

Parish Pastoral Council Committee Meeting

held on

Monday 11 May 2015

Attendees

President: Father Niall Harrington; Fr Niall
Chair: John Geary; JG
Vice-Chair: Alison Huish
Treasurer: Stephen Gallagher SG

Kathy Johnston; KJ
Sue Benjamin; SB
Jenny Sismey JS
Robin McGuinness; RM
Jacqui Davis JD
Claire Hopkins CH.
Patricia MacLachlan PM
Mary Huntington MH

Father Niall opened the meeting with a prayer

1. Apologies received from:

Sue Benjamin and Rachael Williams.

2. Minutes of last meeting / matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda – None.

The minutes of the last meeting on 13 April 2015 were noted as being satisfactory.

3. Calendar and dates.

It was agreed that the previously agreed dates for June and July be combined into one single combined meeting and social occasion to which council members and their partners are cordially invited. This will be Monday 22 June 2015, 8 pm in the conservatory at English Martyrs.

4. Vacancies to fill

None at present.

5. “Live Simply” campaign

To be added.

6. Links with the South African Parish

Fr Niall advised that the information relating to the re-established links and ways to contact it are all on the Parish Website.

7. Justice and Peace CAFOD

There was a Nepal Earthquake Disaster collection and that raised £390.

The Danbury cake sale raised £180 for Christina Aid.

The cake sale at SWF TBC

8. Fabric report: Danbury and South Woodham Ferrers

Fr Niall reported that some minor works had been done to one of the neighbouring fences.

The following are the bullet points being points from the JCC meeting on maintenance for the church:

- Authorisation has been granted for the PAT works associated with portable electrical equipment used in the church e.g. vacuum cleaners, kettle, photocopier, water boiler, audio equipment, etc
- Quotes are being obtained for the decoration works to the ceiling in the main body of the church. This was deemed necessary in view of the fact that it is untouched since construction some thirty three years ago and also before new carpet is installed.
- Quotes have been obtained for replacing the carpet in the main body of the church and the two chair stores. Although funds are available for the carpet works there are insufficient funds for the redecoration works. The latter is deemed essential to be undertaken first and so the JCC is exploring options for fund raising.
- Three quotes have been obtained for the replacement kitchen in the meeting room. The lowest quote has been approved and installation is planned for July.
- The fire officers have been contacted and a date is to be arranged for training fire marshals.
- Quotes are being sought for new notice boards for a) information on Ministers and times of services and b) general notices.

9. Ecumenical report Little Baddow and SWF and JCC
no report.
JCC notes by JM are included in the section above.

Methodist church report - JS

Our circuit superintendent minister Rev. Viv Gasteen retires in July and our new superintendent Rev.

Mike Lewis and his wife Pam will join our circuit in September.

We have been asked to consider a paper presenting ways that our circuit membership can be increased from 800 to 1000 as our membership is not increasing or attracting young members.

We are holding a coffee morning in the meeting room which will raise money for "toilet twinning". This is a charity where you pay £60 to twin a toilet in the church with someone who doesn't have a toilet. When we have the details we will let you know as we would like to make this an ecumenical project.

Report of Anglican PCC Meeting held on 23rd April 2015 SB.

Key Topic - Revd Carol said that looking ahead for the course of this year we had the Garden Party on 13th June, Revd Jane's Priesting on 5th July, book launch of 'Book of Poems', Deanery Confirmation Service in Holy Trinity on 10th November and a new Deanery Vision.

Angela, our Treasurer said that she felt that a decision should be made with regard to using some of the legacy, being held in the bank account, for Sunday Club. Revd Jane is to speak to the Sunday Club team about this.

Angela also reported that we have paid 84% of the Quota expected for first 3 months, which is on target. However her concerns are:

* Less income for first 3 months compared to last year. Nearly £1000 if charity income ignored.

* Whilst we are on target for our 84% of the Quota by end of year we have actually paid less than in first 3 months of last year.

* No clergy expenses claimed for this year so far.

Looking at exact figures for April we will be £700 short for our 84% of Quota this month. We can cover this from ring-fenced money (legacies) which was agreed at a previous PCC meeting, but Angela proposed not to physically take it out of there until the end of the year as income does fluctuate each month.

Following advice from Steve Gallagher when he audited our accounts, Angela has set up a Petty Cash System for people who donate their expenditure to the Church which can then be gift-aided.

Christian Church Council – Revd Carol reported on the meeting held on 18th March. The Bar 'n' Bus was the main topic. It had been established that the churches of SWF had a financial commitment to the Bar 'n' Bus. The Methodists give £500 each year, we give our June charity collection, the Catholics had not donated, Evangelicals hold a fundraising event and New Life Church gave £1100 a year. Revd Carol said that the ministers of all the churches agreed to commit to the financial commitment. Revds Carol and Jane were going along to the Bar 'n' Bus on Friday 24th April to see the Bus at work in SWF. At the 23rd May meeting, the churches are to discuss with the team how to go forward and what the key issues are. It was pointed out that the churches do not have to meet all the costs of the Bar 'n' Bus.

Chelmer Crouch Group – No meeting held. A letter had been sent from Revd Lee Batson notifying us that Boreham had elected to leave the CCG and move to a Mission and Ministry Unit in North East Chelmsford. This is because of the new housing being built around Beaulieu Park which brought Boreham into closer proximity to the parishes in this part of Chelmsford and they felt it was right to focus their attention on that area. Next CCG meeting on 6th May.

