

MINUTES of the 242nd meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held on Thursday 17th November 2016 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

PRESENT: Father David Finegan, President of the Council, Mrs Josephine Lea, in the Chair, Mrs Christine Cannon, Mrs Elaine Durbin, Mrs Carole Kelly, Mrs Yvonne Hannan, Ms Debbie Kerry, Ms Rosemary Muntus and Mr Allan Scott.

IN ATTENDANCE: Frank Lea, Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES: Mr Andrew Duxson, Mr Richard Hall and Mrs Gillian Millyard.

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

45/16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: It was agreed that the MINUTES of the 241st meeting of the PPC, held on 22nd September 2016, constituted a true record. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

46/16 MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

47/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT SCHEDULED FOR THE AGENDA: None was put forward.

48/16 REPORT FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Chairman reported on the meeting that had taken place on Tuesday 15th November. The following subjects were discussed:

- a. **PROPOSED PARISH CENTRE EXTENSION:** The extension had been put forward as the parish's project for *Alive in Faith*, but there was no great enthusiasm from parishioners at large.
- b. **INTERNAL CHURCH ALTERATIONS:** In accordance with the Bishop's instruction after his Visitation with regard to locating the Blessed Sacrament behind the altar of the church, some initial work has been done. The firm of Ormsby of Scarisbrick has visited and taken measurements to see what is feasible and at what cost.
- c. Detailed plans and costings are awaited. Once there is agreement in the parish for the proposals the matter will be forwarded to the Diocesan Liturgical Commission for formal approval. Church re-decoration is on hold until after the alteration works are complete. It was reported that the Keralan community wished to buy and present a new and larger candle stand for the church.
- d. **ACCESS TO THE CHURCH HALL:** A proposal is being investigated to provide disabled access to the upper hall and then use the area for parish social events. The committee agreed that this might be the way ahead and would be of greater benefit to the parish rather than extending and refurbishing the present centre.
- e. **SECOND COLLECTIONS 2017:** The draft list has been discussed and will be published shortly. In discussion it was agreed to combine Fabric Fund collections and Fair trade weekends in an effort to free up more Sundays when there was no second collection. The Crib Offerings this Christmas will be for the East Anglian Children's Hospices, EACH.
- f. **NEXT MEETING:** The Finance committee will next meet on Tuesday 10th January 2017

49/16 REPORT FROM THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF LAITY: The Chairman reported. She said it had been a very interesting meeting with thirty attendees from across the diocese. She had prepared a short summary and this will be distributed with these Minutes.

50/16 DEANERY COUNCIL OF LAITY: Father David reported on the meeting that had taken place on Wednesday 19th October. Much had been said about the "Church Crawl" and how good it had been and all attendees reported various events from their own parishes. A proposal was being put forward to provide some training for readers at deanery level and there seemed to be a good deal of support for this. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 8th February 2016.

51/16 REPORT FROM THE CATECHISM GROUP: Debbie Kerry reported and said that the new term's Sunday classes were under way. Richard Congdon was running the foundation group with around seven children whilst

Debbie had a group of five in preparation for First Holy Communion next year. Yvonne Weller, a relatively new parishioner, was also helping with the classes.

52/16 REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL GROUP: In the absence of Gillian Millyard Christine Cannon said a few words and said that the recent Mass for Sick and Housebound, 16th October, had gone very well. The next meeting of the Pastoral Group would take place on Thursday 24th November in the parish centre.

53/16 NEWS FROM CAFOD+: Rosemary Muntus reported. Her report will be appended to these Minutes.

54/16 PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Carole Kelly reported. She said that there would be a meeting to discuss the future of parish fundraising in January and that the next World Food Day was confirmed to take place at the Cedars Hotel on Sunday 26th February 2017, the last Sunday before Lent starts.

55/16 NEWS FROM STOWMARKET CHURCHES TOGETHER: Father David reported. There would be a United Service in St Peter and St Mary's Church at 6.00 pm on the First Sunday of Advent. The evening before at 7.30 pm, the Combined Churches Choir would be involved in a concert marking the beginning of the Christmas Tree Festival. Both events will be advertised in next Sunday's newsletter. It had now been confirmed that Our Lady's would lead the daily prayers during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Friday 20th January.

56/16 STOWMARKET & DISTRICT FOOD BANK – UPDATE: The Chairman reported. Jo said that the Food Bank was doing very well and was getting a lot of support from our parish, both in cash and in kind. Volunteers were now starting to decorate the 80 boxes that will be made up as hampers for Christmas distribution. 20 had been done by our parishioners this past Tuesday. It was reported that Greens (Removals) were now charging for new boxes at £2 each. Allan Scott said he would investigate other sources for next year.

57/16 PARISH SOCIAL MAGAZINE: Yvonne Hannan reported and said that the Christmas edition was very nearly there, but she needed some more articles particularly of parish events, with photographs if possible. Several offers were made and Yvonne asked that they be with her by no later than the end of the month, 30th November. A suggestion was made that "Spotlight on ..." be re-introduced in the spring.

58/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Allan and Rosemary suggested that the Parish might consider taking out a membership subscription of £50 *per annum* to the Society of St Gregory which would provide materials for liturgy planning and development of ministries. The PPC took note of the suggestion.

59/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, the 243rd will take place in the same location on **Thursday 19th JANUARY 2017**. The meeting would start at **7.30pm**.

At the Chairman's invitation, Father David drew the meeting to a close with a prayer.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.18pm.

Signed Date