

St Edward The Confessor RC Church

Parish Pastoral Group Meeting 10 October 2017

Minutes of the Meeting

Present: Lorraine Clapham (Chair), Fr John Nelson, Ayad Al-Khoury, Joanna Azavedo-Parker, Paul Carmody, Trish Cassidy, Tony Cassidy, Susan Johnston, Ann Owen, Paul Owen, Tony Wilson, Jessie Woolgar

Apologies: Helen Matteucci, Clare Lasker, Moira Moriarty, John Williams

1. Lorraine opened the meeting with a reading from Sunday's Mass.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true copy.
3. **Matters Arising**

Funeral Update. The meeting discussed why only Funeral *Masses* were inserted into the weekly bulletin but Funeral *Services* were not accorded the same announcement. It would seem that this is the way it had always been and Fr John was happy that both should be promulgated in the bulletin and would speak to Kristina in the Parish Office with regard to future funerals.

With regard to welcoming at funerals it was agreed that the *status quo ante* should continue with Lorraine stating that the Funeral Cards had proven to be successful at both St Edward's and Holy Cross.

Priest's Board. The date of the last priest to fulfil the role of Parish Priest at St Edward's (before becoming part of St Swithun Well's) was still proving to be a problem as it was difficult to match the font style and colouring. Lorraine had achieved a temporary 'fix' but the meeting felt that a better match could be made and further efforts would be made to obtain the services of a proper signwriter to complete the board. **Action:** Anne Owen agreed to go to the craft shop in Hiltingbury to enquire regarding sign writers etc.

Availability of Minutes. Lorraine informed those present that in addition to the Minutes of the Pastoral Group meetings now being available on the notice board in the cloister they are now available on the St Swithun Well's Parish website under Notices.

Sound Check. A proper sound check of the system at St Edward's was still to be carried out with some parishioners being unable to hear readers succinctly whilst others could hear clearly. The meeting discussed the positioning of the microphone on the pulpit together with

size and angle of the small speakers used throughout the church and cloister. It was felt that the following actions should be initiated;

- a. Ask readers to position the microphone correctly and to not step away from it whilst reading. This would also be brought up at the Readers Day of Reflection which will take place at St Joseph's, Ashurst on 4th November.
- b. Carry a straw poll after each mass to ascertain the clarity of readings.
- c. Wherever required turn up the volume on each speaker in the body of the church.
- d. Investigate the possibility of an expert check to be carried out on the whole system.

4. **PPG Table** As before there was very little interaction with Tony and Trish having only one person on Saturday night whilst Lorraine fared little better after Sunday Mass. Points arising were;

- a. The 'Welcome to the Parish' notice in the bulletin. Wherever possible this was included and positioned as near to the top of the page but sometimes would appear lower. This was due to items of greater importance replacing it and thus it either appeared lower down the page or was omitted altogether. After discussion it was felt that there was no need to change this process.
- b. Highlighting the location of the entrance to St Edward's. After much discussion on the merits of new notices outside the church and other avenues of highlighting the entrance those present agreed that there was insufficient need to effect any change.

5. **Fryern Prayer Group** Tony Wilson informed the meeting that twelve people had attended and had been well advertised. He also stated that it would in future be held in the afternoon of the third Monday of each month.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of a more regimented approach to the prayer groups held within the Valley Park area. Susan pointed out that due to the diversity of parishioners' commitments it necessitated that Valley Park Prayer Groups were held in different homes, at differing times and on different days of the week. It would therefore be very difficult to set a routine of guaranteed dates. It was therefore felt that there should be no need to change this arrangement.

OASIS Jessie thanked the meeting for the support and resources afforded by the Parish which had allowed the OASIS group to start and then to continue. The consensus was that it was having a positive effect and that sometimes the number of attendees fluctuated. After discussion it was hoped that OASIS could grow bigger and become a more integral part of the Parish as a whole and possibly spawn more ideas of a similar nature. Tony Wilson opined that maybe an ecumenical outreach could also be a possibility. The meeting also felt that the OASIS group would benefit from an announcement from the pulpit to the congregations to inform parishioners whenever there was a meeting to encourage more active involvement in the group.

