

St. Benedict's Church, Stratton-on-the Fosse

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting 11th September, 2019

1. Prayer

Fr Leo led with a reading and a prayer

2. Present

Fr Leo, Fr Michael, Peter Beaven, Liz Avis, Tim Clarke, John McGarvey

3. Apologies

Ophelia Prior, Liam O'Gorman, Louise Avis

4. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting (14th August)^{[L] [SEP]}

These were approved.

5. Matters Arising:-

- a. Parish Climate Change initiative – 2nd showing of 'Global Healing' film on the 29th September<sup>[L]
[SEP]</sup>
This was discussed. Agreed the film to be shown after the 9.00 and 11.00 Masses on the 29th. Discussion to be held after the 11.00 Mass showing. Caroline Lane had suggested there could be a lunch with parishioners bringing food to share but it was felt that this would be inappropriate.
- b. Youth Development: Noah's Camp- feedback<sup>[L]
[SEP]</sup>
Feedback had been very positive. It was agreed that some short feedback should go into the newsletter. **Peter Beaven** will ask Jo Harrison and Tamsin Richardson-Aitken to provide this.
- c. Parish Hall Management
It was agreed to stick with the booking system in the sacristy until demand had increased. At this point we would move to using Tamsin in the Visitor's Centre and publicise this.
- d. Parishioners' emails
In order to facilitate electronic communication we need to collect parishioner's e-mails. We need to comply with data protection rules. **John McGarvey** will draw up a form to get parishioner's consent.

6. Events:-

- a. St. Benedict's School – First Holy Communion Programme
Peter outlined his discussion with Fr James who had agreed that some changes were appropriate. The PPC had felt that the Parish should feature more prominently in the programme and there was concern that so few children attended Parish Mass. Fr Leo will be taking over as Chaplain for St Benedict's. This was welcomed by the PPC as it better linked with the Parish.
However, Fr Michael has already made arrangements with the Headteacher, Cindy Stocking, for her to run the course and obtain the materials.
It was agreed to let Cindy run the course as she wishes and to defer any review and/or suggestions until next year when Fr Leo has had a chance to see what he thinks.

- i. St. Gregory's School
Cathy Wolf to make contact with Chaplain Matt Robinson
 - ii. Home-schooled children
Fr Michael will continue to work with children not attending St benedict's but preparing for First Holy Communion.
- b. Summer Barbecue & Parish Life Celebration - review
It was felt that the event was really successful with about 100 parishioners attending. However, it was felt that the evening got too cold and that the Parish Life Exhibition could have been less cramped and more proactive. The exhibition had to be indoors because of the wind. It was noted that the activities which promoted themselves best were those where coordinators engaged with parishioners (Angela Bennett, Tony Walsh and Caroline Lane were mentioned).
It was agreed that the event should be held in late June or early July and the quiz moved to September next year.
Fr Leo and Peter Beaven will give some further thought to the Parish Life Exhibition to improve it for next year.
- c. Sycamore Course
Peter reported his conversation with Fr Anselm. The new course will run from Tuesday 24th September (7.15 to 8.45) for ten weeks with the possibility of a one-week break in the middle. The venue will be the Church Hall.
The course will be advertised in the newsletter and hopefully promoted at Mass.

7. Parish Website

Peter updated the meeting on progress with the website. Progress has been made but it has been slow. It is now Steve Parsons who will work on this as Beck ward-Murphy will concentrate on the school website.

8. Safeguarding

There was nothing to report

9. Eucharistic Ministry: Priest to announce at Mass to whom Communion being taken to

It was agreed that, to facilitate the parish praying for the sick and housebound, the priest would ask the Eucharistic Minister to come to the altar to be given the Host and the congregation to be told who it was going to – with our thoughts and prayers.

It is necessary for the Eucharistic Minister to give the priest this information before Mass.

10. Harvest Festival 13th October

Peter Beaven outlined his discussion with Julie Justin. Julie has agreed the following:

- The Harvest Festival would be for all Masses on the weekend of the 5th – 6th October
- There will be fresh produce as the central display. Tim Clark said he could get some donated from Manor Farm.
- Besides requesting fresh produce we also request dried goods.
- The display would be organized by Julie and others ready for the Vigil Mass at 5.00 on Saturday 5th.
- Julie will recommend some appropriate hymns for the Sunday Morning Masses.
- Peter Beaven will contact Angela Bennett to ensure the Prayers of the Faithful include an appropriate prayer

- Fresh produce could then be taken for a donation which would go to CAFOD
- Any Fresh produce left over could be used for a soup and cheese lunch that week if Marybell Mellotte is willing. Peter Beaven will talk to Marybell about this.
- Dried Goods would be donated to the Food Bank.

All of this was supported by the meeting.

11. A.O.B

a. Finance

Peter reported that parishioners were confused about parish finance. Three things had been said. Firstly, there was disappointment at the amount raised by collections at Mass and that this was no longer put into the newsletter. Secondly, some parishioners thought that their covenant went to the diocese and not the parish so they had cancelled it. Thirdly, there was a rumour that the diocese levied a £20,000 charge on the Parish.

Fr Michael pointed out that according to the guidance from the Bishop the PPC should not concern itself with finance and the management of finances.

Peter responded that this was not the intention, but that all parishes would wish to ensure that income was not exceeded by expenditure and needed to encourage contributions from parishioners. It was a matter of communication and correcting misunderstandings.

Fr Michael explained that covenants to the diocese were sent to the Parish. Also, the money levied by the diocese was based on the number of churches and obviously this had reduced with the changes over the last three years.

Fr Leo said he had produced a small leaflet on finance and he would try to find this and maybe this could be revised and used again. Fr Leo to bring this to the next meeting.

b. Remembrance Sunday

The PPC was very keen that a service be held at the War Memorial in Stratton-on-the-Fosse on Sunday 10th November.

Fr Michael said he would discuss with the Anglican vicar and make appropriate arrangements.

c. Flower festival

Fr Michael reported that a Flower Festival was being discussed with St Vigor's for Saturday and Sunday 18th-19th July 2020. There was general support for this. Fr Michael will keep the PPC informed.

d. Advent Supper

It was agreed to discuss an Advent Supper at the next PPC meeting.

e. Wi-Fi for the Parish Hall

John McGarvey updated the meeting and will bring further details to the next meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting

23rd October at 7.30

13. Final Prayer

Led by Fr Michael