

Action Minutes-PPC Meeting 17.01.2023

Present:

Fr Francis Antwi-Darkwah	Mark James	Martha Moroney-Lewis
Emma Ahern	Maureen Kelly, Secretary	
Teresa Clarke	Christine Lambert, Chair	Jackie Tominey
Nick Dodd (communications' officer)	John Lambert	
Peter Godwin	Elizabeth Lizzio, Vice-Chair	

Apologies:

Eamon Rafferty		

1.	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes of 14 November 2022 except those covered under specific agenda entries below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Updated Laudate hymnals have been purchased and are now available to all of the Congregation. Many thanks to Peter Godwin in making this happen.2. All current members of the Parish Pastoral Council will continue for 2023. Nick Dodds has recently joined too and is welcomed.
2	<p>Recent events/learnings and Upcoming events 2023:</p> <p>The completed 2022 calendar of Parish activities and events had been prior shared and is available on the Parish website</p> <p>An update summary document for the deliveries by our priority groups during the last part of 2022 and planning for early 2023 had been prior shared (see attached).</p> <p>Further information given at the meeting included:</p> <p>Refugees Support (Teresa Clarke)-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All Christmas gifts from South St Albans Churches and the cathedral were given out at the hotel. Any surplus were given to Herts Welcomes Refugees to distribute to other hotels.2. One asylum seeker has had his asylum application rejected, and we are working on his appeal now.3. Ardmore House Hotel in Lemsford Road is now housing women and children.4. A musical keyboard has been delivered to the hotel, and Ukulele lessons are planned.5. Bike training took place on 4 January and another course is on 23 January.6. The City of Sanctuary are organising an online workshop on 2 February, Supporting people living in hotels, which some of us will join.7. There is an exhibition at the cathedral from 4-26 February on Seeking asylum in St Albans. Some of the asylum seekers have contributed poems, artwork and written work for this.

8. A concert, In a Strange Land at the cathedral on 28 January will feature the poet Lemn Sissay and Stile Antico, and Early English group.
9. There is a Winter clothes give away in the cathedral on 29 January from 12-4.

Advent Groups (Teresa Clarke)-

The group led by Teresa Clarke and Pam McElroy was attended by St Barts parishioners. Lectio Divino was found quite challenging. Those attending found the groups a thoughtful and worthwhile experience. The Ecumenical group is now considering how to organise and promote the Lenten groups.

Children's Christmas Eve Mass (Elizabeth Lizzio)

All children attending who wanted to take a full part in the Nativity gospel were able to do so. It was lovely to see St Barts filled with so many young families. The carols, mass service format and homily of Fr Francis engaged our young children well. It was a great team effort by our Youth group and young children catechists.

Mulled wine, soft drinks, mince pies and biscuits afterwards were well received-thanks to Jackie Tominey and Peter Godwin.

St Bart's Pantry (Jackie Tominey) -

The Pantry had received a positive, organic, incremental start. Jackie Tominey will be making contact with a range of support groups to whom we can take the food. St Barts Parishioners, as always, have been very generous in food donations. The initiative had linked in with St Adrians' school. Breads and soups had been passed to the Monday warm hubs. Thanks to Nick Dodds for Facebook entries to bring attention to the Pantry. WhatsApp groups would be set up to help channel donated foods to those in need eg: SVP/St Albans in Need. Jackie Tominey will continue to monitor and draft Parish newsletter messaging on items most taken and needing replenishing. Nick Dodds will parallel these messaging updates on the Parish Facebook entry

St Barts Monday Warm Winter Hub (Mark James)-

Soups on the Monday before Christmas had kindly been prepared by two of the locally resident asylum seekers. Our current day provisions day is Monday when another 'warm hub', Cottonmill Community Centre' also operates. We may look to revise this so the help is more effective.. Regular attendance at the previous Monday 'bread and soup' lunch was in the late teens. Under the 'Warm Hub' operation, last week we were 14 and 18 this Monday.

Chair:

1. We are working to ensure our warm hub operation meets all necessary compliance rules
2. A total of £2000 grant has been received from 3 sources. This money is to support our warm hub up to the end of March 23. It is important our records are clear as to how the monies received are allocated.
3. Fr Francis: Now that the grants have been issued, the Monday warm hub must operate under the grant monies only. Donations which use to be made under the previous 'bread and soup' lunches can no longer apply.

