**St Bartholomew’s Parish Pastoral Council minutes 6 November 2023**

**Present:** Fr Francis Antwi-Darkwah, Christine Lambert (Chair), John Lambert, Martha Moroney Lewis, Nick Dodd, Maureen Kelly, Lizzie Lizzio, Peter Godwin, Mark James, Mathew Carvalho, Teresa Clarke

**Apologies:** Eamon Rafferty, Jackie Tominey

1. **Matters arising from meeting on 6 September 2023**

**All welcomed our new member to PPC, Mathew Carvalho.**

Youth – Martha will meet the youth organiser from SS Alban & Stephen to see how we can work together. **Action: Martha**

Layout of pantry in the porch – Nick will send the revised DIY suggestions to the PPC. Any comments to Nick and Jackie. **Action: Nick and PPC**

Parish tapestries – It was agreed that these would be displayed in the parish hall or on the altar, with some background about how they were made and any other implications. This was an ecumenical activity involving ladies from the Cathedral. Parishioners will be asked to sign whether they should be hung instead of the current Stations of the Cross in the church. The proposal is that the existing stations could be hung in the hall, once we have ascertained if they will fit in there, as they can be used for educational purposes for FHC and Confirmation groups. The tapestries are already cleaned, the wood bought for mounting them, and there is no risk from the halogen heaters. This exercise will be similar to the voting that the parish did on the alterations to the Lady chapel. **Action: Christine, John**

Bereavement visiting – No courses are available within Westminster diocese. It was agreed that 3 parishioners would be sponsored to do some training in one of the proposed courses.  **Action: Christine to link with Barbara Bliss and Anne McCarthy to move this forward . Also speak to Chris Blandford re DBS checks and involve one of the volunteer bereavement visitors in the design of any materials to launch this.**

Adult education refresher in Catholic practice – The Spirituality group is proposing this is a digital /online course and are discussing this again in a few weeks. **Action: Peter and Spirituality group**

**2 Priority Groups reports**

**Social Justice –** Report received, no additional comments

**Asylum seekers –** Report received. Today 6 women at the Noke have been told they will move to other accommodation tomorrow, but they don’t know where. One of the women is a regular at the English conversation group, volunteers at a charity shop, has helped with the Chiswell Green Community garden, and is integrated into the community. A solicitor is helping to fight this move. Four AS at the Holiday Inn, Markyate have been moved to the Bibby Stockholm barge in Dorset. Teresa will send an update to Bishop Paul. **Action: Teresa**

**Youth -** Report received, no additional comments

**Building Community -** Report received, no additional comments

**Spirituality -** Report received, and also includes proposed activities 2024 too.

**Ecumenism -** Report received, no additional comments

**Heating fundraising –** Report received. Current total is **£7421.70** (so nearly 50% of the target since launch in Sept 2023).

**3 Heating project, Maintenance and Finance**

Report received from Eamon, no additional comments.

The heating project in the church is now finished, and the heating is operating well but, as it is running on a core monthly programme, it may need some “fine tuning” by nominated individuals with the App, based on the weather conditions.

John advised that the electricians are currently working in the garage to install smart meters, and to replace the mains circuit boards for the church and hall. The garage doors are patched up and now working.

**4 Upcoming events and dates to add to the 2023 calendar and support**

Fr Francis is deciding how many Masses will be said over the Christmas period, as Sunday is also Christmas Eve. He is hoping for some help from other priests. Bishop Paul will be leading the Vigil Mass on Sunday 24 December starting at 10.30 pm.

The **St Barts Jingle and Mingle Christmas Fair is** on Saturday 9 December from 11-3 and will include a something for all ages and a social/get together aspect with mulled wine and mince pies, as well as some stalls selling gifts. **Action: Some support required in advance and on the day, please contact Chirstine if you have a few hours on the day or before re setting up and can offer some baking ( mince pies/cakes/gingerbread etc)**

We are also planning to have a stall for cards at the St Adrian’s Christmas Fair on 2 December**. Action: Those able to spend a few hours on a rota please contact Christine**

Planning 2024 around the Liturgical calendar **– Action: please send proposed activities to Nick for a draft 2024 calendar for PPC to agree in January 2024. The events shared so far for 2024 include:**

**Candlemas candlelit service** which will be on Saturday 3 February at 6pm Mass. (Spirituality)

**Service of the Sick (our Lady of Lourdes)** will be onMonday 12 February at 12 noon (Spirituality)

**Cake Bake and Children’s Mass 28 January** (Building Community for Heating Fund)

**5 Communications**

The fundraising thermometer tracker is in the weekly newsletter. Fundraising events will also be advertised on the parish Facebook pages. Fundraising events are being planned into 2024.

**6 Any other business**

**Asylum seeker Christmas gifts –** Teresa explained that the parish would like to repeat buying small gifts up to £5 in value for the asylum seekers at the Noke hotel. These could include socks, toiletries, chocolate, Starbucks vouchers, etc. The buying and wrapping of gifts will be shared with St Stephens, St Julians and the Cathedral. She asked if someone from the PPC could collect presents from the back of church regularly and store them until they are given out close to Christmas. **Action: volunteers to contact Teresa**

**Food Pantry –** This is going well. The parish are supporting two more families from St Adrian’s school. Food from the Harvest Festival at St Adrian’s and St Bart’s was added to the parish food pantry. It would be good to include some more festive food gifts, such as tinned ham.

**Newsletter –** Please ensure that items for the newsletter are received by Dawn ideally by Wednesday each week, or Thursday at the latest.

**2024 PPC meeting dates –** The Monday dates in 2024 will be moved to Tuesdays,

Tuesday 8 January (7.30 pm via Zoom); Wednesday 6 March (F2F 8pm); Tuesday 7 May (7.30 pm via Zoom); Tuesday 2 July ( 7.30 pm via Zoom); Wednesday 10 September (F2F 8 pm)

Provisional: add October PPC Wednesday 16 October (7.30 pm via Zoom)

Tuesday 5 November at (7.30 pm via Zoom)

**7 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8 January 7.30 pm via Zoom.**