

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES – 200122**

**Present:**

**Clergy:** Father Ruscillo (Parish Priest, Chair); Father Etienne (Assistant Priest); Father Harrison (Assistant Priest)

**Church Reps:** Greg Smith (Christ the King); Pat Cadman (St A); Joe McGarry (St E); Francesca Robinson (St MM); Kathy Holden-Smith (OLSW); Tina Battle (St B); Jack Johnstone (OLSJ)

**Committee Reps:** Ann Pinguey (Finance); Paul Lovell (Building and H&S); Tricia Turner (Safeguarding)

**Apologies:** Rev Bill Kirkley (Deacon)

**1. Welcome and Prayer**

Fr Harrison and Jack Johnston were welcomed to their first meeting and Father Ruscillo led the opening prayers.

**2. Minutes of the last Meeting (18.11.21)**

The following points to be added to the Minutes under *Item 9 St Edmund's* before distribution:

- The names on the petition had been gathered in 10 days or so.
- St Edmund's community feel they have been on a decline since they lost their own priest over 10 years ago and have lost much of what they did as they adjusted to fit in with St Cuthbert's and then St Bede's. Now they fear that post Covid they will lose their only weekend Mass as well and many have drifted elsewhere and others were not coming to Mass at all now. They would like to get back to Sunday morning when they used to meet socially for coffee after Mass and stay together as a community that way. It is felt that the alternative would be closure. It is believed there are still enough volunteers to cover things like children's liturgy if needed
- The removal of post Covid restrictions would allow St Edmund's to accommodate the numbers seen attending weekend Mass at St Bede's

Also, under *Item 4:* Paul, Fr Etienne and Hugh Nicolson Walker attended the *Grants* the meeting

With the changes indicated above, the Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising not covered on the Agenda**

None

**4. Reports**

- (1) Paul Lovell (Building)
- (2) Ann Pinguey (Finance)

A formal meeting of the two groups is yet to be held, so a separate report has been prepared for (1) and (2)

### **Property**

1. 34 Etterby Lea Grove. This three bedroomed house was bequeathed jointly to the Knights of St Columba (KSC) and the Cat Protection League (CPL); the Parish is interested in a joint venture to rent out this property, in line with the Diocesan investment policy, hence buying out the CPL (for further discussion under *Agenda Item 6*)
2. St Edmund's: discussions are being held with Cumbria County Council
3. St MM: heating is installed but more radiators to be fitted
4. St Bede's: tenants are now discovering issues that need attention; parking is an issue; hopefully, all is now resolved; any issues raised by St Bede's parishioners, please advise Mary
5. United Utilities and Environment Agency: still in negotiation
6. BCRH leases still not yet signed off, being actively pursue
7. Safety Toolbox: meetings held today
8. BT is connecting the churches up to Broadband, linked to a mother hub; digital plates purchased to use in the churches
9. Site in Longtown: planning permission for demolition has been granted

### **Finance**

A query was raised regarding restricted funds and the meeting were advised this is reported in each Annual Return and records any further income and expenditure.

The Legacy left to Christ the King and Warwick Bridge was discussed - some of the money has been spent on the purchase of *gradins* (shelf beside the tabernacle for candles) with the remainder earmarked for the churches.

£20K has been transferred from BCRH into the Parish Account - still on track to receive another £20K before the end of March – it will take between 5-7 years to repay the full amount to the parish.

Large costs have been incurred for St MM heating.

Digital plates have been purchased (which will allow gift aided donations) - this system will go hand in hand with the envelopes;  
support was requested for parishioners during the first few weeks;  
announcement to be made via the newsletter when all are up and running;  
information posters to be displayed;  
a verbal announcement will be made from the pulpit, in due course

Ann was thanked for her sterling work with the accounts.

(3) Tricia Turner (Safeguarding)

The report was reviewed, with no further issues to report.

## 5. PPC Business:

### *PPC Guidelines*

Members requested to periodically read this document to ensure the various suggestions are being adhered to.

## 6. St Edmund's consultation

A meeting was held on Monday at which Joe took the Minutes.

