

St Edward the Confessor RC Church
Parish Pastoral Group Meeting 23rd January 2018

Minutes of the Meeting

Present: Lorraine Clapham (Chair), Helen Matteucci, Ayad Al-Khoury, Clare Lasker, Paul Carmody, Trish Cassidy, Tony Cassidy, Ann Owen, Paul Owen, Tony Wilson, John Williams.

Apologies: Fr John Nelson, Joanna Azavedo-Parker, Moira Moriarty, Susan Johnston, Jessie Woolgar, Pauline and Sheila O'Neil.

1. Deacon Paul Owen opened the meeting with a reading.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true copy.
3. **Matters Arising**
 - **Priest's Board** - Anne Owen has been to the craft shop in Hiltingbury for advice/ options regarding the lettering on the board. Unfortunately other than painting over the current lettering they were unable to suggest any other option.
Action: Continue with current solution
 - **Pastoral Group minutes** - These should be pinned to the Pastoral Group board. Can members of the PG check that they are on the board as on occasions they have gone missing.
Action: all
 - **The 'Welcome to the Parish' notice in the bulletin** - The Welcome notice needs to be in the Newsletter from time to time and if possible every week. It is recognised that space is limited in the News Letter.
 - **Welcome Card for New to the Parish** - Anne Owen was going to explore producing a card that could be given to New Parishioners to fill in
Action: Anne Owen
 - **Fryern Prayer Group** - This is proving to be very successful. Pauline and Sheila O'Neil are happy to be part of the Pastoral Group but are unable to attend the meetings.
Action: We will ensure that Pauline and Sheila receive copies of our agenda items and minutes of PG. meetings,
 - **Messy Church** - Ayed reported back that he has spoken to Giacomo (parent who supports Children's Liturgy) who was aware of and liked the idea as they have a similar arrangement in Italy. Ayed also brought details of the Messy Church website which is based in Abingdon. For this idea to succeed it will require support and commitment.
Action: Ayed will talk to the lead of Children's liturgy (Natasha) and see whether 'Messy Church' is something they feel is needed and would they be prepared to be involved. The Mum's and Toddlers group may be ideal group to run such a project. Ayed has agreed to go to the Mum's and Toddlers group and talk with Yvette Cardinal. Anne agreed to introduce Ayed to Yvette.
 - **Cleaning Rota for St Eds** - The recruitment drive and Tea and Cake morning was successful and the rota problems have been resolved.
Action: none at present

Agenda

Pastoral Group Table 'Feedback'

- **Entertainment** - A parishioner asked about having more entertainment activities
Action: all social events are already advertised in the Parish News Letter
- **Minister for Altar Servers** - Richard Avery asked that the group explores finding another Minister of Altar Servers, he would be happy to support anyone coming into that role. The importance of the role of altar servers is already promoted during the First Communion Programme. Someone to oversee and train the altar servers is required. This may be something that a senior altar server would be prepared to do. Administrative support is required for record keeping, etc. The Youth Group are looking for more adult helpers and this may be an opportunity to recruit an adult to provide admin support for the Altar Servers.
Action - Paul Owen to talk to the senior altar servers. Lorraine will talk to the Youth Focus group.
- **The Government has appointed a minister for lonely people** - What are we doing to for the lonely in our Parish? The Fryern Prayer group are hoping that once they have a firmly established their group that they will have more opportunities to identify people in need in their area. Valley Park already does this. There are notices in the Newsletter and also on the notice board suggesting that if someone has not been seen at Mass for awhile to contact the Parish office. Good Companions encourages people to join them for lunch. Twenty-four people attended the last luncheon. This is an ecumenical group.
- **How are we supporting divorced and separated parishioners?**
Action: Lorraine to collate - What information / resources are currently available.
- **Children's behaviour can be a distraction to some parishioners** -
Action: Ushers to help families with small children to find seats which are more accessible for them.
- A day for Welcomers needs to be organised
Action: Lorraine and Paul Owen

Joint Pastoral Group feedback 5th December 2017

The key points from this meeting are as follows:-

Parish wide we should be focussing on:-

- Youth, young singles, young married couples, young families
- Promoting vocations
- Prioritising resources

It was agreed that first target area is to focus on the Youth of the Parish. Marianne Wanstall and Catherine Symanski have been running both the inspired group and Time Out Zone for our young people since Richard Martin left the Parish. They need support to ensure the continuation of these two groups. A Youth Focus Group was set up and met on January 10th 2018

Result of the meeting

- The group will produce an information leaflet about Inspire and Time Out Zone which will be given out to Parishioners after Mass targeting families with children.

- Marianne and Catherine with Emily Wanstall have already met with the Confirmation group to promote these groups and encourage involvement.
- Young people from the group will talk to parishioners at the end of Mass - promoting the group's activities and also asking for more adults to be involved.
- Youth involvement activity (parish wide). During Lent, Saturdays Feb 17th - March 31st young people from our parish will help run a Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross Church.
- Marianne and Catherine have expressed their thanks for the support that they have already been given.
- Future possible plans - long term to have a Youth Pastoral Group

Churches Together - Paul Carmody

- Overview of Ecumenical situation - Christian Unity, Sunday service was well attended with good support from the choir and St Edwards
- Lent groups - there are only five groups this year, but more people from St Edwards have signed up this year compared to last year.
- Need to issues details of Christian services on the Parish website as there are no longer leaflets to deliver.
- Street Pastors was initiated by Churches together
- ASDA Chaplaincy - Two chaplains go into ASDA for one hour shift once a week. They are provided with an information folder about a variety of services available to help staff. e.g. debt counselling
- Parishioners may be interested to hear more about this
- Action: Paul Carmody to talk to John de Meo re Ministry day. Lorraine to talk to the Social Group. Chaplaincy is an area that is growing in general.

Christian Aid

Paul informed the group that he will not be doing it this year and asked the Group's views on whether it should continue.

Cold calling ban is an issue for Christian Aid collection. Amount of money collected has reduced year on year. The group supported in principal to stop involvement with Christian AID week and to focus our efforts on CAFOD.

Action: Paul C to draft a note and have a discussion with Fr. John

AOB

CAFOD will continue with their Lenten suppers which at some point will be filmed

Forthcoming Meetings

20th March, at St Edward the Confessor, 22nd May (Joint Meeting with Holy Cross), 17th July, 18th September, 20th November (Joint Meeting with Holy Cross)

NB. Merging of Pastoral areas. It was felt that parishioners did not understand what it meant and that it may be helpful for more information to be given "The intention of the Pastoral Areas was that adjacent parishes within the Pastoral Area would gain synergy from each other as they strive to evangelise. However, as St Swithun Wells was both the Parish and the Pastoral Area there could not be any additional pastoral value because there aren't any adjacent parishes to share with. By combining with an adjacent pastoral area - which to some degree had similar limitations, it is felt that the full benefit of being part of a Pastoral Area can be better achieved by all the individual parishes in the new pastoral area." ref. Paul Wilson

