

SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
8.00 – 9.30pm Thursday 1 December 2022 in the Parish Lounge

	ACTION
<p>1.0 Welcome</p> <p>The meeting started at 20.15. Deacon Julian Burling opened the meeting in prayer</p> <p><u>Present</u> Ruth Naylor (Chair), Eleanor Bowman (Youth Minister), Rachel Purvis, Jude Mariadoss, Siobhan Heffron, Christopher Woodward (for the Finance Committee), Sr Dorothy Perrott, Maria Christopher, Annette Campbell-Black, Teresa Engley, Julian Burling, David Hurst, Primavera Moretti (taking minutes)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Fr Joseph Donkor, Canon John Clark and Fr Matthew Donnelly</p>	
<p>2.0 Minutes of 3 November meeting</p> <p>There was a reference to taking out a subscription to The Tablet whereas what had been intended was that there would be a box where in which subscribers could put past for others to take/borrow.</p> <p>The funding applications for the Christmas lunch haven't been done, but they are an obvious and good source of income. David needs to speak to Canon John, especially as time is short.</p>	Action: David
<p>3.0 Updates from Canon John</p> <p>Canon John was not present to give updates.</p>	
<p>4.0 Parish Pastoral Council roles</p> <p>Primavera Moretti offered her services as Secretary which was agreed by the Council. Ruth had spoken to Anne Waldron regarding a permanent Chair for the PPC and Anne stated that she can't continue as Chair for personal reasons. Ruth has consequently offered to be Chair for a year to Dec 2023. This was agreed. Previous Chairs had meetings with Canon John in addition to the PPC plenary meetings. Ruth to clarify with Canon John.</p>	Action: Ruth

5.0 'The Synod: One Year On'

Ruth made a presentation on the 'Synod: One Year On' event which took place on Sat 5th November facilitated by Dr Mark Nash.

There was discussion on discerning our purpose, vision and mission as a PPC over the coming year. This was aided by 'word clouds' created by Ruth from the Synod discussion. Ruth explained that the larger the word the more frequently that word was used by discussion participants. Words that appeared larger included Serve, Community, Teach, but Evangelism a bit small! Invitation, Belonging, Families, Neighbourhood, Memory also stood out. There was a reference to Dundonald church which is a particularly dynamic local church and Portsmouth Diocese which has very good evangelisation resources.

There was a further discussion around Mission. What is the mission of the PPC for 2023? What things do we as group want to effect in the parish in the coming year? The need for small groups in the parish had been a major topic on 5th November but Jude pointed out that we already have many groups functioning in the parish. If we did start new groups, how will they come about – from the grass roots or from top down? We need a better idea of what groups already exist in the parish and what support they need so they don't just exist in their own space but take an evangelisation angle so they're part of the parish and outward looking to attract more people. Ruth asked if this is something the PPC should be initiating e.g. we want to say what's missing and fill the gaps or do we not know this until we've spoken to the groups that exist? David wondered if there should be a separate Synod group that specifically works on the findings of the synod. Chris pointed out that there are groups which support a community so we're better supported for going out AND groups that more pro-actively go out to the neighbourhood. The Priests used to visit homes in the past but there isn't enough time to do this now. How do we replicate this to keep the wider community in touch? Neighbourhood groups (i.e. for specific roads) would take a lot of work and commitment. Sr Dorothy said that in the past such groups met once a month for prayer / social and often a mass said in homes which is probably unrealistic now with the number of priests we have, but it might be worth exploring. Chris pointed out that the Parish Database shows where people live. You'd have to have key people to organise the groups locally. Eleanor has seen this happening in practice this week as she put together the itinerary for the travelling nativity and 3 sets of pairs who live on the same roads but none of them knew each other, even though they go to 10am mass and have children of the same age because their children are in different schools. There's a need to help people connect in such a huge parish. For example, a Spanish family group came out of last year's Holy Communion programme and now they meet once every half a term. We

asked how we as a PPC can help facilitate this so that new people coming to the parish could join a suitable group e.g. Ukrainians. The registration form doesn't ask for nationality (and this could create its own issues) but Eleanor said she often gets asked about this. It's a case of finding that one person who's happy to welcome new people.

Some people at the Synod event mentioned a desire for more Bible Study but there are already some groups but perhaps they're not really known and/or are well-established groups that maybe don't feel that welcoming for new members.

We need to know that the different groups feel supported by the Parish Team. We should check there are things at times that work for working people.

We also discussed whether we could look at what other people are doing e.g. Dundonald Church and Elim Pentecostal which has a café, open to all, whose profits go to The Foodbank.