Vicar's Remarks: Rev. Carol remarked that Easter was a joy this year after the high levels of activity last year with the Bishop's visit and the Passion Play she did wonder if this year would seem a bit quiet, but it was not so – it was a lovely occasion. The lent course was well received.

We had a Remembrance Service on 21st March which went well as people came to remember loved ones. The crosses went up again. Holy Week night prayer was well attended, as was the Maundy Thursday foot washing service. There must have been about 40 odd people on the walk of witness on Good Friday and the Hour by the Cross was well received. The Vigil service at Top Woodham was a lovely service and we had a packed church for Easter Sunday which was brilliant.

Curate Remarks: Revd Jane said she would be getting ready for her 'Priesting' by going to a special training day and would then be going on retreat. She was looking forward to doing her first wedding on 18th July. She had enjoyed Easter and the Vigil at Woodham Ferrers had been her highlight.

10. Treasurer's report

We started the new financial year (7 April) with an opening balance of £13,498 overdrawn.

Today our balance has been reduced down to £11,890 overdrawn.

Our largest expenditures - since the start of the new financial year - have been Father's Easter offering and quota payments to Brentwood.

On the income side we have already received part of our Gift Aid refund for small donations. We are now able to claim against some elements of cash collected via the weekly collection and since we have 2 separate churches, are able to claim twice. The refunds were £1,137 each. In addition we are expecting around another £9,000, arriving in June or July.

In addition we have received an anonymous donation of £1,000.

So at this stage our finances continue to look more healthy and with a more positive outlook.

11. Diocesan report

As reported above Claire Hopkins is now our Diocesan representative.

At her first meeting on Saturday 30 May 2015, Clare reports as follows:

Bishop Alan started off the morning with a warm welcome and a brief summary of some of the issues facing the diocese over the coming months and years:

- Finances (building upkeep, too many parishes, too many masses, too many employees)
- Education: School Bus Funding (Legal case happening in Wales – Updates on Catholic Education Website)
- 2017 – 100 year anniversary of the diocese

He finished by saying he cannot always solve peoples issues but he is always there to listen.

Three questions were raised by parishioners at this time:

1. Communication: How was this going to be improved across the diocese?
2. Finances: Diocesan and Pastoral Councils not always being consulted on any changes being introduced.
3. How can we allow/encourage, enthusiastic lay people to carry out the church's mission when parish priests sometimes put obstacles in the way.

After commenting on each question raised, he concluded by asking people to only send short snappy emails.

Speaker: Paul Samuels

Paul came to speak to us about Evangelisation. He raised several questions which were discussed in groups and fed back to the whole room.

- What is Evangelisation?
- What is it to be Sacramentalised, but not Evangelised?
- What is New Evangelisation?
- What practical activities could be carried out to encourage Evangelisation in you parish?
- How would you 'kick start' Evangelisation?

Speaker: Fr Simon Penhalagan (Sion Community)

After speaking to us about Evangelisation, and quoting many documents from the Vatican, he posed 2 questions for discussion in our groups.

- What are the needs of the diocese and parishes with regards to being equipped to respond to the mission of the church at this time?
- In what ways may the Lord be asking us to share his love with society at large? What's necessary and what might be possible? How might the love message be sent out?

12. Liturgy group

Sylvia Lanz remains as our representative and will attend these meetings occasionally.

Fr Niall thanked all those for their involvement in the Liturgy recently.

13. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School by Mrs Alison Huish

Recent weeks have been busy at St Joseph's School. In response to the Nepal Earthquake disaster a whole school assembly was presented by Mrs Alison Huish; a CAFOD video was used to illustrate the effects of the disaster in an age appropriate way. The children were invited to bring a good quality book to sell in a book sale for 50p. This raised over £300 which has been sent to the CAFOD appeal.

The children are preparing for the May Procession to honour Our Lady; each child will process in the school grounds and then enter the church where they will present a flower to the school statue of the Blessed Virgin. We pray for good weather!

On Friday 8th May Clara Livesey, Head Girl, was awarded the Diocesan Citizenship Award for our school during a ceremony at Brentwood Cathedral. This was in recognition for her hard work and exemplary behaviour throughout her time at St Joseph's School.

We continue to thank Father Niall for his support with our class Masses and whole school liturgies.

14. Social Committee and fundraising

Parish Raffle

38 letters have been sent to Golf Clubs/Garden Centres/Restaurants/Businesses/Pubs in Danbury/SWF and Little Baddow. So far we have only had one reply from Meadowcroft Garden Centre offering a £10 Voucher. We still have the profit from the Parish Dance and if we do not receive any more donations we will have to use some of that money to buy prizes.

Calendar 2016

We have now received some photos from three or four parishioners. We are still hopeful that we will receive more and will have enough to go ahead with the Calendar. We have listened to the feedback we received and the new Calendars will be smaller. Although they will cost the same to print we will probably sell them for slightly less than we did last year.

15. Presbytery report

John Geary reported that some minor maintenance works had been carried out, plus work in the garden.

16. Any other business
none.

Father Niall closed the meeting with a prayer at 9 pm.