

MINUTES of the 247th meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held on Thursday 1st February 2018 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, Mr Richard Hall, Mrs Carole Kelly, Ms Debbie Kerry, Mrs Gillian Millyard and Mrs Pat Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE: Frank Lea, Clerk to the Council

01/18 WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER: Jo Lea welcomed everyone to the meeting and Father David formally opened the meeting with a prayer.

02/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: It was agreed that the MINUTES of the 246th meeting of the PPC, held on 23rd November 2017, constituted a true record. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

03/18 MATTERS ARISING: Richard Hall raised the matter of the sub-committee meeting that had been proposed at the November 2017 meeting, Item 62/17, to discuss assistance to the Parish Priest. The first meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday 15th February in the Parish Centre.

04/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT SCHEDULED FOR THE AGENDA: There was none.

05/18 REPORT FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Chairman reported on the meeting that had taken place on Tuesday 23rd January 2018.

- ❖ **CHURCH REDECORATION:** Having completed the re-decoration of the Porch, Sacristy and corridor, it was agreed that the Narthex also be painted thus finishing the whole church. Shelves are to be placed over the storage heaters and some rotten woodwork in the Sacristy had been treated.
- ❖ **INTERNAL CHURCH ALTERATIONS:** Father David has spoken to Ormsby and the possibility of using the tabernacle, currently in storage in the Sacristy is entirely feasible. Ormsby will be able to open the tabernacle and supply keys for future use and that firm will also make arrangements to put up the crucifix and install the tabernacle. The previous altar frontal is to be cleaned and mounted at a cost of £208. The location of its display is still to be decided.
- ❖ **ACCESS TO THE CHURCH HALL:** The matter is still ongoing. Simon had been in touch with Tim Buxbaum and the original drawings had been amended in the light of the works already undertaken. It should be possible to put the plans before the Buildings Inspector once the Schedule of Works was received from Tim. It was agreed that the Parish as a whole needed an update on what is being proposed. Although it was not possible to quantify actual costs it was agreed to put an insert into the weekly newsletter to appraise the parish of what has been done and what the way ahead might be.
- ❖ **GIFT AID ON CHRISTMAS AND EASTER OFFERINGS:** It was stated that the envelopes had been printed in good time for Christmas and there had been a good take up by parishioners. The total Gift Aid credit for the parish had not yet been finalised.
- ❖ **CHURCH LIGHTING:** Simon Millyard had now completed the change of light fittings in the raft over the altar, but had still to source spotlight fittings for the two directional lights. He had also changed the lights in the Centre to LED with a resultant reduction in electricity usage.
- ❖ **WORLD FOOD DAY:** It was confirmed that this would take place at the Cedars Hotel on

Sunday 4th February 2018. The hire rate for the main hall was £100, there would be a per capita charge for tea/coffee of £1 and a supplementary charge of £25 to use the kitchen and washing up facilities.

- ❖ **LENTEN ALMS 2018:** The Diocese had directed that this year's collection was to be given to Aid to the Church in Need (for their work in Syria) and Don't Screen Us Out Campaign (for people with Downs Syndrome).
- ❖ **PREZZO WALL:** This wall adjoining a fire escape route from the Church and Centre was said to be in a dangerous condition and beginning to collapse. It was established over ten years ago that the wall is part of the property which is now the Prezzo restaurant and so this was a matter for the diocese. Following the Finance meeting Father David had contacted the diocesan finance office and Colonel Pitt, in turn, has now written to Prezzo Head Office and to the restaurant requesting urgent action.
- ❖ **COACHES FOR DIOCESAN EVENTS:** It was confirmed that coaches had been booked for the Chrism Mass in Norwich, 27th March, and the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, 7th May.
- ❖ **PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** The AGM will take place on Thursday 3rd May starting at 7pm.
- ❖ The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Tuesday 17th April 2018.

06/18 DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF LAITY: The Chairman said that the next meeting would take place on Saturday 7th July. The last meeting had been a major disappointment as the Bishop and Secretary had not attended. Jo said that there appeared to be a lack of interest and direction from diocesan authorities with the result that representation from across the diocese was dropping at an alarming rate. She did, however, say that there had been an excellent presentation from Father Luke Goymour on youth matters. In conclusion Jo said that she felt duty bound to attend the Councils, for as long as they went on, as she was the designated representative of Our Lady's Parish.

07/18 DEANERY COUNCIL OF LAITY: The Chairman reported that the last meeting had taken place on Wednesday 29th November. She had attended along with Father David, as Dean, and Christine Cannon. There had, as usual, been an interesting exchange of news between the Deanery parishes. Very favourable comment had been made on the Day of Recollection that had taken place at Clare Priory last autumn. The next meeting will take place in Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday 14th March.

08/18 REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL GROUP: Gillian Millyard reported. The next meeting of the Group would take place on Tuesday 6th February at which the planning for the Sick & Housebound Mass scheduled for Sunday 4th March would be undertaken. Gillian also said there was a need to recruit more contacts throughout the parish and this matter would be addressed.

09/18 CATECHIST'S REPORT: Debbie Kerry reported. That there were 9 children in the class; most are attending regularly on a Sunday and attending Sunday Mass. Mary Robinson has helped with the class and covered during periods of absence. There have been two parent's meetings, which have been well attended. The topic for the next few weeks is Reconciliation and this will lead to the children's first reception of the sacrament on Saturday 10th March. The classes will be

concentrating on the Eucharist for the rest of the year, which will end with the First Holy Communion Mass on 10th June.

10/18 NEWS FROM CAFOD+: Jo reported that the group had had its usual January get together, inviting several members of the parish who had helped with Cafod projects during 2017. It was further reported that the TWAM (Tools with a Mission) collection had been very well supported.

11/18 PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Carole Kelly reported. Carole said that there was good support for this year's World Food Day, although the total number of tables seemed to be down on last year. There was discussion about the Autumn Bazaar for this year and there was agreement that this should go ahead. It was provisionally agreed that the date should be Saturday 3rd November, providing the URC Hall was available. Carole said she would call a meeting shortly to fully discuss the matter.

12/18 NEWS FROM STOWMARKET CHURCHES TOGETHER: Father David and Carole Kelly had attended the latest meeting. It was reported that the Advent Service had been very well attended. 2018 would celebrate 60 years of Christian Aid collections and whilst it was no longer possible to undertake door-to-door collections each church in the group was asked to undertake fundraising. It was agreed that the effort from Our Lady's should be passed to the Cafod+ group for action. Next year's Christian Unity Service would take place at the New Life Church on Sunday 20th January 2019. It was reported that, after many years of service to Stowmarket Churches Together, Linda Baxter had retired from the group.

13/18 STOWMARKET & DISTRICT FOOD BANK – UPDATE: Josephine Lea said that there was a proposal to hold additional lunch days for disadvantaged children during school holiday times. It was agreed that Our Lady's had no suitable location to hold the lunches, but giving some assistance might be feasible. Jo read out a letter from Mike Smith. The letter thanked the parish as a whole for its continued support of the Food Bank quoting actual figures for weight of goods donated, 1184 kgs, and cash given, £1,160, during 2017. The letter will be posted on the notice board in the Narthex for all to see.

14/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

15/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, the 248th, will take place in the same location on **Thursday 24th May 2018**. The meeting would start at **7.30pm** in the Parish Centre, Upper Room.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.26pm and Father David closed proceedings with a prayer.

Signed Date

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