

Groups Planning 2023-PPC January 23 Meeting

Building Community:

1. Work began on 2023 parish Welcome Booklet revision on 09.01. Timeline is to have initial collation of the revised booklet within 5 weeks. We will work with the support of Nick Dodd on layout and to be issued to parishioners with the support of Dawn Pace and Chris Blandford. The PPC in September confirmed support for the Remap charity being the focus of the February cakebake.
2. Planning has begun to deliver the first 2023 Cakebake on Sunday 12 February with the identified local Hertfordshire charity being Remap where skilled volunteers provide adjusted items which cannot be purchased otherwise at reasonable cost to make a difference in daily living to people with limitations.

Ecumenism:

1. **Christian Unity Week 8-25 January 2023** – Christian Unity Service hosted by St Barts. Offer St Barts Hall for an afternoon in Christian Unity Week? Invite South St Albans Churches.
2. **Candlemas 2 February**– Swap candles as last year with South St Albans Churches.
3. **Good Friday Walk of Witness 7 April** – with South St Albans Churches
4. **Unity at the Cross 7 April** – at St Albans Cathedral on Good Friday evening. Organised by a different Christian church each year.
5. **Adopt a Plant** – April/May 2023. Any proceeds to Earthworks which supports adults with learning difficulties. We can also ask for more low maintenance plants for Fr Francis' garden and the parish gardens. Teresa to ask parishioners to split perennials via the newsletter.
6. **Churches Together in St Albans** – promote the activities more widely. Pray for a different church each weekend.
7. **Alban Pilgrimage 24 June** –Join other Christians to walk from St Peter's St to the Cathedral. Peter produced a banner for St Barts last year.
8. **CTSA Summer Forum: What Youth think 27 June** – 8pm on Zoom.
9. **CTSA Prayer Walk in September** – Walking around various churches in St Albans, praying at each church, and ending at the cathedral for a prayer by the shrine of St Alban and Evensong.
10. **Climate Change activities** – Support the climate change activities organised by St Stephens and Greenwood URC.

Social Justice:

1. The Bread and Soup lunches were resumed last Monday. We now have a core of 6 regular soup makers, so have a rota through to mid -February. We now have between 10 and 20 attending. The "Warm Hub" was opened at the end of November 2022. Funding has now been obtained from Caritas, our local county councillor, and Hertfordshire Community Trust in support of this.
2. If we are to offer a Fairtrade lunch this year, we will need indications of support from this PPC and/or parishioners. The Fairtrade fortnight runs from 27th February to 12th March, we are inclined to go for March 12th, If this goes ahead it is as a parish event, the Justice and Peace group which initiated and organised for well over 10 years is no more, there are 3-5 members from the dozen back then.

3. The Live Simply session Ss Alban and Stephen's held last November, it was quite well attended, though I'm not sure there were others from St Bart's. Ellen Teague, an assessor for the CAFOD Live Simply awards, spoke about how Pope Francis's Laudato Si encyclical has inspired many parishes and schools to sign up and work towards the award. There was also input from a couple of parishioners from Hitchin. It is slow, gradual process which "enables you to strengthen the bonds of community, nourish your spiritual life and care for God's gift of creation. "

Spirituality:

1. 20 St Barts parishioners attended the evening pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral Tuesday 10 Jan 7.15 -9.15. This was a memorable experience
2. A novena will lead up to the Candlemas. Candlemas or Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Tuesday 2 Feb. 7.00 to similar format as last year plus refreshments afterwards.
3. May: the rosary to be said before each weekend mass. Suggestion from the group that a special prayer is said at the beginning of Mass for which those attending all turn to the Marian altar.
4. June : St Alban's day procession culminating in the Abbey service. Spirituality and Ecumenism groups will jointly lead promotion of this event celebrations at St Albans Cathedral.
5. Day of Recollection or Retreat : possibly in the first week of Advent.

Youth:

1. The 24.12 Nativity family mass saw St Barts filled once again with young families. All young children who wanted to participate in the interactive delivery of the Christmas gospel were able to do so. A beautiful start to our Parish celebration of the feast of the Nativity. Afterwards Jackie and Peter led in delivering refreshments to all who joined in the hall.
2. On the 06.01 children of St Adrian's school joined our 09:30 Epiphany celebration Mass. Mrs Aideen Porter afterwards confirmed that all the children felt welcomed and engaged in this Mass. It was special to have St Adrian's children joining our Parish Mass again. Mrs :Porter has confirmed the intention for St Adrian's school to join the celebration of the 09:30 Mass at St Barts for holydays of obligation falling within term times.
3. Ruth Mansell and Sinead Hughes continue to lead the embedding of the returned Children's Liturgy at 10.30 Sunday masses A number of parishioners with past catechist experience and some new ones have joined the team to support sufficient cover across all Sundays during term time.
4. Headteacher of St Adrian's has made suggestion that a class will attend one of our weekday masses each week.
5. 12.02: the 10:30 Sunday mass will have focus on our young children and encouragement of involvement of our confirmation candidates as welcomers, readers, music leads