

MINUTES of the 250th meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held on Thursday 24th January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

PRESENT: Mrs Josephine Lea, in the Chair, Mrs Christine Cannon, Mr Richard Hall, Mrs Carole Kelly, Ms Debbie Kerry, Mrs Gillian Millyard, Mrs Mary Robinson and Mr Allan Scott.

APOLOGIES: Mrs Pat Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: Frank Lea, Clerk to the Council

01/19 OPENING PRAYER: Father David formally opened the meeting with a prayer.

02/19 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT: Jo Lea welcomed Mary Robinson to her first meeting following her election to the PPC and everybody else who had turned out on what was a cold evening. She reported that Elaine Durbin had resigned from the PPC due to her move to Harrogate. This meant that there was still one vacancy for an elected member on the PPC. Jo had replied to Elaine thanking her for her services on the Council and for her work in many other facets of parish life over many years.

03/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: It was agreed that the MINUTES of the 249th meeting of the PPC, held on 4th October 2018, constituted a true record. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

04/19 MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

05/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT SCHEDULED FOR THE AGENDA: Jo said she wished to raise the matter of updating the Parish Directory.

06/19 REPORT FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Chairman reported on the meeting that had taken place on Tuesday 22nd January 2019.

- ❖ **INTERNAL CHURCH ALTERATIONS:** Father David stated that he was still in discussion with Ormsby regarding the final design of base/pedestal for the tabernacle. Once this was determined he was hopeful that the whole project, including the positioning of the crucifix, could be put to the Diocesan Liturgical Commission for final approval.
- ❖ **ACCESS TO THE CHURCH HALL:** The Schedule of Works now complete it was possible to make a rough estimate of the total cost for all works. This would be in the region of £80,000. Diocesan approval for the scheme is now to be sought and Simon Millyard will assist Father David with this process. It was considered that the parish had a very good case for the work especially as it effectively had no church hall where parish events could be held.
- ❖ **PREZZO WALL:** Work was now underway, at Prezzo's expense. (**PPC observation:** Father David commented that the Committee had been led to believe that this would not affect the Fire Escape route from the Centre but in fact the scaffolding erected to prop up the wall has caused an obstruction. It was agreed to contact Ben Nickell, who has been dealing with Prezzo, and inform him of the true situation in order that he contact the contractors to remedy it.)
- ❖ **SUPPORT FOR SIEM REAP:** Frank Lea had raised £930 from his Manaslu trek.

- ❖ With further monies raised from the sale of Jo Lea's preserves and from the monthly Coffee Mornings after 8.30am Mass, the Leas were hopeful of taking over £2,000 to Cambodia in March. There is to be one special collection in aid of Siem Reap on a weekend to be determined in February.
- ❖ GADS APPEAL 2019: This will be undertaken at all Masses over the weekend 2/3 March 2019.
- ❖ WORLD FOOD DAY: This is planned to take place at the Cedars Hotel on Sunday 3rd March.
- ❖ CHRISM MASS 2019: It has been agreed to run a coach to Norwich for this event on Tuesday 16th April.
- ❖ FUTURE DATES: This year's AGM will take place on the evening of Thursday 23rd May and the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Tuesday 14th May 2019.

07/19 DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF LAITY: The Chairman reported that the meeting scheduled for Saturday 24th November 2018 had been cancelled on the evening of 23rd November without any reason being given. No date for a further meeting of the Council has been planned.

08/19 DEANERY COUNCIL OF LAITY: The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 13th March 2019.

09/19 REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL GROUP: Gillian Millyard reported. She said that the last Mass for sick and housebound had taken place on 18th November 2018. Fifteen parishioners had been invited, nine had attended and thirteen cards were sent to those unable to attend. The next planned Mass for sick and housebound will be on Sunday 17th March, St Patrick's Day. A meeting will be called shortly to make detailed arrangements for the event.

10/19 REPORT FROM THE CATECHISM GROUP: Debbie Kerry said that there were only three candidates this year; one in Richard Congdon's Foundation Group and two in Debbie's First Holy Communion Class. The next Children's Mass will take place on 10th March.

11/19 NEWS FROM CAFOD+: It was reported that the group continued to meet monthly, normally on the last Tuesday of the month. The group would be holding its annual New Year meeting cum party on Saturday 24th January in the parish centre. There was some discussion about the disposal of batteries and ink cartridges which parishioners left in the Narthex for recycling. Allan Scott agreed to take these to the Stowmarket Household Refuse site when necessary. A further Prayers for Peace service would be planned in due course.

12/19 PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Carole Kelly reported. She said that the Autumn Bazaar had raised around £2,500 and she would be calling a meeting shortly to discuss plans for future events. The Social Committee would also plan further work on clearing the contents of the garage. Carole said it was intended to have another Fashion Show in collaboration with the United Reform Church, either in late September or early October. The

next World Food Day is to be held at the Cedars Hotel as reported by the Finance Committee. She would be calling for volunteer “chefs” in the near future.

13/19 NEWS FROM STOWMARKET CHURCHES TOGETHER: Jo Lea said that she had resigned from the Group, following some fifteen years’ service, as all the planned meetings for this year clashed with Needham Market Town Council meetings. Christine Cannon and Carole Kelly, together with Father David, would represent Our Lady’s. Father David gave a brief report on the last meeting principally mentioning Christian Aid week which this year would fall in the period 12th to 18th May.

14/19 STOWMARKET & DISTRICT FOOD BANK – UPDATE: Jo Lea reported that she had put an item in the parish newsletter thanking the parish for its very considerable support for the Food Bank both in goods and cash. The Food Bank now has a “Pop-up” shop which operates from Hillside on weekdays, except Tuesdays. She and Mike Smith were thinking about the possibility of locating a similar facility at Our Lady’s on Tuesdays.

15/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS: From Item 05/19 above. Jo Lea said that the Parish Directory was now seriously out of date. She had started work on amendments and invited comment from other members of the PPC. Gillian Millyard agreed to look particularly at the Area Co-ordinators and Contacts for the Pastoral Group. Allan Scott asked that he be given a PDF copy that could be put onto the Parish’s website.

16/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, the 251st will take place in the same location on **Thursday 9th June 2019**. The meeting would start at **7.30pm** in the Parish Centre, Upper Room.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.28pm and the Father David closed proceedings with a prayer.

Signed Date