

Catholic Parish of Belper and Duffield

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

16th September, 2014 at Our Lady's, Belper , 7.30pm.

Present: Fr Michael, Sally Phillips, Bernard Holden, Patricia Lloyd, Barbara Wareing , John Wareing, Louise Monange, Anne Halliday, David Barlow, Bernadette Copeland.

1. Welcome and opening prayer

2. Apologies: Michael Wright, Niels Richthof

3. Minutes of last meeting: Approved. Thanks to Sally P for work here. There were no Matters Arising.

4. Fr Michael told the Council that several months ago Fr John Guest , Vicar General, had discussed with him the possibility of overseeing a Pilot Project involving the clustering of several parishes. To date nothing further has been heard about this, but this makes the opportunity of using the time meanwhile to further develop parish structures in the direction of collaborative ministry all the more important as these, or similar changes, will eventually occur. Some examples of areas where it will be impossible for a priest to continue to micromanage were mentioned. Fr M has sent a set of power point notes from a recent training day in the Diocese to all PPC members to help them further reflect on the issues involved.

With regard to the operation of the Pastoral Council it was agreed that we need to always remember the need to connect with our parishioners, and to get information across more efficiently. Minutes need to be put on notice boards regularly. More information should be shared via the website.

Whilst Parishioners are welcome at all PPC meetings, he suggested they should be actively encouraged to attend and contribute to debate at every second PPC meeting, which would have a more open agenda with a particular topic for discussion. He suggested this would enable us to tap into the energy and wisdom of the whole parish. To this end, the next PPC meeting will be an open meeting on the theme of 'Pastoral Care in the Parish'.

It is hoped a training day can be organised to help us review and reflect on the PPC's way of working in the early summer of 2015.

5. Liturgy: The Blessing of the Sick Service on Sunday last was well received. The SVP arranged transport for those who needed it.

A Meeting of Eucharistic Ministers is to be arranged in October. Helena Carazedo is undergoing training to be a new minister.

Fr M is to write new bidding prayers for weekday Masses, covering a four-week cycle.

6. Spirituality: The newly-formed prayer cluster groups are providing parish support within a spiritual context. Fr M plans that the next meeting might help new group leaders in their own areas. Similar work is also happening within the Mother's Prayer Groups.

The RCIA group work is ongoing.

7. Sacramental Preparation/Youth: Sherri and Lucy are beginning a new Baptismal session in October.

Confirmation activities are on course.

A family request for a Naming Ceremony giving thanks to God for the gift of their new baby was discussed. The precedence had already been set within the parish. This blessing will probably be in October.

Niels sent in a report that the Agape Youth Group got off to a thunderously good start, with an afternoon of bowling and pizza in Alfreton. A "Back to School Bash", together with other churches, is to take place at the end of the month. See Church Bulletin for further updates from Jannice.

8. Evangelisation and Mission: M. Hardwick of the Duffield Christian Council is proposing to offer opportunities for churches to get together during Advent, possibly meeting at Patten Makers' Arms. This could involve using one of the York courses, meeting once a week in the Advent period. These meetings include video and discussion.

CAFOD. Marie Malloy's visit to the Parish was referred to, reminding us that the Centre for Cafod is Crich. David Pipe is Parish rep. John Kelsall voluntarily helps out as needed in the Office.

Sally P reported on her attendance at the Review Meeting of Church Celebration. Interesting points raised included the need for us to re-examine the Symbols within Churches, to ensure that they are relevant today, easily understood by newcomers to the church, and even by all church members. Reference was made to the fact that there may be more occasions when Liturgy will have to be Laity-led. Word and Communion Services are exactly that; these are not, of course, mini-Masses.

9. Ecumenical: The last meeting, held in Our Lady's, was Chaired by Cathy Gorman; Melita Tooher acted as Secretary. Thank you to both for this. The meeting was quite well attended. Information about the meeting needs to go in the bulletin.

David B reported that the Belper Food Bank has had to be re-housed in Belper Mill. It will eventually cost £3000 per year to use this facility. Currently, this bill is paid by the Council. The facilities are used as a depot, to store, label and date parcels, prior to them being delivered to recipients. Bernard H suggested that the Strutt Fund might be able to help out with financing. Parishioners at Belper are continuing to donate food for these parcels. Anthony Ashton is to be asked to set up a similar collection box in Duffield.

10. Planning and Structure: There has been a problem with wheelchair access for a visitor to the Church. It was suggested that, in future, if the turning space is too difficult, arrangements need to be made for the wheelchair to go through the Kitchen to the St Benedict Room.

Painting at Duffield is scheduled for spring.

David B and Michael W have finished painting the outside church windows and doors. Many thanks. The seals of the windows in the St Benedict room, Kitchen and toilets have gone- and at some time in the future will have to be replaced. There is the same problem with the window above the organ in church.

11. Health and Safety: David B offered to get the Duffield Survey completed in the next two weeks.

12. Communication: Notice is to go in the news bulletin about the Art Celebration by Ros O'Melia and Michael Cook for the feast of St Francis.

Fr M and Sally P are to work on Journeys.

13. Social Events /School: The Golden Wedding celebration afternoon in Duffield was a delightful social sharing. John and Barbara thanked the Parish for gifts and Blessing.

Eighteen of the Leisure Group gathered on 4th September to purchase Phoenix cards, making a donation to Macmillan Cancer Care. Meeting on 24th September: a visiting speaker is to offer financial advice. The package is humorously entitled "Tax, Care and Toy Boys". A Cafod speaker is to address the meeting of 9th October.

Pat W proposed that Jannice might be approached to ask her to help the young people to organise a Harvest Celebration.

Fund raising etc: Niels and Jannice R have offered to galvanise the Artists in the parish to put on an Art Display in Duffield, possibly in November. PPC were supportive of this, suggesting that the exhibition could be even more inclusive if cake-makers and craft-producers were encouraged to display their work. I.e: an Arts and Crafts exhibition.

School report will be more relevant as the term progresses. Mass this week will be at St Elizabeth School.

14. Finance: If possible, the Finance Committee could meet before the PPC meetings, so that an up to date report can be given. The picture to date is not clear. The Chair asked for a detailed update.

Requests are made for such things as improved sound systems for visiting clergy, and help for the instrumentalists. As has been said previously, focussed fundraising is effective.

15. Elections: Bernard H and Bernadette C have come to the end of their terms of office. This means that elections are due in October. Anne Halliday has agreed to speak to parishioners, before the election, giving information and seizing the opportunity to encourage dynamic input from parishioners.

As there is the expectation that more room will be needed for the next Open PPC meeting on 11th November, the meeting will take place in Duffield for discussion around the theme of PASTORAL CARE IN THE PARISH.

The meeting concluded with a prayer.

Next meeting 7pm, Tuesday 11th November 2014 at St Margaret Clitherow