

Sacred Heart PPC Meeting

8.00pm Thursday 9 January 2020 in the Parish Lounge

Minutes

Present

Canon John
Anne Waldron, chair
Jayco Wamsteker, deputy chair
David Hurst, secretary
Edward de Quay
Clare Hobart
Clare Purtill

Sr Dorothy
Sr Francis
Eleanor Bowman, youth minister
Kelly Hockey, adult faith formation
Julian Burling
Chris Woodward, finance committee

Part

Maria Christopher, Year of the Word
Sadie Smith, ditto
Adelita Thursby-Pelham, Discovery Programme
James Lyons, ditto
Guido Amari

Apologies

Siobhan Heffron

1.0 MINUTES OF PPC MEETING 5 DECEMBER

- Minutes of the meeting of 5 December were noted but not discussed
- PPC members were invited to submit any amendments to the minutes before publication on website and notice boards – *final minutes now posted*

2.0 THE YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

Most of the meeting was devoted to a discussion our Parish response to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales designation of 2020 as 'The God Who Speaks': a **Year of the Word** to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The **Word** of the Lord', and the 1600th anniversary of death of St Jerome.

In partnership with the Bible Society, the initiative focuses on **celebrating, living and sharing** God's word throughout the Catholic Church in England & Wales. It was launched on 30 September 2019 (the feast day of St Jerome) and will run through until 31 December 2020.

Maria Christopher gave a short presentation on the initiative and the resources available from the Catholic Bishops Conference. Adelita Thursby-Pelham and James Lyons gave an informal overview of the Discovery programme.

2.1 Presentation by Maria Christopher on the Year of the Word initiative:

- Maria Christopher presented an overview of the launch of the Year of the Word by the Catholic Bishops Conference and an overview of the wealth of resources, activities and ideas available: see <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/>.
- Ideas include home bible study groups, art workshops, prayer groups, prayer groups, musical events, food and fellowship, pilgrimage walks, vigils for those persecuted for reading the bible, bible focused environment and social justice groups, groups for those with disabilities or special needs
- Maria also updated the PPC on some of the activities being undertaken on other parishes in the Deanery
- Grants were available for some activities and groups

2.2 Presentation by Adelita Thursby-Pelham and James Lyons on the Discovery programme:

- Kelly Hockey had previously spoke with the PPC about the Discovery programme and identified this as a possible area of focus on in the context of the Year of the Word
- Adelita and James, who are part of team trained to lead the Discovery programme, gave an informal overview of the programme and what it aims to accomplish. They explained that Discovery is a six week course with an imprimatur received for the Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) Canada where it initiated
- The aim of the programme is to accompany adult Christians on their journey in faith. It seeks to convey and prompt each one of us to respond to the core Gospel message of God's personal and unique love for each one of
- The programme follows a simple format using questions, scripture and some examples for discussion in small groups which allows faith sharing in a non-judgmental and safe environment
- The team aims to deliver the course in a deeply prayerful and reflective way; the programme has already been run in the Parish, and positive feedback has been received from two recent taster session, with two further six week programmes about to start
- The best way to understand Discovery was to experience a session. A taster for the PPC could be arranged; and we might also consider taster sessions for other parish groups

SUMMARY AND ACTION POINTS

- Canon John recommended that the PPC establishes a Working Group to examine resources available, reflect on what activities and approaches would suit best for our Parish, and make recommendations to the PPC – *Jayco Wamsteker has agreed to establish and lead the WG and will report at the next PPC meeting on 6 February*
- In the meantime the PPC expressed its positive feedback on the Discovery programme and agreed that a taster session was the next step – *the Discovery team will run a taster session for the PPC on Saturday 15 February at 1pm*

3.0 MERTON NIGHT SHELTER

- David presented details of the proposed Merton Night Shelter for up to 14 guests, staying overnight with two meals in the lower hall, from 5.30pm to 9.00am on seven Sundays from 15 March to 26 April where availability has been checked.
- Summary of the project set out in a note circulated by David to the PPC
- The PPC expressed its very positive support for this project and voted unanimously to proceed

ACTION POINTS

- David will advertise for volunteers in the newsletter and will notify George and the Safeguarding team.
- *Update: a further appeal for volunteers has been made at Sunday Masses*
- *Update: David observed the Parkside Synagogue night shelter on 13 January.*

4.0 AOB

4.1 British Council for Christians and Jews

- Clare H asked on behalf of a parishioner whether the parish still pays annual dues to the Council of Christians and Jews. Canon John confirmed that we do.

4.2 Photographs and notice boards

- Paul Tanner has taken new photographs of the parish team and PPC, as well as the church inside and outside lit red for Aid for the Church in Need day.
- The church notice boards will be updated with new signs, photographs and re-arranged displays soon

4.3 Welcoming new parishioners

- Chris will hold a small group meeting to finalise the welcoming protocol for new parishioners on Monday 20 January.
- David will email the final voluntary groups schedule to those who attended the reception for new parishioners held on Saturday 23 November

4.4 Live streaming

- David reported that, after all consents have been received, there is now streaming of the daily 10am mass and the Sunday 8pm mass.
- Viewing statistics since streaming started are available.

4.5 Votive candle stands

- The proposed new St Killian's Votive Candles will be discussed at a future meeting.

5.0 Dates of future PPC meetings 2020

- All meetings on Thursday at 8.00pm in the lounge (unless otherwise indicated)
- February 6; March 5; April 2; May 7; June 4; July 2; September 3; October 1; November 5; December 3
- Agreed to postpone diarising the PPC Planning and Strategy Day until after the Discovery taster session as a lot happening at the moment