

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL OF OUR LADY'S CHURCH ACOMB AND
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH GREEN HAMMERTON
Minutes of the meeting of 15 November 2016**

Present: David Barber, David Copeland (in the Chair), Rebecca Kramm, Kath Lyall, Kevin Melody O Carm, Gareth Morgan, Giles Nightingale, Rosemary Phizackerley, Nan Saeki, Amanda Sturdy and Claire Young.

The meeting began at 7.30 pm.

1. Election of Chair for the Meeting

Both the Chair and the Vice-Chair were unable to attend, members therefore elected David Copeland to chair the meeting.

2. Opening prayer

The opening prayer was said by Kevin Melody.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Joe Dale, John Kesterton, Paul Lanfear, Marek Lichtarowicz and Peter Warren.

4. Resignation

Angela Clarke sent a letter of resignation to the PPC following her recent appointment to a new job. She thanked PPC members for their support and for the flowers and gift she had received on standing down from her post as Parish Administrator.

5. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed with the amendment that 9 am mass should read 9.30 am mass (item 6 7(i)).

7. Matters arising from the Minutes and Notification of Any Other Business

Environmental Audit

Nan Saeki confirmed that she had forwarded a list of environmentally friendly Fairtrade products to Kevin Melody for use in the church hall kitchen. Other issues to do with the environment had been taken up by the Group 'Care for Our Common Home' which would provide reports in the future to the Parish Pastoral Council.

Access Audit

Rosemary Phizackerley reported that she had contacted Lynda Corker about giving a talk to the Parish Pastoral Council on disability issues and provided her with dates for future meetings. She would report back to the meeting when a date had been firmly agreed.

She confirmed that she would give Kevin Melody an item for the parish newsletter to decide whether or not another parking space was needed.

Agreed

That Rosemary Phizackerley bring an updated datasheet on progress on the access audit to the next meeting.

New microphone and speakers for the Parish Hall

David Copeland asked if it might be possible for the parish hall to have a microphone and speakers to allow people to hear announcements during coffee. Kevin Melody agreed that this was a good idea and asked for costings.

Agreed

That David Copeland obtain estimates and advise Kevin Melody of the cost of a microphone and speaker.

Contact details of members of the Parish Pastoral Council

Rosemary Phizackerley reported that she was waiting for the last few members of the PPC to supply her with details of their addresses and telephone numbers and she would then circulate the details to all members.

Agreed

That Rosemary Phizackerley complete the list of contacts for PPC members and circulate them.

8. Constitution

A copy of the Constitution had been circulated to members together with a report pointing out the duplication of the role of the secretary for the PPC in paragraphs 2.5 and 3.6. It had also been pointed out

that it was not clear whether PPC meetings were public or private. Members agreed that non-PPC members should be allowed to attend meetings but would be asked to leave if a particular item was deemed to be private. Gareth Morgan supplied a form of words for the change in the Constitution.

Agreed:

1. That paragraph 2.5 be deleted as it duplicated the role of the parish secretary described in paragraph 3.6.
2. That Rosemary Phizackerley add a paragraph to the Constitution allowing non-members to attend the meeting and explaining their role using the paragraph supplied by Gareth Morgan.
3. That the revised Constitution be brought back to the next meeting for approval.

9. Email from York Mind

Rosemary Phizackerley reported that she had received an email from York Mind suggesting that, should funding become available, Our Lady's and St Joseph's Parish may wish to access training on mental health issues. Members commented that this was a positive idea which could be shared with other churches and faiths in the city if Mind so wished.

Agreed

1. That members note receipt of the email and endorse Mind's proposal of training on mental health issues should funding become available.
2. That Rosemary Phizackerley inform MIND of the PPC's response.

10. Youth Group Verbal Update

Rebecca Kramm reported that a meeting had been held on 14 November to discuss future plans. Because the DBS checks had not yet come through, the next meeting had been planned for 18 December from 3pm – 5pm. It would include festive crafts, games and a 'getting to know you' session followed by a carol service.

Agreed

1. That the verbal update of activities for December be noted and endorsed.
2. That future reports on the Youth Group come to the PPC as and when appropriate.

11. Dates of PPC meetings

A list of dates of future meetings of the PPC from January until September 2017 was provided.

Agreed

Members agreed the dates of future meetings of the PPC until September 2017.

12. Parish Evangelisation

Gareth Morgan set out the history of the Parish Evangelisation Team (PET) at Our Lady's Church which had followed a nationwide initiative entitled 'Fanning the Flames'. Following consultation with Father Pat Smith, a PET had been set up at Our Lady's Church. Last year Gareth had attended a major conference in Birmingham entitled 'Proclaim 2015'. Gareth highlighted the main points in his report pointing out Pope Francis's principle settings for evangelization. He then suggested that the PPC members consider what they understood by the term 'evangelization'.

