

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

Pastoral Council Meeting 22nd September at 7.30 pm in St Benedict's Church Hall

AGENDA

1. Fr Leo read the Gospel of the day

2. Present

Peter Beaven, Liam O'Gorman, Liz Avis, John McGarvey, Tim Clarke, Fr Michael, Fr Leo.

3. Apologies

Phil Colbourne is unwell and has resigned from the PPC

4. There was little point in approving the minutes of the last meeting as this was nineteen months ago!

5. Review of the PPC's work during the pandemic.

Peter Beaven wanted to recognise the work done by a large group of Parishioners during the covid pandemic.

When churches were closed for services, Parishioners ensured St Benedict's and the Holy Ghost provided daily opportunities for Private Prayer in a safe and controlled environment.

As soon as collective worship was allowed to resume, Parishioners worked to ensure services could be held in a safe way, complying with the guidance provided by the Bishop's Conference.

6. Membership of the Parish Pastoral Council.

- a. Note that the PPC membership is depleted. Since the last AGM (November 2019) Cathy Wolf, Julie Justin, Jo Harrison and Phil Colebourne have resigned. Peter Beaven is moving to another area so will have to resign.
- b. The constitution (agreed 21st November 2018) says that there should be 12 members:
 - i. 6 elected by open election and to serve for two years before standing down or being re-elected
 - ii. and 6 nominated by the Parish Priests to serve for two years
 - iii. Nominations by the Parish Priests are to be used to ensure all Masses are represented in order to pull the Parish together
 - iv. Elections should take place at an AGM held after the Sunday 6.00 Mass on the Feast of Christ The King.

AGREED:

It was agreed that the current membership should continue until an AGM is held on Sunday the 21st November after the 11.00 Mass.

Members of the PPC and FR Leo and Fr Michael will encourage people to stand for election.

7. Officers of the PPC

- a. A new chair will need to be appointed as Peter Beaven will be leaving.
- b. There is also a need for a Vice-Chair and a Secretary.

AGREED:

Peter Beaven will continue as Chair until the AGM. If he is absent for any reason Liam O’Gorman will take over

8. How can the PPC support the Parish as the monks leave Downside.

There was a wide-ranging discussion on how the PPC could support the Parish and the priests as the monastic community moves away.

Suggestions included :

- co-ordinating and providing Pastoral Support such as Eucharistic Ministers taking communion to the housebound and sick; visiting the sick,
- Liturgical involvement by recruiting and co-ordinating
 - Ministers of the Word
 - Special Eucharistic Ministers
 - Servers
 - Welcomers
 - Sacristans

It was pointed out that it is difficult to get people involved whilst we don’t know what is happening when the monks leave. Questions were raised about:

- the location and frequency of Masses – St Benedict’s, the Abbey Church and the Holy Ghost.
- who the parish priest will be and their views of PPC involvement

AGREED:

To draw up a list of questions for the Abbot to help the PPC explain to the Parish how they might get involved in supporting the Parish when the monks leave. Answers to these questions will provide potential volunteers with a clearer picture of what might be involved.

9. Safeguarding

No issues raised.

AGREED:

Fr Michael will speak to Paul Justin to see if he is willing to continue as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

10. A.O.B

- a. Mr Smith raised the issue of the hedge at St Benedict’s. Fr Michael reported that the hedge had been cut and he will communicate with Mr Smith to ease his concerns.
- b. Julie Justin raised the issue of the AFP boxes as Barbara Lewis was being chased to get them returned and it was not her responsibility.

AGREED:

Fr Leo and Fr Michael will ask for the boxes to be handed in.

Peter Beaven will ask Julie Justin to contact Barbara to reassure her and to email the APF organisers to tell them Fr Michael & FR Leo have taken responsibility for this.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 27th October at 7.30.

12. Final Prayer

Said by Fr Michael.