

MINUTES of the 241st meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held on Thursday 22nd September 2016 at 7.25pm in the Parish Centre.

PRESENT: Mrs Josephine Lea, in the Chair, Mrs Elaine Durbin, Mr Richard Hall, Mrs Carole Kelly, Ms Debbie Kerry, Ms Rosemary Muntus and Mr Allan Scott.

IN ATTENDANCE: Frank Lea, Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES: Reverend Father David Finegan, Mrs Christine Cannon, Mr Andrew Duxson, Mrs Yvonne Hannan and Mrs Gillian Millyard.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

32/16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: It was agreed that the MINUTES of the 240th meeting of the PPC, held on 26th May 2016, constituted a true record. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

33/16 MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

34/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT SCHEDULED FOR THE AGENDA: The Chairman said she wished to raise the matter of the annual Suffolk Historic Trust Bike Ride.in respect of the support given by the parish.

35/16 DEANERY COUNCIL OF LAITY: The Chairman reported on the meeting that had taken place on 27th July. The chief subject on the agenda had been the "Three Churches Crawl". This will take place on Saturday 24th September. Sixteen members of the parish had signed up to go on the "Crawl" and the coach will leave Our Lady's at 8.30am on the day, visiting Thetford, Bury St Edmunds and ending up at Our Lady's at around 3.30pm. Evening Prayer in the church will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. It is expected that some 100 persons from the Deanery will take part. Various members of the parish will be organising the refreshments.

36/16 REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL GROUP: Gillian Millyard had spoken to the Clerk and given her report. She said that the October Mass for the Sick and Housebound had been discussed at the meeting of the group on Tuesday 20th September and that everything was in hand and organised for the event. She also said that there would be a further meeting of the Pastoral Group on Thursday 24th November when, after some formal business, there would be a social gathering for the members.

37/16 REPORT FROM THE CATECHISM GROUP: Debbie Kerry said that she expected some eight children to be taking part in the next sessions, four children in the class run by Richard Congdon and four in her own class. It was likely, however, that the numbers might rise in both groups. The first sessions would commence on Sunday 25^h September.

38/16 NEWS FROM CAFOD+: Rosemary Muntus reported. Her report will be appended to these MINUTES. After discussion it was agreed that the "Weekly Tip" should appear in the Newsletter and Allan Scott agree to provide a list of around twenty tips that could be incorporated into the Newsletter by Father David, one tip per week.

39/16 PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Carole Kelly reported. She said at a recent meeting it had been decided that there would be no parish bazaar this year. A further meeting would be called in January 2017 to discuss fundraising in the parish and the way ahead. The next World Food Day would take place on Sunday 26th February 2017, the last Sunday before Lent commences. This will coincide with a Children's Mass.

40/16 NEWS FROM STOWMARKET CHURCHES TOGETHER: It was reported that Father David had attended the annual Stowmarket Civic Service on Sunday 18th September. At the most recent meeting he had reported upon the Duck Race and the Parish's Live Simply award. Next year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be from 18th to 24th January and the joint service will be held in the United Reformed Church on Sunday 22nd January 2017. It was reported that there would appear to be some problems with next year's Christian Aid Collection. Although the envelopes could be posted through the doors of residents it was thought that the "No Cold Calling" regulations could preclude the collection afterwards. The matter is under discussion.

The Council reviewed the Church Leaders' and the Local Church Covenants and after a short discussion agreed to their formal approval. Copies of the documents are associated with these Minutes in the Minute Book.

41/16 STOWMARKET & DISTRICT FOOD BANK – UPDATE: The Chairman reported. Jo said that the Food Bank was now back on track with its stocks and reserves. This month, however, at the halfway stage it was stated that the number of parcels sent out was as many as in the whole of September last year. The problem lay in the length of time it took for Universal Credits to click in. It was further reported that the Stowmarket Food Bank was now serving Debenham following the closure of the Forge Food Bank in that location.

42/16 PARISH SOCIAL MAGAZINE: Editor Yvonne Hannan had sent a short report to the Clerk. He stated that the Summer edition had been distributed and was on the Parish Website. She was, however, very short on material for the next issue, hopefully to be got out before Christmas. An appeal will be made for articles and Council members were asked to see if they could help.

43/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. **SUFFOLK HISTORIC TRUST BIKE RIDE:** The Chairman expressed concern that no one had volunteered to help Debbie Kerry with the booking through of personnel visiting Our Lady's and she emphasised that it was important that our parish did participate in the event. It was agreed that we should try to do better next year and Debbie said she would get out her own appeal for assistance well in advance of the event.
- b. **CHURCH CHOIR:** Allan Scott made an appeal for new members for the Stowmarket choir. He asked that people "listen out" for potential members, let him know and he would then make an approach to individuals direct.

44/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, the 241st will take place in the same location on **Thursday 17th NOVEMBER 2016.** The meeting would start at **7.30pm.**

The Chairman drew the meeting to a close with a prayer.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.35pm.

Signed Date