

Sacred Heart PPC Meeting

8.00pm Thursday 5 March 2020 in the Parish Lounge

Minutes

Present

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

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

Apologies

Jayco Wamsteker, deputy chair
Siobhan Heffron
Sr Francis

1.0 MINUTES OF PPC MEETING 6 FEBRUARY

- minutes of the meeting on Thursday 6 February were approved after updates

2.0 CORONAVIRUS (Canon John, Chris Woodward)

- Guidance on coronavirus precautions has been issued via a letter online to all Parishioners. This follows the advice of the Bishops Conference (and has now been followed by a Decree from Archbishop John Wilson, available on the Parish website).
- Noted that welcomers have also been asked to wipe down Church door handles
- It was noted that the language used in the Parish letter (describing Wimbledon College as being in 'lockdown' rather than closed) had caused some panic amongst FHC parents. It was important that we were moderate and careful in our choice of language at this time.
- With reference to baptisms, wedding and funerals, the parish is not yet cancelling parish events and at present Parish activities continue, but there is no certainty about future gatherings or events e.g. HCPT trip. Scouts meeting Monday 9 March cancelled; returns Monday 16 March
- Wimbledon College closed to Wednesday 11 March for a deep clean
- Concern was raised about the potential impact of the coronavirus precautions on our elderly and vulnerable parishioners especially if they were required to self-isolate
- The potential benefits of the live streaming of Mass service were noted. David has received a number of messages welcoming this initiative. He will investigate some reported problems in receiving the signal.

NB Parishioners should refer to the Parish website and to notices at Mass or in the Church for the latest guidance on coronavirus

UPDATES

3.0 YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS (David Hurst)

Working Group:

- The working group members are now Fr Joe, David, Eleanor, Kelly, Adelita Marchant and Maria Christopher. Jayco has had to step aside due to his work commitments so the group will need a new coordinator. David will set up the next group meeting.
- Enquire about visit from Westminster Cathedral “Year of the Word” roadshow

Pentecost Sunday event 31 May:

- We are focusing on a major Year of the Word event on Pentecost Sunday 31 May
- David sending Sunday 31 May “Save the Date” event notices to Deanery, Churches Together and others also inviting participation in named activities; newsletter appeal going out for gazebos for Sunday 31 May event
- Next planning meeting for 31 May event in the lounge at 7.30pm on Sunday 15 March, PPC welcome

4.0 DISCOVERY PROGRAMME (Kelly Hockey)

- Feedback from the taster session for four PPC members was positive; other PPC members who had attended the full programme (Sr Dorothy and Clare Hobart) were also very positive – the experience had been welcoming and inclusive, and it was good to see so many parishioners participating. There was some practical feedback e.g. that the Youth Room was a better environment than the back of the Church for the Discovery sessions
- The PPC endorses and supports the Discovery programme for the Parish
- Next steps:
- There was now a need to recruit and train sub-leaders to work with Kelly, Adelita and James and the team (after a period of rest and a break for Adelita and her team)
- A possible way forward could be to invite groups such as new parishioners and post baptism parents to participate in Discovery
- CCO have offered a free trial worth £400 (*Kelly to explain*)
- Kelly will propose a timetable/process to continue the programme

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT (Edward de Quay)

- Edd outlined proposals for developing the Orchard area in the church grounds, discussed at a landscape planning meeting on 1 March attended by Canon John
- Proposals can only be implemented when the transfer of ownership from the Society of Jesus to the Diocese has been completed
- Plans include an area to hold the liturgy outside and a reflective space
- The landscaper, Ed Belderbos, has prepared draft plans
- As the area will be looked after by volunteers, low maintenance is important
- Consider growing flowers to use in the church; plan selection with Patricia Turner who leads the flower arranging group

6.0 MERTON NIGHT SHELTER - SUNDAY 15 MARCH TO SUNDAY 26 APRIL (David Hurst)

- Shelter for guests now from 2.00pm each Sunday, with volunteers for this shift
- Appeal for 16 pillows, pillow cases and towels in newsletter
- David reported that more than enough volunteers have been trained and briefed
- Chris allocating volunteers to shift matrix for seven Sundays to match preferences
- Volunteers not needed will be offered shifts at some other venues who are short
- David to ask Rebecca Boardman if supervised under 18s are allowed to assist

ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

7.0 LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION (Clare Hobart, All)

- Ideas proposed:
- A Parish Silver Line-style phone contact system to identify and maintain regular contact with parishioners who might be lonely or feeling isolated; Chris will ask his neighbour who worked with Esther Rantzen who founded Silver Line
- Afternoon tea parties at the parish or in parishioners' homes, modelled on the approach of the charity Re-Engage (formerly Contact the Elderly) where volunteers host an afternoon tea party for the elderly, with other volunteers acting as drivers for those attending. Anne will contact the local coordinator at Re-Engage to explore whether some kind of partnership with them could be set up.
- N.B. The Parish is setting up a telephone support service to provide friendly conversational support for anyone self-isolating or in quarantine due to coronavirus. Sadie Smith is coordinating

8.0 PPC NEW MEMBERSHIP (Anne Waldron)

- Of the current 7 members Jayco, Edd and Clare will stand down in May, leaving space for up to 5 new members (the PPC constitution allows for 9 lay members)
- Use Edgeways and newsletters to invite applications before 30 April
- Look widely for new members from various constituencies and groups in the Parish eg consider young, scout leaders, child liturgy group
- The experience of previous years is that the best way to find new members for the PPC is through personal contact and invitation. All members were invited to consider 1-2 people who they know and who might be approached directly

9.0 FEEDBACK FROM PARISHIONERS

- **Bidding prayers:** *'week by week the bidding prayers are so good and invite us to focus on the world around us but they are literally here today and gone tomorrow'*. Agreed that (subject to current coronavirus restrictions) Sr Dorothy will make copies of the bidding prayers available at the back of the Church. They will also be made available to take copies to the housebound; and will be posted on the Parish website. Sr Dorothy will add to the Bidding Prayer list of the sick, " ... and those known to us"
- **Audio system** in the Church: problems have been reported with many parishioners saying that they cannot hear the sermon or the celebrant's words. David will ask

Rock Tansey to offer training for readers, especially younger readers, and an audit of the sound system was considered, for which there is a cost **ACTION TBC**

- **Welcome of strangers to the Church:** the comment has been made that there are no prayer leaflets or welcome notices at the back of the Church, so that *'when strangers enter, or we ourselves, all we see are various appeals for money.'* We have been asked to think about creating a more welcoming face for people who drop in, especially when so many who may not be Catholics visit our Church for concerts, funerals, baptisms or weddings. This could include leaflets about the Church, prayers etc. All agreed this was a worthy and important project. **ACTION TBC**
- **Church photographs:** David and Anne will look at Paul Tanner's new church photographs, together with existing photographs by John Stone, for a possible saleable photobook; to be costed by David
- There is already a small leaflet about the Church available at the back and also a history of the Church but these need to be updated

10.0 AOB

- Letters have been sent from the PPC to thank Wendy Tansey, Terry Marsh and Bob Rathbone for building community through the Edgehill Players' pantomime
- Chris suggested setting up a projector to view and review the parish web site at one of our next meetings
- Anne reported that new signage for the church lobby notice boards is in hand

FUTURE MEETINGS

All meetings on Thursday at 8.00pm in the lounge unless otherwise indicated:
April 2; May 7; June 4; July 2; September 3; October 1; November 5; December 3