ACTIONS:

Firstly, working out what the groups are and inviting the leaders to PPC meetings to report what they're doing. David almost has the list ready and he will agree specifics/wording for email/letter with Ruth then write:

1. with specific invitation to the PPC
2. to check that the information he has is correct
3. Invite them to provide info for Edgeways - Ruth and David to agree specifics/wording

Secondly, leading an initiative of encouraging other small groups e.g. neighbourhood/nationality and bring more specific plan/detailed ideas to the next meeting. Rachel, Matthew, Julian are having a meeting about small groups

Jude suggested that one of the groups could talk about their group at mass which could help groups which don't have visibility in the parish. We discussed the need for balance between larger groups and splinter groups and noted that there's a lot of overlap between groups while some can get some get cliquey. There was an open day last year with about twenty groups but Ruth was not sure how much recruitment this led to. Primavera commented that it would be easy to set up WhatsApp groups for some roads such as her own where there was already a neighbourhood group which had been set up during the pandemic. Chris noted that there are 5,500 names on the parish database.

It was agreed that if people want to start a new group or meet privately we shouldn't discourage this, notwithstanding the risk of cliques, but the parish should be encouraging the building of community. Maria

Primi to add to agenda for next time

DAVID and RUTH

<p>suggested that there could there be a theme which we invite all the groups to consider e.g. Gospel of Matthew this year or the Pope’s intentions for the year or the month.</p> <p>Sr Dorothy invited us to remember that this parish is doing really well in evangelism, for example, people come to us for RCIA and comment that this is a church with a solid faith.</p>	
<p>6.0 Cost of Living – how we can support those struggling?</p> <p>Our SVP has funds and the National SVP has reserves to support local conferences. Our issue is knowing who is in need. If anyone is aware of someone who needs support they should direct them (in confidence) to Chris. There is a particular fund to support funerals, which is restricted to that purpose. It was agreed that we should let the schools know, particularly for people who can’t get free school meals but are struggling. Action: SVP/Chris to write to the five schools</p> <p>There was a discussion about how we used to collect food monthly for Manna and that Bridget Handley had approached us once again. It was decided to encourage this to take place.</p> <p>3rd Nov David attended a cost-of-living summit. He will share information from that at the next meeting.</p>	<p>CHRIS</p> <p>CHRIS?</p> <p>DAVID</p>
<p>7.0 Parish charitable initiatives</p> <p>Eleanor explained about the new “Be well hub” which comes under Merton Council’s Mental Health provision. It’s available to children of all ages and will start either in time for the Christmas holidays, or the first week back. Eleanor is creating a parents’ survey that the five schools will send out to all parents and will go through the responses to determine the type of thing people would be interested in and what day/time/what help they need so we know how to properly resource that space. It will be about tea and cake and community and making sure people are not on their own. We provide a space where people can drop-in, not exclusively for our parishioners and our schools. Merton citizens will also advertise this. James Potter, Wimbledon College chaplain, has one at the College for staff and for students and they have a staff and student mental health charter. People are being invited to step forward to train as volunteer mental health champions.</p>	
<p>8.0 AOB</p> <p><u>(a) Lobby noticeboards – information needs updating</u> Action: David to Liaise with Chris to send emails to group leaders (see above)</p>	<p>DAVID</p>

(b) Parish Social – Epiphany Party Saturday 7th January

Rehanna is doing the food, there will be a Ceilidh band. It's a free event for the whole parish. There will be free food but guests should bring a bottle. We need to get people to email to say they're attending in order to keep an idea on numbers.

(c) Give Star

Primi explained that she recently went to a meeting of Catholic Fundraisers at which a newish digital fundraising company, Give Star, was giving a presentation. They work with a lot of churches and Christian organisations such as Christian Aid and have various offerings which could assist parish fundraising such as donations through QR codes printed on the parish newsletter. Chris commented that there are some issues with the current contact payment hubs. We discussed whether we could generate our own QR codes to go straight to the website. Primavera agreed this would be a good first step but pointed out that every step between the ask and the point at which money is taken adds 'friction' so donors are less likely to give if there are too many steps. Getting standing orders is the most efficient way of managing giving as it's easier to manage the Gift Aid. The contactless terminals are good for donations towards the costs of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Every new registration to the parish gets a letter from Canon John and an invitation from the finance committee and this doesn't really work – Jude said there are some issues with filling in form on website.

Action: Chris to raise at next finance committee meeting. Paul will join February meeting to give us an update on the website.

CHRIS

(d) Art talk

Monica Gutierrez del Palacio offered to donate time to talk face-to-face about the Prodigal Son painting, which will fit in with Lent Talks. Will Fr Matthew be available to introduce her and open the event in prayer? Monica will suggest dates during Lent.

RUTH

(e) Mission Ruah Books

Rachel told us about a publisher called Mission Ruah. Money from sales supports their mission in India. Could they come to speak after mass or just do a bookstall? Rachel particularly recommends a book on the 24 hours of the Passion of Christ.

Action: Rachel to speak to Fr Joe

RACHEL

(f) Peter Armfield

Chris explained that Peter Armfield, the gardener is standing down at the end of the year after 40 years of service and suggested we should do a presentation.

Action: Chris will put items in newsletter to invite contributions. We need to appoint a new gardener/firm.

CHRIS

9.0 Date of next meeting - Thursday 5 January at 8pm	All
The meeting closed in prayer at 21.45.	