Messy Church Initiative Ayad briefed the meeting on the ideas behind the activity collectively known as Messy Church. The basic premise of this initiative being that parents and children attend a meeting together, possibly Saturday PM, and would incorporate an introduction to bible readings, prayers, hymns and various table activities with parents and children rotating through each table followed by group discussion and a final prayer session with the possibility of a light meal afterwards. The idea was discussed at some length and it was felt that at a minimum it would require the services of at least ten leaders/supervisors all of which would have to be DBS checked before being allowed to participate. Ann pointed out that Children's Liturgy carried out a similar function already with special events, such as Advent, being more involved.

The initiative could be difficult to get off the ground and it was felt that Ayad should both talk to the organisers of the existing Methodist church to see what was involved and also talk to the Children's Liturgy organisers at St Edward's feedback about the concept. It was also pointed out that the Anglican Church also run a Messy Church programme as an alternate service for parents and children and that maybe Ayad could also contact those organisers as well.

Men's Group Ayad also wished to explore the idea of a Men's Prayer Group. Tony Wilson pointed out that there used to be a Prayer Breakfast but that it had gradually fizzled out due to lack of participants. The meeting therefore felt that Ayad should concentrate his efforts on the Messy Church idea before the idea of a Men's Group was tabled again.

Visiting The question arising from this discussion was "Who was the target group?" Friendship visits were working in the Valley Park area on an *ad hoc* basis and could evolve to encompass the Fryern Group carrying out similar visits. Fr John pointed out that there was a danger that if such visits were to be organised on a formal parish basis than each person carrying out such visits would have to be DBS checked at a minimum. Hospital visits were also discussed and although regular notices with regard to visits and hospital admissions were incorporated in the weekly bulletin there had been very little feedback.

Saturday Night Tea/Coffee The cessation of Saturday night tea and coffee provided by Trish and Tony was raised as an agenda item. Tony pointed out that although they had initially suspended it for the summer months for lack of clients they had started again at the beginning of September but despite people standing around chatting and supporting various fund-raising events nobody was availing themselves of the facilities. They therefore had to once again give up the service after twenty years due to lack of interest from the parishioners.

Cleaning Whilst the call for volunteers to assist in the cleaning of the church had been fairly well promulgated it had resulted in only one person put their name forward to assist in this vital role. Lorraine hoped to have a Saturday morning get together as a thank you for all people who have helped to clean the church. Although the present system was flexible to allow people to clean when they could it was felt that a more regimented approach was

needed as parts of the church were not being cleaned at all. Fr John agreed to carry out a pulpit appeal at weekend Masses and there would be people outside in the cloister to talk to followed by a Saturday meeting.

AOB

Paul Carmody had tabled to items under Any Other Business.

1. Paul informed the meeting that Asda had agreed for an on-site Ecumenical Minister to go ahead but had not yet agreed a start date.
2. Christian Aid Week was down on previous years, predominantly due to expanding number of 'No Cold Calling' Zones (NCCZ's). Paul also stated that Chandlers Ford has the highest incidence of NCCZ's in Hampshire, to such a degree that the Methodist church will no longer be taking part in collections for Christian Aid Week.

The meeting felt that this needed greater discussion on the way forward and agreed to table it as an Agenda item for the next PPG meeting.

Next Meeting The next would be a joint-meeting with Holy Cross on 5th December at Holy Cross. Fr John requested that items for the agenda should concentrate on points raised by Bishop Philip in his last Pastoral Letter.

Forthcoming Meetings

Next years planned meetings are as follows (All Tuesday's at 1930).

23rd January, 20th March, 22nd May (Joint Meeting with Holy Cross),
17th July, 18th September, 20th November (Joint Meeting with Holy Cross)