

Sacred Heart PPC Meeting

8.00pm Thursday 7 May 2020 via Zoom

Minutes

Present

Canon John
Anne Waldron, chair
David Hurst, secretary
Jayco Wamsteker, deputy chair
Edd de Quay
Siobhan Heffron
Clare Hobart
Clare Purtill
Deacon Julian Burling
Sr Dorothy
Fr Joe
Fr Dennis
Chris Woodward, finance committee
Adelita Marchant, by invitation

On furlough leave until further notice

Eleanor Bowman, youth minister
Kelly Hockey, adult faith formation

Apologies received from

Sarah Tobin

1.0 MINUTES OF PPC MEETING THURSDAY 2 APRIL

- Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 2 April were approved for the web site now and for the lobby notice board when the church re-opens
- Action points followed through from last time:
 - streaming statistics have been published in the weekly newsletter; updated figures from Chris attached
 - names of sick and deceased now included in weekly newsletter
 - PPC and others to continue to pass names of any elderly and vulnerable parishioners to CJC
 - Clare has taken forward the proposal to extend telephone befriending
 - David is researching how to set up Zoom meetings for parish group leaders and noted that Zoom and other online meetings are growing organically in the Parish

2.0 PARISH LIFE DURING THE CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC

Masses and communication with the parish

- Masses continue to be streamed live at 10.00am daily and at 8.00pm on Sundays with good feedback from parishioners.

- Chris shared streaming statistics from 7 April to 7 May (attached). Key figures: Good Friday 1352, Easter Sunday 932, Sunday 19.4 496, Sunday 26.4 472, Sunday 3.5 389
- Canon John's weekly homily and News and Views are distributed by email, the most recent covered the streaming of requiem masses, an invitation to contact the lonely or isolated and contact details offering help for families who are in need
- Names of the parish sick and recently deceased are sent by Fr Joe and Fr Dennis directly to Canon John
- Canon John and Deacon Julian continue to phone parishioners but has found some numbers are incorrect or are not answered; actions to correct this to be discussed
- Edd mentioned that Middlesborough diocese operate a mass-by-phone service which we will look into

The Sacred Heart Primary School: update from Siobhan

- School continues on site for about 12 students but this changes daily with key worker rotas
- Home learning is provided for RE learning and creative activities etc on the website for parents and children to self-select. The school is looking at ways to use online platforms to feed back on home learning
- The school plans to set up a Facebook page to strengthen their community presence
- Safeguarding is the main priority, liaising with social workers and families for children who do not attend school. Weekly welfare calls and updates to social workers take place
- The school is part of the Mental Health Trailblazer scheme which involves a number of schools across Merton including Wimbledon College and Ursuline High School
- Family welfare is also of concern and there is a food bank at the school. Food vouchers are issued and food parcels are distributed across Merton, Kingston, Wandsworth and Sutton by the head teacher, deputy and assistant head teacher
- 90th anniversary celebration plans are on hold until the end of lockdown

The Discovery Programme: update from Adelita

- The 6 week Discovery course finished just before Lent
- A half day retreat for the group was due to take place during Lent and the 6 week Source course (the next level to Discovery) was due to commence after Easter. Given the lockdown, Source has been put on hold for now
- A What's App prayer group has been set up during the lockdown to grow and support the Discovery groups through prayer. It meets (approx. 16 people) by Zoom on a Saturday morning for prayer and reflection:
 - past topics: reflection on stations of the cross; prayer through imaginative contemplation of scripture; and praying through art;
 - forthcoming topics: praying through nature; charisms of the Holy Spirit; prayer through creative writing; celebration of Pentecost;
- After lockdown ends the group will continue to meet and it is hoped that through this current period of growth the team will be well placed to deliver more courses

Telephone befriending service: update from Clare H

- Clare is investigating extending this service to care homes outside the parish and has sent out a carefully worded letter. Feedback from Alexander House has indicated that four residents may like to receive phone calls
- Safeguarding is important and Clare will seek advice from Jenny Cairns
- Important also to match suitable befrienders – Clare will share the list of volunteers with Sr Dorothy for input and advice
- The PPC supports this initiative in principle if carried out carefully

Online communication and connecting virtually

- There is a new parish Facebook page accessible through the web site home page
- Zoom and other platforms are being used by parishioners (e.g. Discovery prayer group) and Eleanor has successfully adapted and delivered the Confirmation programme using Google Classroom. Agreed that it would be good to build on this experience, and post lockdown continue to make the most of online media and develop skills to communicate and deliver more online programmes in the future
- Chris asked how we can communicate with parishioners who do not use the internet; to be discussed
- Naimh O'Brien ran a successful online quiz for about 50 on Friday evening 8 May

Post lockdown

- Instructions to ensure the safe use of the parish halls after lockdown ends will need to be prepared; Chris to follow up

3.0 ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORT: report from Edd

- 16 to 24 May is the fifth anniversary week of LaudatoSi <https://laudatosiweek.org/>
- At noon on Sunday 24 May we are invited to hold a prayer service with this prayer which Canon John will include in mass <https://laudatosiweek.org/prayer/>
- Sarah has invited parishioners to submit photographs of how members and their families are connecting with nature during lockdown and Sarah is planning to put a photo montage on the parish website; see Green Parish newsletter attached
- CAFOD talks and mass are available at <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks>

4.0 PPC MEMBERSHIP

- Anne extended warm thanks on behalf of the PPC to departing members Clare Purtill, Edd de Quay and Jayco Wamsteker for their respective contributions
- All agreed to arrange a farewell party after lockdown at a date to be confirmed
- Anne encouraged PPC members to continue to reach out to fellow parishioners who might be interested in joining us.

5.0 AOB

- Canon John, Fr Joe and Fr Dennis extended their thanks to those who had shopped for them during lockdown – Fr Joe did this in person once and said that he now appreciates the challenges!
- Fr Dennis noted that 7 May is the 89th anniversary of the consecration of the Sacred Heart Church in 1931 by Bishop Amigo and three fellow bishops

- Note: Richard Millward writes in 'Portrait of a Parish' (page 28) that the consecration could have taken place 30 years before but the Jesuits thought this impossible because of an outstanding debt
- Friday 17 June will be the Feast of the Sacred Heart; this feast day is celebrated on a Friday 19 days after Pentecost Sunday on 31 May; plans to be confirmed
- Note: the Year of the Word event and ecumenical service planned for Pentecost Sunday 31 May have been postponed due to lockdown
- Note: at the West Wimbledon Churches Together meeting on Tuesday 5 May we offered to take part in a planned online ecumenical service on Sunday 31 May, with readings on video by each of the eight groups
- Note: David will introduce Adelita to the service organiser, Kerry Coke, to coordinate our involvement and share how to receive the service

5.0 FUTURE MEETINGS

- meetings on Thursdays at 8.00pm by Zoom until the lockdown ends:
June 4; July 2; September 3; October 1; November 5; December 3