

## **Sacred Heart PPC Meeting**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the PPC held 8.00 pm Thursday 2 December 2021 in the Parish Lounge**

#### **Attending:**

Anne Waldron, Chair  
Canon John Clark, Parish Priest  
Fr Matthew Donnelly  
Eleanor Bowman  
Siobhan Heffron  
Maria Christopher  
Sr Dorothy Perrott  
David Hurst  
Annette Campbell-Black  
Christopher Woodward, Chair of Finance Committee  
Jude Mariadoss  
Rachel Purvis  
Dcn Julian Burling

#### **Apologies received:**

Ruth Naylor

### **1. Minutes of the meeting of 4 November 2021**

Approved.

It was recommended that agreed minutes should be posted on the parish website.

### **2. Arrangements for Advent and Christmas**

Eleanor gave an update on the *Come Home* initiative.

1,000 *We Miss You* postcards would be available for distribution from Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 December inviting people to Mass on Christmas Day.

A *Sycamore* webinar on the Eucharist would be available as an Advent talk on Thursday 16 December.<sup>1</sup>

1,000 *The Ultimate Relationship* booklets would be available for distribution at Mass on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or possibly the first Sunday in January, in any event before Epiphany.

Canon John reported that the church was to be lit up from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and a crib would be placed in front of the main altar.

The Christmas Day lunch was being organised by Louise Cooper and Ben Smith.<sup>2</sup>

### **3. Synod update**

Rachel gave an update on progress within the parish to date. 55 people had attended a useful meeting. She and Daniel Gulliford were considering how to follow that. They had visited a group of nuns, and were due to meet Sacred Heart School on 13 December and the parish clergy on 20 December.

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<sup>1</sup> Time available did not permit this to take place.

<sup>2</sup> This was subsequently cancelled and replaced by the distribution of Christmas hampers as in 2020.

To obtain feedback from a wider group of people they were considering devising a questionnaire specific to the parish, as had other parishes, and sought the PPC's views. The questionnaire for children on the diocesan website was perhaps too long and the questions in the general questionnaire on the diocesan website perhaps too specific.

The following points were made by PPC members:

- It was desirable to get the views of, and questions from, the housebound, and also from the disaffected who no longer attended the church
- The questions in the CBCEW questionnaire are seldom open in nature
- They may be too specific
- The children's questionnaire is perhaps too long
- What is of local importance should be considered
- Each existing parish group, eg SVP should be asked for their views and those of others to whom they can reach out.
  - A list of all such groups to be provided to Rachel and Daniel
- Canvass door to door in the streets, house by house, whether Catholic or not
- Invitations to continental breakfasts after Mass
- Rachel and Eleanor to devise postcards for responses on the 3 diocesan themes
  - PPC members to submit to Rachel suggestions for questions, focusing on the 3 themes

#### **4. Community work updates**

##### **a. Heart project.**

David Hurst gave an update on the considerable progress, but also delays, to date. Rent had been paid for a house, DBS checks and research on appropriate school places were in progress. An application would then be made to the Home Office. New conditions imposed by the Diocese had delayed the arrival of the proposed family. It was suggested that the house be subject to a short let, eg 3 months, in the interim.

##### **b. Night shelter**

David Hurst gave a summary of the process undertaken by the YMCA and recruitment of volunteers. But see note below.<sup>3</sup> It was pointed out that when the night temperature is forecast below a certain level Merton LBC accommodates homeless people in a hotel.

##### **c. Soup run**

This would restart after covid infection rates had declined, but not yet. The Salvation Army had asked the parish to make an appeal for (new) hats and socks.

##### **d. Faith in Action** wanted specific things on a wish list rather than money.

##### **e. Christmas crib appeal proceeds** would be donated to Christian Care Merton

#### **5. Sacred Heart School**

A new foundation governor, with experience in finance and building, is still sought.

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<sup>3</sup> On 8 December DH was informed that Public Health Merton had declined to approve a communal night shelter given the high rate of circulation of Covid, the transmissibility of the virus, the low level of vaccination of many of the rough sleepers

A new digital version of the school info pack for new parishioners is necessary. It was reported that some attempts by parents of SH pupils to register on the parish website had failed.

#### **6. New parishioners event.**

This might possibly be in conjunction with the Welcome Back programme. Other proposals included a coffee morning, perhaps three-monthly, possibly mixed with existing groups of fellow parishioners. For consideration at the January meeting.

#### **7. AOB/parishioner feedback**

- a. A parishioner had requested a specific area in the church for wheel chairs. It was agreed that this should be replace the first bench of the N transept, ie next to the Holy Souls chapel at the end of the N Aisle. To be shown on the church seating plan.
- b. A pedal bin was requested for the Lower Hall kitchen.
- c. Cathy Dickenson would replace David Hurst as the parish rep for *Churches together in Wimbledon*
- d. Merton Citizens: David Hurst reported that the co-ordinators were suggesting Mom 24 or 31 January for the next training session of "Community Organising".
- e. Anne Waldron would be temporarily standing down from the chair of the PPC.