

Sacred Heart PPC Meeting

8.00pm Thursday 4 June 2020 via Zoom

Minutes

Present

Canon John
Anne Waldron, chair
David Hurst, secretary
Clare Hobart
Sarah Tobin
Deacon Julian Burling
Sr Dorothy
Fr Joe
Fr Dennis
Chris Woodward, finance committee
Ruth Naylor – observing
Alison Lobo - observing

On furlough leave until further notice

Eleanor Bowman, youth minister
Kelly Hockey, adult faith formation

Apologies for absence received from

Siobhan Heffron – see report below

1.0 Welcome & Minutes of PPC meeting Thursday 7 May

- Anne welcomed Ruth Naylor and Alison Lobo who were attending the meeting as observers having expressed interest in joining the PPC
- Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 7 May were approved for the web site now and for the lobby notice board when the church re-opens

2.0 Canon John's report on Diocesan matters

- At a recent meeting of the leaders of the Southwark Diocese Deaneries Archbishop John Wilson emphasised his wish that we take the opportunity of the current situation to refresh and renew, with an emphasis on catechesis, formation and evangelisation.
- There will be a process of consultation and reflection, looking first at some structural changes to enable this renewed emphasis on catechesis, formation and evangelisation
- The objective is that there will be bespoke parish programmes, the idea being to recruit, appoint and train parish personnel (with mentors) to deliver these programmes. As the only Parish with dedicated staff (Youth Minister and Adult Formation) we are well placed. The role of Dean will become more significant.
- The subject will be discussed again at the Merton Deanery meeting on Tuesday 9 June

3.0 Parish life during the coronavirus epidemic

Re-opening the Church (Canon John)

- The restrictions on opening the church will be lifted in 4 stages
 - Private prayer
 - Masses limited to weekdays
 - Baptisms and weddings in small groups
 - Sunday masses, although these will be problematic
- PPE has been ordered in anticipation of re-opening. After sanitising all surfaces and putting up the required signage, the church will re-open for private worship from Monday 15 June
- Over 40 volunteers responded to the online invitation to help prepare for this, with co-ordinated cleaning by about 15 volunteers on Saturday 13 June
- Alison is recruiting for three volunteers to be on duty as stewards during each church opening time and for others to clean the church after each period of opening

Keeping in touch with parishioners (Canon John and Julian)

- Canon John and Deacon Julian have been telephoning parishioners. Julian has found the process most enjoyable and useful. The mood is that parishioners are bearing up and not in despair. The daily streamed Mass is appreciated. (Viewing statistics are available from Chris or David.)
- However it has become clear that Parish records are not up to date. We do not have accurate phone numbers or other contact details for many, and an unknown number do not have access to or use internet or email.
- Chris said that there were approximately 9000 records on the Parish database, and that 1550 newsletters are sent by email each Saturday. On average 700-800 are opened.
- We agreed that getting to the bottom of the Parish records and database of parishioners was something we needed to follow up and that a number of us might convene a separate conversation to discuss (possibly Anne, Chris, David *and also Ruth Naylor who has in the meantime very kindly volunteered to help with this*)

Lockdown Volunteering Service (David)

- Since 20 March only two parishioners had contacted David asking for help with food deliveries (which has been actioned)
- David expressed concern as to whether this low take up reflected real needs or whether needy parishioners were being provided for by others or were not coming forward

Care Home Befriending Service (Clare)

- Clare has followed up as agreed at the last meeting, contacting local care homes to ask if they would be interested in a telephone befriending service. The results so far are as follows:
 - Alexandra House - interest from four residents
 - The Beaumont - keen to participate but are waiting
 - St Teresa's - no need as most patients are not well enough
 - Kew House - already have their own befriending service
 - Carter House - will write to ask if they are interested

