

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL OF OUR LADY'S CHURCH ACOMB AND
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH GREEN HAMMERTON
Minutes of the meeting of 6 July 2016**

Present: David Barber, David Copeland, Paul Lanfear (Vice-Chair in the Chair), Rebecca Kramm (formerly Elliott), Kath Lyall, Kevin Melody O.Carm, Gareth Morgan, Rosemary Phizackerley, Nan Saeki, Amanda Sturdy and Claire Young.

The meeting took place in St Joseph's Church, Green Hammerton
The meeting began at 7.30 pm.

1. Opening prayer

The opening prayer was said by Kevin Melody

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Angela Clarke, Joe Dale, John Kesterton, Marek Lichtarowicz, Giles Nightingale and Peter Warren.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 16 May 2016 were approved as a correct record.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes and
Notification of items for Any Other Business**

Disability Audit (item 10 of the minutes): Rosemary Phizackerley confirmed that written information should be in black ink in a large font on a white or yellow background for partially sighted people. Laminated notices could cause reflections that made reading difficult. Kevin Melody suggested that matt laminate would avoid this problem.

A welcome notice had been typed by Kevin Melody providing information to be given out to people attending mass. Gareth Morgan noted that the notice was a good length, arranged on two sides of A4. Regarding the information communicated, he suggested that the phrase 'communion under both kinds' could be expressed in a more user-friendly way, and that the acronym RCIA should be written out in full.

5. Liturgy: music at mass - consultation

Kevin Melody reported that, in total, 150 responses had been received in response to the questionnaire sent out asking people about preferences for music at mass. These comprised 120 responses, followed by a further 30 returned on the weekend prior to the Parish Pastoral Council meeting. Questionnaires were returned from people attending both Our Lady's and St Joseph's churches. The majority of responses were from worshippers at the 9.30 am mass at Our Lady's. Both quantitative and qualitative information had been analysed and circulated to PPC members.

The quantitative breakdown of information was based on the earlier response from 120 people and set out as pie charts. The pie chart sectors compared responses to the following at both Our Lady's and St Joseph's:

- frequency of mass attendance by respondents;

- preferences for the balance of music/singing/silence at mass;
- the preferred balance between old and new music;
- the balance between those who would like things to stay as they are and those who preferred some form of change;
- categories of respondents according to age and gender.

The comments of the additional 30 responses were incorporated into the qualitative information provided at the PPC meeting. The qualitative analysis included the remarks and comments made by all 150 people returning the questionnaires. These were divided into the following categories: 1) I'd like to sing more; 2) too much; 3) responses about Communion time and 4) general responses.

Kevin Melody highlighted the following points arising from the survey:

- The greatest number of positive responses came from those attending the 9.30 am mass at Our Lady's Church.
- Some people wanted more music, some less at the 9.30 am mass. Everyone responding from the 5 pm mass at Our Lady's wanted less music.
- Giles Nightingale had provided a response from young people which was included in the comments.
- Overall, there was a close balance between the wish for change and the wish for variation.
- One person had asked if the penitential rite could be sung from time to time which Kevin Melody said was valuable.
- Music played 3 or 4 minutes before the beginning of mass could be used to prepare people by providing a quieter atmosphere.
- There had been some requests for more silence: in particular during the time immediately following communion, when Kevin Melody agreed that hymns could be distracting.
- Appreciation was expressed about the work of the music groups and organists.
- Few respondents provided information about gender. Of the 3 largest groups: about 67% of respondents were aged 60 and over; 15% were aged 51-60 and about 8% were aged 41-50 (using a total of 120 respondents).

Kevin Melody considered that the response to the survey was a mandate for change which would not be radical, but which need not maintain the current status quo. Therefore, on some Sundays there would be more singing and on others less on a rota basis. He would work out a schedule for music at mass at Our Lady's to include:

- some weeks with a limited number of hymns and music;
- some weeks where all parts of the mass would be sung
- some weeks where the music group would be invited to provide music for the mass in their own way

A response would be printed in the newsletter thanking people for taking part in the survey and letting them know the outcome.

Members of the PPC made the following comments:

- There should be a response to those people who wanted some quiet time during the mass.
- There was a query as to whether the size of the response warranted change.
- Some concern was expressed as to whether the changes which included less music might be to the detriment of the current atmosphere of the family mass at 9.30 am. Kevin Melody responded that families could still feel included in the weeks when there was less singing and that children would still be welcome. Masses with less music could still be joyful. It would be useful to hear views from people directly when the changes were implemented. He confirmed that the new arrangements would be reviewed at a later date.
- Some people who could not sing felt discriminated at the masses where a lot of singing was included.
- Kevin Melody considered that there should be more differentiation between masses, for example, between Lent and Easter.
- Kevin Melody asked if an organist would be willing to play at St Joseph's on a monthly or 6 weekly basis unless or until someone local volunteered.
- It was easier to ask people about preferences verbally at St Joseph's than at Our Lady's.
- The next Liturgy Group meeting would take place on 21 July and suggestions were invited before that date.