Kath Lyall pointed out that many people who are sick find it helpful to pray with a prayer group of friends. She highlighted the work of the SVP in York, but said that there were many people they did not know about and that perhaps communication generally about who was sick and needed contact and support could be improved.

Kevin Melody highlighted the Gospel message which defined evangelization by asking what Jesus did, and responded by saying that he cured people and he brought them good news. He emphasised that, as a parish, we need to welcome those who come to church. In particular it was important to engage with families who did not regularly come to mass, including parents bringing children to baptism or families who were bereaved. People often encountered Our Lady's church for the first time in these circumstances.

It was suggested that, as friendship was particularly important to bereaved families, a Bereavement Support Group could be set up to work with families who came into contact with Our Lady's or St Joseph's through the death of a loved one. The team might also provide help at funerals.

Claire Young suggested that there may be an interest in the establishment of the Parent and Toddler Group that could provide a point of engagement with parents who did not regularly come to mass. [Giles Nightingale arrived at 8.15pm].

Giles Nightingale suggested that the parish provided a great deal for those who already came to church, but needed to consider what was being done for those who only came infrequently or who were not Catholics. He suggested that other denominations offered courses for inquirers to find out about faith such as the Anglican church's Alpha Course. He suggested that evangelization should have an equal role to the pastoral in the parish's activities.

Gareth Morgan explained that evangelization should take place through everyday activities but that it had to be identified as a priority. Publicity and 'sowing the seed' and helping people to know Christians in the community all helped. After someone had made a Christian commitment, it was important to support them in growing and developing their faith.

In terms of promoting the work of the parish, Kevin Melody confirmed that a Christmas card would be distributed in co-operation with other local churches. Gareth Morgan suggested that a number of activities could be set up to attract potential enquirers such as asking people if they wanted to light a candle in church or setting up a faith café although it was acknowledged that these proposals would be subject to available resources to organize them. He emphasised the central importance of prayer in evangelization.

Kevin Melody pointed out that, whilst the church invited people to come back, they failed to ask why they had left in the first place. Until that answer was forthcoming, it was not possible to help people to return. Members suggested that a major reason was people's understanding of the church's position on divorced and remarried people taking communion. Kevin Melody pointed out that this was often misunderstood. Gareth Morgan suggested that many people were seeking for meaning in their lives. Kevin Melody pointed out that a major difficulty was that the church only offered the Eucharist as a meaningful community activity.

Clare Young and Giles Nightingale highlighted an on-going negative image of the church presented in the press and other media which influenced people's perceptions. Kevin Melody suggested that the Evening Press could potentially be used as a good source of local publicity. Social media could also be used as a tool of evangelization.

Gareth asked whether members considered PET a useful group, and whether a publicity group for evangelization was needed. Giles responded that a central team could co-ordinate the wider group.

Agreed

That the following suggestions be made:

1. That the parish website include a page to be used as a faith teaching resource.
2. That all members of the PPC consider how to set up and lead a Bereavement Support Group and bring ideas back to the next meeting.
3. That Claire Young see if there was any potential interest in re-establishing the Parent and Toddler Group and report back to the next meeting on any interest that had been expressed.
4. That Giles Nightingale:
 - a. consider how to expand the range of activities outside attending mass, and look at ways of drawing more people into taking part and running them.
 - b. give a short presentation at the next meeting on his findings.
5. That evangelization be placed on the agenda as a theme for regular consideration.

13. Any other business

Raised ledge outside the side door of Our Lady's Church

A letter had been received from the Chair of the 'In Harmony' women's choir who rehearsed in the Father Kelly Room highlighting the hazard of the raised ledge of the wheelchair ramp outside the side entrance door. Kevin Melody reported that the position of the sensor for the light would be improved and the raised ledge would have a white stripe painted on it to highlight it.

Agreed

That a letter be written to the Chair of 'In Harmony' informing her of the changes to safeguard the side entrance to Our Lady's Church.

Coffee after mass on 20 November

An email had been received asking for help in serving coffee after mass on 20 November. As the parish AGM was to be held in Father Kelly Room on that date, it was suggested that coffee be served there and that there would be people available to serve tea and coffee before the meeting.

Agreed

That Kevin Melody inform people that tea and coffee would be served in the Father Kelly Room after mass on 20 November.

The meeting ended at 8.58 pm.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 17 January 2017 in the Father Kelly Room.