3.0 Preparing for Parish life after lockdown (Chris)

- Chris opened the discussion by saying that It was important we start to prepare the way for Parish life post lockdown, encouraging our parishioners to active Parish life. He suggested we contact Parish groups and ask people what help and support they might need. One idea would be to convene a Zoom meeting with Parish group leaders to explore how best to return to normality – and also acknowledging that some groups might wish to continue to meet online even after lockdown ends
- We had a discussion on what might be involved ‘getting back to normal’ for our parish groups, and others who use the halls, including the many practical issues, taking into account the Diocesan advice on the necessary precautions in the current situation and the need to comply with all legal and safety issues
- We agreed would need a clear process for hall lettings and management of pre and post each usage, and that our caretaker George McLennan would need to be involved at all stages of planning and implementation. It was noted that there is no longer a Halls Committee.
- Canon John commented that although there were indeed many practical issues to address this moment also gave us an opportunity to think about the longer term for our Parish and the developmental and spiritual needs of our parishioners. What kind of Parish did we want to be? What kinds of groups were needed (e.g. groups for men and fathers)? To what extent did we want to let out our facilities to external groups (which means for example that some times of year they are full with external bookings) or did we want to use our facilities more for Parish groups and to support our Parish life?
- Anne suggested that we all consider how best to proceed and return to this issue, given that it was not possible to make definite decisions in the limited time frame we had available for discussion at the meeting
- *Sarah Tobin and Clare Hobart have since followed up with Parish Groups by contacting them to ask about their plans, and generally to keep in touch.*

4.0 Other updates

Environment Group Report (Sarah)

- ‘The Time is Now 2020’: Climate Change Coalition activities to build environmental awareness. Organisers include CAFOD and Jesuit Missions. Sarah is emailing Stephen Hammond MP to meet about this issue and those interested are invited to email sarah.tobin@btconnect.com
- Link to virtual lobby: <https://youtu.be/siBghaZtPaA>
- Laudato Si’ 5th anniversary – the photo montage by parishioners has been very well received and can viewed on the Parish FaceBook page
- Tue 30 June - day of online speakers and quizzes
- Thu 24 Sept - Creation Day
 - 6.30pm an outdoor mass for Creation is planned
 - in the church grounds with covid-19 restrictions in place
 - up to 20 people allowed - unless rules change
 - with music, art, performances and readings
 - possibly filmed and streamed live, to record and share - **both TBC**
 - Sarah, Eleanor and David to organise
- Fri 2 Oct - Feast of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the environment

Sacred Heart Primary School Report (report provided by Siobhan)

- The school has been open for key workers' children and from 1 June for nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 children
- Pupils attend two days each week (to limit groups to no more than 15, double staffing and extra space being required)
- Not all those eligible are attending but it is hoped that parents' confidence will grow
- 90th anniversary celebrations postponed until January 2021

Pentecost Prayer, Sunday 31 May, West Wimbledon Churches Together (David)

- Substitute for the cancelled Year of the Word event and ecumenical service
- An online shared prayer by families from different faith groups and churches
- The PPC extended thanks to Adelita Marchant for helping to organise this and to the O'Brien family for reading their sections of the prayer for our Parish

Merton Citizens (David)

- David reported that the leadership team are running a second Listening Campaign across constituents of all 16 member groups, to identify and prioritise current issues of importance
- The initial campaign in April 2018 identified priority issues: mental health, housing and making Merton a welcoming borough. The Heart Project for Community Sponsorship of Refugees is one outcome. Real achievements have been made in each area - annual report available from David
- Free online training is available on Wed 10, 17 and 24 June; details from David
- Mon 15 June Merton Council approved the Parish application to sponsor a Syrian family; this will now be sent to the Home Office
- David has, once again, advertised for additional leadership support

5.0 Feedback and requests from Parishioners

Streaming Masses

- There have been enquiries for an evening Mass to be streamed daily. Canon John will speak to Fr Joe and Fr Dennis about this. *Now actioned*
- There have been requests to explain the theology behind Spiritual Communion; Canon John will look into this.

Bidding Prayers

- Especially given current events there have been requests to include prayers for racial and social justice. Sr Dorothy has this in hand.

6.0 Dates of future meetings

Meetings are on the first Thursday of each month at 8.00pm, and will take place by Zoom for the time being. Dates for the diary: July 2, September 3, October 1, November 5 and December 3. TBA whether we would like to meet in August as well given all that is going on.