

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – 5th April 2017

Present:

Chair Father Robert Murphy

Apologies: Ian Cooper Carol Crowley

Julie Bennett

David Harrison

Maureen Harrison

Maureen Byrne

Sue Kennedy

Secretary Ria Crowley

Sr Sebastian

Not heard from Teresa Cullen or Alisha Gough

Matters Arising:

Father recommended the council continue to meet every 2 months to ensure continuity. Ria is to provide other members with her email address so items for agenda can be added prior to next meeting.

Fundraising:

Gift Aid Scheme – Gift aid can be contributed by those who pay tax, when donating. Numbered envelopes in the Parish help to collect substantial amounts of donations that gift aid can then be claimed on over the course of the year. Gift aid needs to be further pursued and promoted in the church. A promoter in the parish needs to be set up. They will ideally speak about the cause regularly in order to give out more collection boxes and forms for people to register.

There are 50 numbered gift aid boxes and only 22 currently in use. There are a further 50 unnumbered boxes for parishioners who don't pay tax on earnings.

Gift aid needs to be further promoted at other weekend Masses.

Not many attend the 5:30pm Saturday evening Mass this may go with new priest. The Sunday Mass may also change time.

Boxes will need to be given by the promoter that is selected and not Father. Father believes the envelope contributions need to be £5 to cover the cost of the envelopes.

Envelopes also have numbers. The amount is recorded from these and details submitted to inland revenue yearly and tax is returned on those contributions, where able. Gift aid gives 25p to the £1.

Father claims tax back on the plate. He claims on most loose money collected. Numbered envelopes are kept for 5 years. Current position on claiming tax back is that tax can't be claimed back on the heating repair that has just taken place. Rated at 5% energy consumption.

A financial secretary was suggested by sister. Also that we need a person who will be committed to promote. People need to be clearer informed that it will not result in them having to give extra by choosing gift aid.

Ria suggested a possibility of approaching Lisa Cooper. Father informed that Sue Parker also does all accounts for the church and costs all the envelopes.

Christmas /Autumn Fair was a suggestion for fundraising as this has dwindled in support over the last few years. A summer tea was suggested.

UCM have held a silent auction before and this has worked. Might be worth doing as part of a social evening. Father suggested approaching Maureen Prothero or Carol Crowley about this. Ria will action this discussion with Carol. Items could be unusual or make more fun than a serious auction.

Maureen suggested that a summer afternoon fundraiser may work. Let tables out to people wishing to sell. Refreshments could be sold like a car boot. Sold as seen on tables. Could charge a 20p to enter and then people can buy whatever and money also coming in from the lease of the tables.

David suggested a film show and was going to look into this.

A concert could be held in the Parish. Ria will work with Carol to organise musicians and people to perform in this in church then tickets can be sold. Ideally around Christmas time.

A market stall has been held before now in the square in Bloxwich. Father suggested if there was someone interested a license could be looked into in September. We also don't have a current representative in Bloxwich Traders. We have a shop in Bloxwich linked to church so a representative could be chosen. These promote business in the interest of the High Street. Church should have a representative.

The pastoral council should discuss matters arising about worship, community, pastoral events, building, parish and education and also outreach.

Currently there are 20 people involved in outreach. More are needed to help especially at open door to support in providing the lunches. Outreach is a corporal work of mercy in practise. It must continue. Monday outreach through open door occurs once a month. Ria will ask for a link to be put on the school newsletter. Church needs to display more information on this through pictures or a poster to inform. Placing of this needs discussing.

Community building

Churches together. We don't have a representative there. Not necessarily every meeting would be required but a presence would be ideal. This happens bimonthly. Communication between the churches needs to be enhanced. We at the moment feel very isolated. Groups in church need to feedback on what they are doing so we can take this out to the community.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham. Father said a coach could be hired for around July time. Deanery trip. This may be of interest to people in the parish. Walsingham had a big impact on Father. Invite people

specifically as opposed to just putting up posters and waiting for a response. Reach out to people who are unattached. Holywell can also be visited or Mary's mount. Promote a visit like this once a year. Harvington Hall was also suggested. This has been run by Carol in the previous 12 months. It was an interesting location and people were able to make a spiritual connection. We need to look for more like this that enables the parish to come together. Father suggested on a visit a programme for the day needs to be put together and it needs to be spiritual and meaningful. Members are to keep their eyes open for events occurring at pilgrimages. Prinknash Abbey sometimes holds special days in Gloucester; retreat days.

Parent Toddler Group

This is a form of outreach to other parents who might not normally be present at church. They have signed a 12 month contract. They are applying for charity status. The ladies that run it are Ann Hasketh, Kirsty Morall and Lesley Golby. They are St Peter's Toddler Group and have come from the school where this group has been established for over 30 years. The group will need a trustee from the parish for the AGM meeting.

Lent Lunches. Father will collect the soup and rolls for this event.

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 14th June 2017

Julie Bennett has tendered her resignation to Ria (in email) from the Parish Council with immediate effect.

Any contributions for the agenda need to be emailed to Ria Crowley. maria4052005@yahoo.co.uk