Agreed:

1. That Kevin Melody draw up a proposed rota for music at future masses at Our Lady's and circulate it to PPC members.
2. That any further comments by PPC members be sent via email to the PPC as a whole for responses.
3. That a response be printed in the parish newsletter thanking people for their participation in the survey and informing them of the outcome.
4. That an organist be available to play at St Joseph's on a monthly or six weekly basis.
5. That the new arrangements be reviewed at a future date.

6. Access Audit

Rosemary Phizackerley reported that Lynda Corker from Parents and Children Together (PACT) had agreed to give a talk on the social model of disability and the Equality Act. She pointed out that the initial consultation had provided a list of suggestions to make Our Lady's a more accessible building and community. These were, however, suggestions and not firm recommendations. It was important that they were followed up by further consultation in order that that disabled people themselves could identify the barriers facing them that should be removed to enable participation in church and parish events. Otherwise there was a danger of introducing changes that were not required. Some things could be done

immediately such as the provision of notices identifying the hearing loop in church. Others may take more time. The table of actions should be brought back to future meetings for consideration as the audit progressed.

Agreed:

The following actions were agreed:

1. That Rosemary Phizackerley:

- arrange a talk for PPC members by Lynda Corker from PACT;
- provide stickers advertising the hearing loop,
- provide a list of British Sign Language into English Interpreters;
- consider means of future consultation for facilities for disabled people, for example with regard to more car park spaces.
- bring back the table of proposed actions to future meetings for consideration.

2. That Kevin Melody look at ways of taping the steps to the altar to make them more visible.

7. Parish Evangelisation Team (PET)

Gareth Morgan reported that One Voice York had recently held an evangelization consultation which David Copeland had attended. David Copeland reported on the presentation which was based on the 'Talking Jesus' research. This had surveyed, among other things, the level of understanding of the Christian faith in Britain today and how often Christians talked about or discussed their faith with other people. The results of the survey required further discussion. There would be another team meeting in September to discuss ideas for progress. The group was looking for new team members.

Agreed

That Gareth Morgan report further updates when available.

8. Any Other Business

Youth Ministry Work

Claire Young reported that the youth team had talked to the children about meeting, but had encountered some difficulties in finding a possible date. The group would be open to children up to the age of 15. The children had said that they did not want a weekly meeting, but were still interested in the idea of a youth group. Kevin Melody suggested that a date be found for the start of the school Autumn Term.

Agreed: That the youth team look at finding a date for a meeting at the beginning of the Autumn Term.

Children's mass

Kevin Melody asked if an additional Sunday mass was wanted for children whether or not they were First Communion children. If so, additional help would be required.

It was noted that St Aelred's School provided a mass, and may be interested in such a project. Another possibility might be to extend the children's participation in the mass beyond First Communion which currently takes place once a month

at Our Lady's. Kevin Melody noted that families already attended the 9.30 am mass, but more children were coming to the 5pm mass. Kevin Melody stated that it could be discussed at the forthcoming planning meeting. Clare Young indicated that she would be willing to help.

Agreed: That Kevin Melody report back to the Parish Pastoral Council following the planning meeting.

Environmental Audit

Nan Saeki reported that an article on responsibility for the environment had been published in the Catholic Voice in April. Following the publication of 'Laudato si, subtitled: on care for our common home', a group of people from the parish had begun to meet to consider ways in which the parish could respond. One suggestion was to undertake a survey to look at education on environmental issues and reduction of waste. For example, Fairtrade products were used to provide tea and coffee, but not for washing up liquids. A meeting had been scheduled for 8 July. There would also be a meeting at St Bede's on food sovereignty.

Kevin Melody endorsed the initiative and offered to provide a link on the parish website. He would welcome feedback from the outcome of meetings. If the brand name of appropriate products was supplied, he would provide them.

Gareth Morgan suggested setting an 'ecological boundary' around the church which could include ways of travelling to and from the building, and monitoring of the use of church heating in cold weather.

Clare Young also reported that the Youth Group had considered a gardening project in which the produce of what was grown could be shared.

Further ideas and suggestions would be welcome.

Agreed

1. That Nan Saeki pass the names of brands of environmentally friendly products for use in the kitchen to Kevin Melody for purchase.
2. That information about the outcome of meetings be passed to Kevin Melody in order that a link be provided on the parish website.
3. That suggestions for progressing the initiative be passed to Nan Saeki.
4. That progress and ideas be reported back to future meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Closing blessing

Kevin Melody gave the closing blessing.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.

Dates of future meetings:

Tuesday 13 September 2016

Monday 14 November 2016

Date of the AGM: Sunday 16 October 2016 following the 9.30 am mass.