

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY ON 09 JANUARY 2017 AT ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH DANBURY

Attendees:

President: Father Niall Harrington Fr Niall

Chair: John Geary JG

Kathy Johnston KJ, Sue Benjamin SB, Robin McGuinness RM, Jenny Sismey JS, Alison Huish AH, Steve Gallagher SG and Bernard Dayer BD.

Father Niall opened the meeting with a prayer.

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Patricia MacLachlan.

Minutes of last meeting / matters arising

No comments

Calendar and dates

At the meeting it was decided to hold a meeting in February (at English Martyrs) and cancel the scheduled meeting in March.

Vacancies to fill

The position of secretary is yet to be filled.

Live Simply Campaign

Since the report given at the last AGM we have accomplished the following aspects of our action

plan, over and above the activities reported under the

justice and peace heading and counted in the audit as 'already doing' in the action plan for Live Simply distributed at the last AGM:

The following actions were added to meet CAFOD criteria:

1, - a meeting last spring with parish council and premises teams to focus on reducing energy costs at English Martyrs with outcomes including:

use of LED bulbs for lighting;

reducing number of lights on during daytime services;

investigating better roof insulation (live sustain ably)

2. - soup lunches in both churches for lent (EM) and Christian Aid week (HT) (live in solidarity with the poor)

3. - parish walks most months (live simply and sustain ably) and all ideas gratefully received for increasing participation

4 - attendance at meetings to establish a credit union and consideration of using this for our bank accounts (live in solidarity with the poor)

5 - monthly actions (for the 12 months since we began our project) that invite the

parishioners to live simply, sustain ably or in solidarity with the poor. We would be delighted to receive feedback from parishioners about the impact of these suggestions.

6. registration with CAFOD for scrutiny of our records and preparation of evidence files for the scheme's auditors.

The CAFOD monthly email has drawn our attention to an offer that helps us to take action on climate change. If we switch to **Ecotricity**, they will make a donation to CAFOD.

Switch to green energy

We can all take action on climate change. Take power into your own hands, switch your home to renewable energy with Ecotricity and they will donate up to £75 to CAFOD.

It was suggested that Steve, who keeps a close eye on fuel charges, could be asked to investigate if Ecotricity would give us better deal than EM's current power provider.

Justice and Peace

UPDATED at the December meeting. Unfortunately our numbers have dropped from 12 to 6, through house moves and undertaking school governor duties that preclude attendance at meetings for example, but we manage to do some good work. **However some new members would be gratefully received.**

2. From the money we raise at the annual jumble sale we are able to support a Primary School in Hastings Sierra Leone. This year's money has bought 5 new windows in a new class room, built with the help of donations in previous years.
3. We support Fair trade and sell their goods once a month at both Churches. Sales in Holy Trinity are particularly pleasing.
4. We host presentations on matters of social justice such as Lynne Purcell's summary of the response of the CAB to challenges of debt and homelessness. The group was represented at the presentation in June for all Danbury churches on starting up a branch of Essex Credit Unions.
5. As part of our Live Simply initiative we hold about 4 Parish Walks a year on a Saturday afternoon.
6. We hold 3 Cake Bakes a year the money raised goes to various charities. The next one at the end of November will raise money for the New Hall sisters to support their valuable work on the Melbourne Estate.
7. We support a variety of CAFOD initiatives such as the Lampeduza Cross Appeal
8. At the end of Advent we will take the tin collection from both Churches.

UPDATED at December's meeting with the following additions

8. The Advent collection of items from both churches were taken to CHESS.
9. Danbury members of Justice and Peace (and spouses and friends) entered a team in the Little Baddow Dramatic Society Quiz and came second. The £25 prize was donated to CHESS.

Fabric reports

JG reported that he would obtain two quotes for the supply and installation of emergency light fittings for Holy Trinity.

Post meeting note: fittings installed.

JG to arrange installation of door closers to the two meeting room doors.

Post meeting note: Door closers supplied and installed by Malcolm (St Joseph School caretaker) free of charge.

JG to obtain a quote for the replacement of a corroded radiator.

Methodist report

We have been unsuccessful in the first two rounds to get a new minister when Rev. Sue retires. We only have one more chance in January.

We held a coffee morning in November for P.A.R.C. which is a play and recreational centre in Braintree for children with disabilities. One of our church members takes her grandson there. We raised £320.

Liturgy report

Nothing to report.

St Joseph's School report

This term has seen the conclusion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Throughout the year, the children have reflected on the Spiritual and Corporal Acts of Mercy within our school, parish and global communities. The children have had 'Key Actions' to consider such as 'Giving Thanks' and 'Helping our Neighbour'. Teaching staff are supported with their preparations through termly staff training opportunities.

In October members of the Year Six Liturgical Team gathered over two hundred items of food that had been donated by the school community. These items were delivered to Chelmsford homeless adults at the CHESSE night shelter by a member of staff and a School Governor.



To mark the conclusion of the Year of Mercy, the Head Boy and the Head Girl, who were accompanied by Mrs Huish and Mrs Hull, attended a celebration Mass at Brentwood Cathedral. The Head Girl was invited to present an arrangement of flowers to represent the Spiritual Acts of Mercy during the offertory.

The whole school Day with a service church led by laid a poppy on the family loved ones Post was played by



marked Remembrance of reflection in the Father Niall. Each child altar with names of who had died. The Last Mr Clarke.

Class masses have been held in Holy Trinity Church where parents, carers and parish members have been welcomed. Classes have also been invited to attend the parish Thursday morning Mass; both staff and pupils have commented on the spiritual benefits of this initiative. As this term concludes, the children are reflecting on Advent during class lessons and worship. A traditional Nativity will be presented to parents and carers by the children of Pre-School and Reception Class in the last week of term and the children of Key Stage One will present their Christmas Play in the church to parents and carers. There will be a whole school Mass where each member of the school community is invited to bring a wrapped gift for children in need within the diocese. These gifts will be delivered to the regional head office of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

Social Committee

Jim Tidmarsh had agreed to hold a quiz evening on Saturday 25 March in St Joseph's School hall.

100 Club

Nothing to report.

Any other business

None.

Father Niall closed the meeting with a prayer.