyond

The Diocese Health and Safety review is being undertaken by Experts engaged centrally. Initially not all parishes bought into the Diocesan scheme and to ensure compliance there will be Health and Safety reviews/inspections. We are not fully compliant as we don't have Fire Blankets among other things. We will have to comply with the recommendations but rectification of 'gaps' will have to be funded by the Parish.

Tom O'Neil attended the Fire Warden meeting and is our Parish expert.

Growing in Faith.

- The 5 year pledges period is complete and we can apply for funds for the Parish Project to go ahead in 2018.
- It is planned to put a best guess costing to the parish for some of the things we want to do.
- It had been hoped to employ a Pastoral Worker but the funds will be insufficient for this. The likely figure is circa £20k.

Fund Raising; The School and CWL continue to undertake fund raising events intended to build a better community. The Parish itself needs to develop some fund-raising events.

To improve our finances we need to generate an increase in contributions. It was suggested that we have/consider a fund raising event as part of the Centenary Focus.

Looking Further Ahead- Confirmations in the next Church year and there is a desire to prevent 'younger parishioners' from feeling left out. It may be appropriate to run an event aimed at them. Joseph suggested running some form of event and Mia advised that the One Hope Event had been inspirational. This form of relevant creative workshop should appeal to youngsters.

Lawrie mentioned the difficulty in finding enough Ministers to take Communion to the sick/housebound.

ACTION Existing Ministers to encourage others to take communion. Note the need for DBS Checks

During the last round of parish mergers Royston and Baldock were considered for merger but this did not get taken forward. Looking ahead it is difficult to see an increase in Priests and at some stage more mergers will be considered and reviewed. We need to be aware and ready- in the future we may only have a priest in Royston half of the time.

There is a need for us as a Parish to think ahead and have a structure in place that 'keeps the show on the road'. Already when Fr Philip is away we don't always have a

weekday mass and this is replicated across the diocese. Obvious church/parish mergers have already occurred.

ACTION- our aim is to plan ahead so that the parish functions are not totally dependent on the Parish Priest.

On Sunday 29th April a half day workshop will be held to 'Future Proof our Parish' so as we are ahead of the game.

AOB

Churches together in Royston and District- Chris attends the 4 meetings a year but would welcome additional representation.

It was agreed that as Christian Unity Week is in January this would be an ideal time for someone to say a few words at mass to help find an additional representation.

The next meetings will be held

Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 20.00

Half Day Sunday 29th April 2018

The meeting closed with a prayer.