Action:

1. ***John Lambert and Eamon Rafferty will gather information on the Monday hall heating meter readings***

	<p>2. Mark James, Christine and Fr Francis will discuss further the allocations of monies given and recording of these</p> <p>Spirituality(Peter Godwin)-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evening Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral 10/1 -About 20 attended. The feedback was very positive of the evening being a reflective and special experience. Thanks to peter Godwin for organising. 2. Christian Unity Candle Exchange 22 Jan 23 3. The group would support one focused retreat in Lent. Knights of Columba were happy to support in the management of this on the day.
3	<p>Planning 2023</p> <p>The Chair and Nick Dodd had prepared the initial 2023 events calendar which had been prior shared. Thanks to our priority groups who all contributed to planning ideas under their remit which feeds into the compilation of the calendar.</p> <p>Action: PPC members to notify Nick Dodd no later than 12.02.23 of any additions to the events calendar</p> <p>Further information was given at the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lent Retreat(Recollection Day)-Father Francis proposed and all confirmed support for a day's Retreat to give opportunity to focus on our inner spiritual life. This would give an opportunity for the Parish to be brought together to reflect on our relationship with Christ led by an experienced Retreat speaker. It was agreed a further day's Retreat be arranged later in the year during the season of Advent. Action: Fr Francis will contact Bishop Cowley's office to confirm two dates to lead a retreat at St Barts: one in Lent and one in Advent. 2. Liturgy Group-Fr Francis proposed and all confirmed support for a wider Liturgy Group to meet every 2 months. This should include representatives from our welcomers and lead for readers, Children Liturgists and organists. 3. Welcomers-there remained concern that there continued to be no welcomers for the Saturday 18.00 mass. It was agreed that being greeted by Welcomers is an important service. Peter Godwin and Paula Dilger had volunteered will try to cover this role at the 18.00 mass for the next few weeks as this is so important a service. There then needed to be continuity in place. Actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Confirmation group could be encouraged to cover this perhaps twice under the programme for each. Candidate b. Appeal from pulpit and newsletter entry 4. Catechists- Our current position is that we have in place: Baptism: Louise and Stephen Mears; Confirmation: Sinead Hughes, Donna Maria Lee, Marie Jeanne Crawford, Katya Rios; Holy Communion: Bernadette O Shea and Jolanta; Children's Liturgy: Sinead Hughes and Ruth Mansell (plus a small, experienced team supporting) Actions: Fr Francis will invite the diocesan catechist co-ordinator to lead a Training event if we have parishioners willing to become catechists

	<p><i>Newsletter entry will confirm diocesan training will be provided for any parishioner interested to become a catechist</i></p> <p>5. Fairtrade Lunch-Jackie Tominey, Teresa Clarke, Chair and John confirm happy to help with Fairtrade lunch.</p>
4	<p>Maintenance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presbytery garage door has been repaired 2. Rock salt is in garage and will be applied across the church steps 3. Monies for the baby change in the front porch cloakroom have now been secured and John Lambert will now order 4. A number of the church benches now need some maintenance (screws have come loose) 5. The front porch cloakroom lights are now working and a new fan has been fitted 6. New lights will be needed in the church 7. Microphones' equipment has been delivered and an engineer should be fitting in the next couple of weeks
5	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PPC meeting Frequency-following discussion where a range of views were expressed it was agreed for 2023 it was agreed that meetings would be scheduled bi-monthly with additional meeting if this became necessary. Further concluded that 4 meetings would be via zoom and 2 face-to-face. (Face-to-Face would need to start later to allow a number of the Committee to join after their day/early evening commitments) 2. In going towards a shared spiritual experience by PPC members, it was agreed that there would be 15 minutes together in Church for benediction, Adoration and silent reflection included on the 2 face-to-face meetings 3. The St Bart's Logo including the wording: St Bart's RC Church was approved
	<p>Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 8 March Zoom 19:30</p>

2023 PPC Meeting Dates: Wednesday 8 March Zoom; Tuesday 9 May F2F 8 pm;
Tuesday 4 July – Zoom; Wednesday 6 September F2F 8 pm; Monday 6 November
Zoom