The meeting was well attended (approx. 32) mostly from St Edmund's (Cumbrian Martyrs)

*Summary of the meeting:* people are hurt, anger in there as well, but a resignation and a sense that it was inevitable.

There was a follow up phone call to Fr Ruscillo on behalf of a group of parishioners, concerned that the Minutes should reflect that some of the people speaking, one in particular at great length, were not from Cumbrian Martyrs, and registered their disquiet. The group concerned were wondering how the property would be used. Speculation was that it will be used by Cumbria County Council for a Special Needs School, which the group felt would be a good use of the building rather than it being demolished for houses. A query was made about Father John Barron, who resides in the property.

## 7. Covid update

Masks will be encouraged but not obligatory in church from next week.

## 8. The Synodal Way

There is a good piece on this initiative in the newsletter by Fr Etienne; there are two sets of meeting planned and questions have been received for discussions.

It is Pope Francis initiative: *let's get people talking about their faith*

The meetings are structured: prayers, discussion, completion – there will be groups of six, a question will be given to consider and feedback taken from each group; notes will be taken and submitted to the Diocese; there will be four questions for each session; it is a session in *listening* and this will be emphasised.

## 9. Parish Groups:

- a. CAFOD – in some of the churches we have CAFOD representatives, and it was felt it would be useful if individual church representatives could meet so that collections, etc, can be coordinated

**Action: PPC Reps to mention this to their church CAFOD representative and send contact details of representative to Tricia who will, in turn, send to Jen McGuigan, who will coordinate the meeting.**

- b. SVP – this is an independent body, which make its own decisions. They recently had a promotion, with a young lady doing a pulpit address in most of the parish's churches

- c. The collection of Red Missionary Boxes should be coordinated

**Action: PPC Reps to e-mail contact details of their church's Red Box Collector to Tricia**

- d. Promote Life Group **Action: Joe to send info to Fr Etienne**

- e. Tea and coffee after Mass: St Edmund's said they missed the close community, tea and coffee after Mass becomes important for that sense of community; tea and coffee mid-

week really works as well (note, the over 70s Christmas party at St Bede's was a great event)

**Action: The PPC Reps for St Edmund's and St Bede's to think about how this can be facilitated at St Bede's, asking Anne Binny if she is prepared to do help with this**

f. Climate change – nothing to report

## **10. Ecumenical relationships**

Christian Unity Week this week

## **11. Catechetics**

Dates decided for the First Holy Communion programme, a letter is to be sent out and the programme begins just after half term; all DBS checks up to date.

Confirmation Catechetics will be meeting soon; they will need a DBS check.

## **12. Any Other Business**

St Augustine's is keen to welcome the Afghan refugees who are living in Carlisle and a coffee morning has been suggested. This was agreed to be a good initiative and it was suggested that a gift be given to each child.

**Action: Pat to liaise with CRAG, who is supporting the refugees, asking how many, a favourable time, etc.**

St MM/Christ the King is keen to resume the course on St Matthew's Gospel.

The opening of churches was discussed in some detail and it was agreed to look and the feasibility of this.

OLSJ and OLSW are open

**Action: Francesca to set up a rota for the porch area of St MM (opening and closing)**

**Action: St Bede's – a walk around to suggest modifications to the porch**

**Action: St A: ask if anyone can open and close (say 8.30 to 4.00)**

CtheK: scope for vandalism: needs reflection

Holy Water: still not allowed

**Action: Father Ruscillo to ask James to look at options**

Fr Harrison advised that the notice boards need updated

**Action: each PPC Rep to check Mass times are correct on notice boards inside their church; Paul Braithwaite is reviewing the external notice boards**

**Request:** a signing-in book at St Bede's - lights have been left on, doors left unlocked, and alarm not set; **suggestion:** get alarm linked to a firm

**Action: Tina to liaise with Mary, who has list of key-holders and a signing-in book**

## **13. Date of next meeting**

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, 7.00 pm, at BCRH

## **14. Closing Prayers** led by Fr Harrison