

Action Minutes for PPC Meeting 16.11.2021

Present:

Fr Francis Antwi-Darkwah	Maureen Kelly, Secretary	Emma Smith
Deacon Paul O Conno	Elizabeth Lizzio, Vice-Chair (Meeting chair today)	Jackie Tominey
Teresa Clarke	Martha Moroney-Lewis	
Mark James	Eamon Rafferty	

Apologies

Deacon Justin Cross	Christine Lambert, Chair	John Lambert
Peter Godwin		

1	Actions from Minutes of 14 September (15 mins)
1.1	Update on Children's Liturgy- Adjourned to December meeting for update by Deacon Justin.
1.2	Update on Welcomer's Rota- It was agreed that there is a gap in the support being given to those attending at our weekend masses by the absence of Welcomers and there is urgent need for the rota to be restarted. Those on the previous Welcomer's list (March 2020), those on the Covid stewards' list and those who have put themselves forward in the parish survey returns will be contacted to confirm willingness and availability to continue/start to perform the role. Whilst sufficient time is given to collate responses and compile the rota those contacted will be encouraged to cover this role at masses they are attending with immediate effect. There is particular need for our Welcomers at the 10.30 masses where up to 120 parishioners are attending. Jackie shared that the stewards' rota (compiled by Chris Blandford) used a google doc application which was helpful when needing to change dates for this cover. Actions: 1. Lizzie Lizzio will take forward. Post Meeting: Lizzie had collated all contacts and issued message to all and was receiving responses by Friday 19/11. 2. New parish administrator to be given information on the google doc used for the Stewards' rota to consider adopting for future Welcomer lists. Post meeting: Jackie is requested to forward the document to Lizzie and Maureen.
2	Opinions on Covid restrictions Social distancing measures for our weekend masses are currently being reviewed. The beginning of Advent had earlier been identified at Diocesan level as a possible point for return of the Sunday mass obligation (including Saturday Eve) together with possible easing of current measures. Further advice from Diocesan level is expected to be given shortly. Fr Francis has asked for thoughts of the PPC to be given to assist next steps for St Barts. The discussion on possible options covered thoughts across the whole range from no change to full lifting of restrictions (which was a reflection of feedback also received by our clergy from parishioners too). It is particularly the 10.30 mass where accommodating numbers attending is challenged by social distancing. These numbers are likely to be increased on return of the obligation. Some of our vulnerable parishioners who are confident to attend masses knowing the measures which are currently in place are likely to be deterred if measures are lifted. The key points of discussion included:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current measures remain in place. With rising COVID infections and impact of illnesses during Winter months it is too early for easing. • Lifted for the 10.30 but remain for the 18:00 or 08:30 and both. • At 18:00 and 08:30 people could be messaged in the newsletter and notice given at mass requesting to keep distance but no need for notices on the pews (this is being applied at all masses at St Alban and Stephen's). • Welcomers could direct people to seating so gaps are retained. • It is the breathing forward by the person immediately behind if you are vulnerable rather than breathing from the side which is the concern. <p>Action: Clergy will decide what approach is to be taken for St Barts after further Diocesan advice is received and taking into account thoughts shared at the meeting and parishioners' feedback.</p> <p>Post Meeting: Issue of the document from the Bishops Assembly –'Honouring of Sunday' giving the steer that COVID remains a real concern, particularly for our vulnerable parishioners.</p>
3	<p>Update on Synodal Pathway Teresa Clarke gives update with key points including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No completed forms had yet been received. • Teresa has given a briefing to Knights of Columba, Catholic Women's league, PPC and will shortly give to the Circle of Friends. • There was concern that the questions are not expressed in the clearest way. • Parish briefings and discussions by Zoom would take place on the 25/11 and after all masses for the weekend of 04 and 05/12. • Posting boxes for completed forms are available in the church porch and will be available in the hall for the specific discussion events, for 'Sunday coffee' times and at cake bake (12/12.) • At the masses on the 11 + 12 December, those attending will be encouraged to endorse post it notes in the pews with their thoughts on two questions. • The Parish response is now to be filed at the Westminster office by the 21/01/22. <p>Action: Members of PPC to have completed and returned forms no later than 14/12.</p>
3A	<p>PPC Groups' Updates Group updates had been shared prior to the meeting. Social Justice key points given at the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fairtrade lunch had raised over £300 for Jesuit refugees. • The group were considering how to mark Peace Sunday 16/01/22. • Mark to meet with Fr Francis to discuss next CAFOD collection.
4	<p>Update on St Barts Together Issue 2 Now available at the back of the Church.</p>
5	<p>Updated PPC Planning Calendar 2022 Updates were received and events planned are now given in the attached calendar. (Includes post meeting check with Peter Godwin for Spirituality events).</p>
6	<p>Maintenance Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church grounds are looking in very good condition. • Tomorrow the trees will be lopped to a manageable size. • There is now active WI-FI in the church and the hall. This is accessed by a password. • Within 1-2 months the contactless -giving machine should be in place. It is proposed to be placed in between the two bookcases in the church porch. This is a diocesan initiative. • Westminster health and safety inspection due to take place shortly.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An important Fire Safety article by John Lambert and diagram (by Chris Blandford and adapted by Lizzie Lizzio) are included in St Barts Together Issue 2.
8	<p>Any Other business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Teresa gave a short briefing on the refugees from Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan currently having home at The Noke Hotel. In particular, a request has been made, to help with their need to develop new language skills, it was suggested that interested parishioners could offer to assist in classes being led by St Alban and Stephen and Greenwood URC churches, or by going to The Noke Hotel. We need to know more of the needs of these refugees to decide in what ways we can best welcome them. Action: Teresa and Mark to find out more on the needs of these refugees and what St Bart's can offer to add to the co-ordinated support being offered by the local authority and our other churches in St Albans. Jackie had prior shared an advent giving calendar with us all. A creative idea for foodbank giving across the days of Advent. Action: Jackie to leave copies in the porch to be available for all those interested. Sign up for Christingle and Advent discussion groups will be manned by Ben and Lizzie 18:00, Jackie 08:30. Maureen and Mark 10.30 this weekend. Teresa had prior shared a flyer of Advent Stars for our local care home residents. Emma has spoken with St Adrian's head and it is likely that the children will be able to participate in bringing a smile by a thoughtful message to home residents. Something for us all to consider too. A new parish administrator has been identified and it is hoped she will be taking up the post at the beginning of December.
9	<p>January Availability of PPC Members Agreed Monday 17/01/22 19:30</p>
10	<p>Date of Next Meeting – Wed 15 December 2021</p>

2021/22 PPC Meeting Dates: Weds 15/12 Monday 17/01/22