

MINUTES of the 243rd meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held on Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 7.25pm in the Parish Centre.

PRESENT: Father David Finegan, President of the Council, Mrs Josephine Lea, in the Chair, Mrs Christine Cannon, Mrs Elaine Durbin, Mr Andrew Duxson, Mr Richard Hall, Mrs Carole Kelly, Ms Debbie Kerry and Mrs Gillian Millyard.

IN ATTENDANCE: Frank Lea, Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES: Mrs Yvonne Hannan Ms Rosemary Muntus and Mr Allan Scott.

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

01/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: It was agreed that the MINUTES of the 242nd meeting of the PPC, held on 17th November 2016, constituted a true record. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

02/17 MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

03/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT SCHEDULED FOR THE AGENDA: The Chairman said she wished to discuss the matter of Parish events and fundraising under this item at the end of other business.

04/17 CAR PARKING AT OUR LADY'S: The Chairman observed that parking, especially on Sundays was once more becoming a problem. Parking at the church for the Sunday Masses should only be for drivers with Blue Badges. Any driver dropping off the less able should use the free parking in the two public car parks close by having let off his/her passengers. It was further stated that no driver should park on Stricklands Road outside the cottages adjacent to the church as this was for residents only. Although parking outside the church on weekdays could be used by anybody it was emphasised that this should be done in a careful and considerate manner making sure that nobody got blocked in as, it was reported, had happened recently. It was agreed to put a piece in the Newsletter and that this be repeated from time to time.

05/17 REPORT FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Chairman reported on the meeting that had taken place on Tuesday 10th January 2017. The following subjects were discussed:

- a. **INTERNAL CHURCH ALTERATIONS:** Some initial work has been done. The firm of Ormsby of Scarisbrick has sent details of two redundant tabernacles that could be refurbished and two suggestions regarding crucifixes. Father David favours the San Damiano design of crucifix and this found approval with the members of the PPC. The cost of the crucifix is £368 plus VAT. Father David awaits further details of the smaller tabernacle which would probably fit in very well in the church. Further details will be disseminated in due course. It was observed that re-decoration of the church would take place after the alterations had been implemented.
- b. **ACCESS TO THE CHURCH HALL:** Two drawings were shown to the PPC and the proposed interior alterations to the hall, including the fitting out of a good sized kitchen and new storage arrangements for the Pre-School group received very favourable comment from the members of the PPC. It was acknowledged that the installation of a lift from the church to the upper hall would need some re-ordering of the ground floor. It is now intended to take the matter to an architect, Tim Buxbaum, with a view to drawing up costed specifications which could then be taken to the parish for

approval. Provided the parish agree with the proposals formal diocesan approval could then be sought. Warm thanks were expressed to Simon Millyard who had been instrumental in getting the plans, thus far, drawn up.

c. **NEXT MEETING:** The Finance Committee will next meet on Tuesday 16th May 2017

06/17 DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF LAITY: The Chairman stated that there had been no meeting since the last PPC meeting, but the next gathering would take place on Saturday 1st July 2017 and she would attend on behalf of the parish.

07/17 DEANERY COUNCIL OF LAITY: Father David said there had been no meeting since October 2016 and the next one would be on Wednesday 8th February 2016.

08/17 REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL GROUP: Gillian Millyard reported. She said that the Mass for Sick and Housebound, 16th October, had gone very well. The next Mass is planned for Sunday 19th March. The next meeting of the Pastoral Group will take place on Tuesday 7th February in the parish centre.

09/17 NEWS FROM CAFOD+: In the absence of Rosemary Muntus the Secretary read the report sent in by her. This report will be appended to these MINUTES.

10/17 PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Carole Kelly reported. She confirmed that the next World Food Day would take place at the Cedars Hotel on Sunday 26th February 2017, the last Sunday before Lent starts.

11/17 NEWS FROM STOWMARKET CHURCHES TOGETHER: Father David confirmed that Our Lady's would lead the daily prayers during the Week of Christian Unity on Friday 20th January and that this year's United Service would take place at the URC Church in Stowmarket at 6pm with "gathering music" from 5.50pm. At the most recent meeting of the group the matter of collections for Christian Aid had been discussed. Door-to-door collections were no longer possible due to Cold Calling restrictions and shortage of volunteers and it had been agreed that each church in the town should mount some sort of fundraising event in support of Christian Aid. It was agreed that this was something that the Cafod + group might like to get involved in.

12/17 STOWMARKET & DISTRICT FOOD BANK – UPDATE: The Chairman reported. Jo said that there had been magnificent support from the parish in the past months and especially in the weeks leading up to Christmas. An item had been inserted into the previous week's Newsletter thanking the parish for its continuing support.

13/17 PARISH SOCIAL MAGAZINE: Yvonne Hannan was not able to attend this meeting, but it was affirmed that she was continuing to gather material for the next edition of the magazine which she was hoping to get out for Easter.

14/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

a. **PARISH FUNDRAISING:** At the meeting held last September it had been agreed to hold a further meeting early in the New Year to decide the way ahead as regards parish fundraising. It was agreed that the meeting be held in the Parish Centre on Thursday 9th February starting at 7.30pm.

- b. BIBLE STUDY GROUP: Andrew Duxson highlighted the Study Group that meets on Tuesday afternoons in the parish centre to study and discuss biblical passages. He commented that the group was very well motivated and said that new attendees would be warmly welcomed. Father David agreed to give information on the group in the Newsletter.

15/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, the 244th, will take place in the same location on **Thursday 1st JUNE 2017**. The meeting would start at **7.30pm**.

Father David drew the meeting to a close with a prayer.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.39pm.

Signed Date