

Sacred Heart PPC Meeting

8.00pm Thursday 2 July 2020 via Zoom

Minutes

Present

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

On furlough leave until further notice

Eleanor Bowman, youth minister
Kelly Hockey, adult faith formation

Apologies for absence

Siobhan Heffron
Sr Francis

1.0 Welcome

- Anne proposed that Ruth Naylor be officially confirmed as a member of the PPC. All agreed and welcomed Ruth to the group. Ruth explained that she has joined the Parish fairly recently and is interested in connecting with more parishioners and reaching out to the community at large. She is a professional fund raiser in the arts sector and would be pleased to share her expertise, for example in helping to review the Parish database as a key first step in our fund raising activities.

2.0 Minutes of PPC meeting Thursday 4 June

- The minutes of the meeting on Thursday 4 June had been circulated. Anne asked everyone to let her have any changes or corrections so that these could be formally approved for the web site and church lobby notice board

3.0 Opening of Church for Public Masses

- The main discussion was around the opening of the Church for public Masses, permitted by the Government from 4 July 2020.
- Canon John had facilitated a meeting earlier that day to gather views from parishioners representing different groups on how best to manage the resumption of public Masses. The following were the key points agreed, and would be explained in News & Views on Sat 4 July:

- Public Masses to be resumed from Sunday 12 July, at 10am, 12 noon, 5pm and 8pm on Sundays, 10am Monday to Saturday and 6.30pm on Monday and Friday evenings
- Numbers limited to 72 in the Church on a first come first served basis
- The Upper Hall to be used as an overflow area, with Mass streamed and Holy Communion distributed
- 2 metre social distancing in the Church, 1m plus in the Upper Hall with face coverings
- NHS Test and Trace forms to be completed by all parishioners attending Mass
- Singing and playing of wind instruments not yet allowed though organ music permitted
- Safety measures: social distancing markers, hand disinfectant etc already in place for individual prayer. Alison Lobo has established and coordinated a team of volunteer stewards to attend to individual prayer sessions, but will now need additional stewards to attend to the public Masses including disinfecting the Church after every Mass. A request for additional stewards will be made in News & Views on 4 July. The PPC to encourage parishioners to volunteer.
- All new arrangements to be publicised in News and Views on 4 July, also on the website and outside notice boards. A telephone message on the Parish office answering machine to be organised as well

3.0 Update on Parish Groups

- Sarah and Clare had contacted 37 parish groups and sought views on their thoughts around 'returning to normal' in due course.
- 9 had responded, most of these saying that September would be the earliest date for groups to start up again, others stating 2021 at the earliest
- It seemed that groups did not expect guidance from the PPC (although no doubt the Parish will be supplying further guidance as and when the lockdown is further eased and guidance comes through from the Government and Diocese)
- Possible options for the future might be to move meetings to the Upper Hall (more space for social distancing) although this did not seem to be a popular option
- Updates from individual groups:
 - The Friendship Group will trial an outdoor garden meeting for 3 organisers + 6 guests
 - The Bereavement Group has held some meetings by Zoom
 - The RCIA group is not currently meeting, online or otherwise
 - SVP used to meet in the choir rehearsal room but may move to a larger space
 - The Discovery Programme group have meet weekly by Zoom for prayer and reflection, and have arranged mindful walks on Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park
 - The Newman Association may move meetings to the Upper Hall
 - The Memory Lane Club, concerts and the pantomime will not resume until 2021
 - Uniformed groups – arrangements TBC

4.0 Additional reports from groups / projects

Environment Group report (Sarah)

- 'The Time is Now 2020' Zoom meeting hosted by CAFOD was held on Tue 30 June
- 35 constituents attended, including Sustainable Merton, Merton Friends of the Earth
- Stephen Hammond MP committed to write to the PM and Chancellor of the Exchequer, that care for the environment would be at the heart of government policy
- Ruth had attended the meeting with Sarah and commented on how positive it was

Heart Project to sponsor a refugee family (David)

- Our application was approved by Merton Council on 16 June and has now been submitted to the Home Office to approve and allocate a family in 12-16 wks estimate
- We have been offered a 4 bedroom house to rent in Durnsford Road which we will inspect – probably too expensive in the long term
- Plan to advertise for a house to rent in SW20 in News & Views from 11 July

Merton Citizens (David)

- Are launching a second Listening Campaign to confirm existing issues (Mental Health, Housing, sponsor refugees) or identify new issues of importance
- David asked to test the campaign questions on 3 people; Ruth volunteered

5.0 Feedback and suggestions from Parishioners

- A suggestion had been made that we re-constitute the quarterly 'Parish in Council' meetings, a feature of Parish life some years ago. An opportunity for parishioners to meet with the Parish Council and discuss and debate ideas for the Parish. Anne suggested we review this constructive suggestion at the proposed PPC strategy session, to be diarised for a date in the Autumn if possible. Anne also suggested that we consider repeating last year's successful PPC retreat (held in November 2019).

6.0 Dates of future meetings

- Meetings first Thursday of each month at 8.00pm, currently by Zoom. There is not usually a meeting in August but all agreed that it was important to keep in touch at this time and that it would be useful to meet in August.
- Meeting dates: August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3.