

Catholic Parish of Belper and Duffield Parish Pastoral Council | MINUTES (draft)

Meeting date: 19/06/18

Attending council members:

Fr Michael Kirkham	present	John Wareing	present
David Barlow (Chair)	present	Sean Lambert	present
(Vice Chair)	vacant	Jannice Richthof	apologies
Melita Tooher (Secretary)	present	Niels Richthof	apologies
Fiona Cartmell	present	Alan Ward	present
Anne Halliday	present	David Pipe	apologies
John McCabe	present		

1. Welcome by Chairperson, opening prayer

David Barlow welcomed the meeting, especially Heather Ward who has recently joined the Pastoral Parish Council. Fr Michael suggested that someone light a candle and begin with an opening prayer, but as no one came forward lit the candle and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies from Jannice and Niels.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The draft minutes from the meeting held on 16/01/18 and the Open Meeting held on 13/03/18 were both approved.

4. Update on the status of possible Pastoral re-organisation in the Deanery – including the creation of a Deanery Pastoral Council

Fr Michael read a draft plan that he had prepared for the Deanery Meeting on 21/06/18 where the Deanery hope to agree a report to send to Bishop Patrick. Two Vicars General will study the report and make moderations as necessary.

PCC Comments following reading:

Fiona – This appears a fair and reasonable way to progress and it is better to plan ahead.

Heather – Has seen this arrangement in France, and it worked very well.

David B – Which other parish could be joined to?

Fr Michael - Unknown at present – possibly Ripley or Eastwood. Arguments for or against Parish mergers could be made. Current parishes: Bakewell & Hassop, Matlock & Wirksworth, Alfreton & Clay Cross, Ripley, Duffield & Belper

Canon Law states that one priest cannot say more than 3 Sunday Masses. It is possible that in 10 years the Deanery could be reduced to 1 priest. At present the Deanery has 5 parish priests, 2 deacons and 2 active retired priests. 1 priest would prefer to work independently, another is due to retire in a few months, another in 5 years, one is already of retirement age and Fr Michael is due to retire in 13 years. The phased move to joined parishes would enable a slower, planned transition.

Heather – Hyson Green and New Mills may be able to give examples of how these parishes transitioned.

Anne – It will give time to support growth if priests are not being called on to support several different parishes, enabling an outward facing deanery/parish. A recently considered course would need more than 1 priest to help deliver it.

Heather – We need leadership to train and empower the laity. We have to create a sense of energy and new opportunity, energising all the communities so that we can see that we can support each other. Option 2 is 'Head in the Sand'. This idea (Option 1) is not new to the laity. John Paul II called for the Church to 'Awaken the Sleeping Giant'.

Fiona put forward a proposal of support for Fr Michael's plan.

Alan - Option 1 (Fr Michael) has vision and growth being outward facing, whilst Option 2 appeared more of a managed retreat.

David B – We have a vibrant parish here – what are the other parishes like? Do they have a PPC?

Fr Michael – Some are very much priest-led in the traditional way of the past, others self-maintaining but unsure regarding outreach without leadership.

Anne – 'The PPC has heard options 1 and 2 and we strongly support the proposal put forward by Father Michael (Option 1) that the Deanery be re-structured into 1 parish from Autumn 2018.'

Seconded by Fiona and carried unanimously.

5. State of the Parish assessment-Including:

Fr Michael asked the PPC to consider what structure would need to be in place, as the PPC as is would not exist should the deanery become one parish, to enable the churches to co-ordinate and act as a forum for discussion? The arrangement would need to focus on three areas; Pastoral care, care for the fabric of the building and Catechesis.

Fiona – The current PPC could act as a working group

Anne – This group doesn't have a role in these issues at present. For example we don't discuss the Children's Liturgy.

Suggestion of a steering group and have leads for different areas.

Heather – In Wollaton this was trialled and 1 or 2 people became overburdened.

Anne – There needs to be a strategic framework so parishioners know that they can come back to the parish for support.

Fr Michael – Groups such as the SVP need to know that they are not operating in isolation, and that they are not on their own. There needs to be a shared parish vision.

Anne - Each ministry could hold a session to discuss the vision and to explore how they fit into the parish – 'Who we are and what we're about'.

A) Issues around many parish volunteers having been in role for a long time; related to this, a likely large turnover of PPC members at the end of this year

Fr Michael – More than half of the PPC are due to come off the council at the end of this year. We could have a 'Church Council' to bridge the gap. With a wider vision of the parish we could open up the current parish mission and remind parishioners of our parish statement.

B) Assessment of our readiness for mission;

C) The need for a definite programme of catechetical and outreach projects in co-ordination with the Deanery

Proposal that at the autumn meeting we begin to create a new way of working in the church, linking catechesis in the deanery, with some remaining local (music/welcome), dovetailing the transition from PPC to a church council. Discussion regarding the possibility of a separate building committee. This has proved difficult to set up in reality.

Proposal for a new arrangement for a church council that would have an Annual General Meeting open to all parishioners (in the present sense of parish). Each ministry would supply a written report in advance and the evening could end with a social evening.

All vote unanimously for a move towards a church council. Anne and Heather will put this proposal in writing and make a recommendation to be agreed at the next meeting with an Open Meeting to be held in Autumn.

D) Our communications (including the last Journeys magazine; possibility of Parish Facebook page – see accompanying email from Theresa Lambert);

As we launch the FaceBook page we could use the discussion to inform what we'd want to be made available. *Journeys* could be a vehicle for reports from all groups to precede the meeting. A new editor is required for the annual publication of *Journeys*.

6. The state of our buildings:

(a) The situation as most of the Quinquennial repairs and renovations are now completed

John Wareing, Michael Wright and John McCabe have painted, tanked and resolved the damp in the kitchen. All of the immediate and required works have now been completed, and Liz Walker is itemising the remaining tasks (including those which are merely desirable but in no way urgent - such as re-tarmacking the parish house drive).

(b) The centenary of the present church building: any ideas for fittingly celebrating this?

Clarification is required on the actual date of dedication as there is some confusion about the date on the dedication stone: XIII Ante Kal. Jan MCMXIX – does this mean 19th December 1918 or 1919?

Practical suggestions of: replacing the rattling doors, a new sound system, new efficient radiators or double glazing.

Thanksgiving for 100 years of a church in our community. Suggestion of glass engraved doors to commemorate the centenary.

[Since the meeting the question of the date has been checked out by the Archivist – the Centenary falls on 19th December 2019, giving time for further discussion about suitable projects and celebrations]

(c) The formation of a sub-committee to report on state of the audio system at Our Lady's and likely costs of replacement: would the provision of a more adequate and updated system be a suitable centenary project? Any other suggestions?

Agreement that a sub-committee needs to be convened to garner different inputs, including from the Finance Committee, and meet to decide the most practical options and to make recommendations.

7. Dates of future meetings: 18th September and 13th November

Venues to be confirmed.

8. Closing Prayers

Father Michael closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next meeting to be held on
Tuesday 18th September, 7pm until 8:30pm
VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED