

**Sacred Heart PPC Meeting  
8.00pm Thursday 7 January 2021 via Zoom  
Minutes**

**Present**

Canon John  
Anne Waldron, chair  
David Hurst, secretary  
Maria Christopher  
Clare Hobart  
Ruth Naylor  
Sarah Tobin  
Fr Dennis  
Sr Dorothy  
Dcn Julian Burling  
Chris Woodward, finance committee  
Eleanor Bowman, youth minister  
Alison Lobo, guest

**Apologies / absent**

Siobhan Heffron  
Fr Joe

**Opening prayer led by Sr Dorothy ...**

*'Lord, in this New Year I will try  
In happier moments, to praise God,  
In difficult moments to seek God,  
In quiet moments, to trust in God,  
And in every moment, to thank God.'*

**1.0 Minutes of the meeting of 3 December 2020**

- The minutes of the meeting on 3 December were approved to go on the web site

**2.0 Review of lockdown/impact on Parish including Church opening**

- We noted the recent worsening of the Covid pandemic with the new more transmissible variant and the very high numbers of deaths and people in hospital; also the especially serious situation in London.
- We discussed how the Parish could or should respond in this new situation, and whether we needed to consider e.g. closing the Church for public Masses or reducing the hours of opening.
- We noted that under government regulations Churches may continue to stay open (in contrast to the first lockdown in 2020). Canon John quoted from a 4 January 2021 letter from Archbishop John Wilson emphasising the importance of keeping Churches open. Decisions could be made otherwise by Parish Priests if there were exceptional circumstances.
- We discussed various options and in particular ideas to strengthen safety arrangements in the Church. Alison Lobo reported that we did not currently have sufficient numbers of stewards. It was also noted that people attending Mass were not always practising social distancing, especially when going up for Communion, and when leaving Church at the end of Mass.

- We also noted that the Bishops Conference has confirmed that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays has been suspended for the time being. It would be helpful to remind Parishioners of this and to encourage those who can to attend Mass during the week or online. It was agreed that our messaging as a Parish around Mass attendance and the opening of the Church was important and that communications from the Priests were especially impactful.
- *In light of the worsening public health situation Canon John, in consultation, subsequently decided to close the Church for public Masses from Sunday 10 January, this decision to be reviewed on a weekly basis. Canon John continues to keep the situation under review and chairs a weekly meeting with a group of the parish team and parishioners to enable this process*

### **3.0 Christmas review and follow up**

- All agreed that Christmas at the Sacred Heart Church had been MAGNIFICENT!
- Canon John will thank all those who were involved in making this happen – via News & Views. The PPC extended grateful thanks to everyone involved – including Joe Rushton for the external lighting, the team decorating the inside of the Church and halls and preparing the crib, and Alison for managing the stewarding at all services and keeping us all safe.
- Eleanor’s Advent activities for families had been particularly successful (see report in Edgeways); the ‘Christmas Story through Art’ online lecture was complimented, and the Edgehill Players online Christmas show was excellent and is still available on You Tube
- Delivery of hampers to over 100 housebound people on Christmas Day was also a great success and will be reported in the next Edgeways; see Ben’s report in Edgeways
- We reflected on ‘lessons learned’ and what we could apply when planning for Lent and Easter. It was noted that communications for December activities had been well devised and implemented (especially the poster) and that well organised, well-attended and timely planning Meetings (with individuals taking ownership of different tasks) had worked very well. The ticketing process was also reviewed, with learning noted for services at Easter

### **4.0 Planning for Lent and Easter**

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 17 February and Easter Sunday is on 4 April
- We could apply the learning from planning Christmas activities as above
- Initial ideas for Lent activities included:
  - have a clear theme, like the Christmas theme, ‘Magnificent’ e.g. ‘Being Holy’
  - consider the impact of Lent on families as 2021 is the ‘Year of the Family’
  - invite families – parents and children - to write different sections of Lent talks
  - Eleanor could involve the three primary schools
  - invite prayer groups (Adelita), RCIA (Sr Dorothy), young adult Catholics (Eleanor) and the mindfulness group (Claire Morgan) to contribute ideas and content
- Sarah will invite key people to a planning meeting in about two weeks time
- *A group chaired by Sarah Tobin has now been established to plan for Lent and Easter, and is meeting every 2 weeks. Plans will be communicated to the Parish*

### **5.0 Social media pilot**

- Ruth presented the results of the pilot social media project running since 3 December on Facebook and Twitter. Her slides are available on request
- There has been good engagement from the Parish and the conclusion was that the social media content has given an authentic representation of parish life
- The aim now was to embed the process of producing and delivering content through these channels (adding Instagram in due course)

- Next steps:
  - develop strategic goals for social media to support the parish aims
  - consider different aims of social media – sending out information; building the Parish community; evangelising and reaching out more broadly in the community
  - prepare guidelines for the production of content
  - recruit volunteers to create content and invite contributions
  - review our scheduling tools for outbound messaging (currently we have a free account with Hootsuite)
  - coordinate and ensure consistency across our various communication channels: News & Views; web site; Edgeways; social media – this will be part of a larger project to look at all our communications in due course
- The PPC thanked Ruth for her excellent work on this important pilot project

#### **6.0 AOB**

- Items 6-9 on the agenda deferred for discussion at the next meeting
- Next meeting: Thursday 4 February at 8pm by Zoom