

MINUTES of the 252nd meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held on Thursday 12th September 2019 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

PRESENT: Father Ioan Sandor, President of the Council, Mrs Josephine Lea, in the Chair, Mrs Christine Cannon, Mr Richard Hall, Mrs Carole Kelly, Ms Debbie Kerry, Mrs Gillian Millyard and Mrs Allan Scott.

APOLOGIES: Mrs Pat Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: Frank Lea, Clerk to the Council

33/19 WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER: Jo welcomed Father Ioan to his first meeting with the PPC and thanked everybody else for attending this evening. Jo then formally opened the meeting with a prayer.

Jo then took the opportunity to thank all those who had worked so hard during the previous week to prepare the presbytery and garden for the arrival of Father Ioan.

34/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: It was agreed that the MINUTES of the 251st meeting of the PPC, held on 13th June 2019, constituted a true record. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

35/19 MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

36/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT SCHEDULED FOR THE AGENDA: Jo said she wished to raise two matters for discussion, namely the Christ figure that had been behind the altar and the matter of elections to the PPC.

37/19 REPORT FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Chairman reported on the meeting that had taken place on Tuesday 10th September 2019.

- ❖ **INTERNAL CHURCH ALTERATIONS:** Frank had contacted Ormsby and had spoken to Bruno Ormsby, the Managing Director. It was evident that no progress had been made over the selection and installation of a tabernacle. The selected crucifix, now in the presbytery, had been paid for as had the work on the redundant tabernacle that had been found in the vestry cupboard. It had been agreed that an invitation be extended to Bruno Ormsby to pay a further visit to our Lady's to discuss the matter and establish the way forward with no further delay.
- ❖ **ACCESS TO THE CHURCH HALL:** It was confirmed that the application for diocesan approval for our scheme had been submitted in late August. The committee which considers such application meets in September and it was hoped that a decision would be forthcoming in the near future.
- ❖ **PREZZO WALL:** Ben Nickell from the Finance Committee was dealing and was hopeful of progress, but as the wall in question was listed various permits to carry out the work had to be obtained.
- ❖ **ESSENTIAL WORK AT THE PRESBYTERY:** Various works had been identified and would be put in hand in due course:
 - **GARAGE DOOR:** This is beyond repair and the door and frame need to be replaced. Work to be commissioned through Manning & Woods.
 - **KITCHEN SINK AND TAPS:** Priority one – the sink and taps are not fit for purpose. Work to be carried out as soon as possible.

- **HEATING:** The system is in urgent need of total replacement. Estimates are being sought from two sources.
- **KITCHEN FLOOR:** Currently covered by flotex tiling. This needs to be replaced and quotes will be obtained for the work.
- **DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM:** This is currently a pink suite and very 1970s. Manning & Woods has quoted around £2,500 to include replacing the floor covering. CL Huntingford has quoted £410, including VAT, but less floor replacement. The committee were minded to accept the Huntingford quote and ask that the floor covering be included at extra cost.
- **GARDENING AND CLEANING CONTRACTS:** Contracts are being negotiated with David Churchyard, gardening, and Elaine, current church cleaner, to undertake work on a regular basis.
- **GENERAL ESTATE MATTERS:** Daniel Millyard has agreed to undertake two tasks requiring specialist equipment, in the presbytery garden.
- ❖ **PERIODIC FIRE DRILL:** The annual Fire Drill is to be organised by Simon Millyard.
- ❖ **ALTAR CANDLESTICKS:** Agreement was reached to replace the current six (chipped) candlesticks with two quality candlesticks.
- ❖ **INDUCTION OF FATHER IOAN:** This will take place at Out Lady's on Tuesday 1st October at 6pm. Invitations to attend will be sent to all Deanery priests and to representatives of Churches Together in Stowmarket.
- ❖ **NEXT FINANCE MEETING:** Will take place on Tuesday 19th November 2019.

38/19 DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF LAITY: The next meeting of this council will take place on Saturday 23rd November. The Chairman will attend on behalf of the parish.

39/19 DEANERY COUNCIL OF LAITY: The next meeting of this council will take place on Wednesday 9th October. Once again, the Chairman will attend on behalf of the parish.

40/19 REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL GROUP: Gillian Millyard reported. She said that the Newcomers Information Form is to be updated. These will be brought into use as soon as possible. The next Mass for Sick and Housebound will take place on Sunday 20th October at 3pm. Invitations will be sent out as usual, but administrative arrangements will be organised by email. Gillian further said that she will be holding a meeting of the group sometime in November to discuss the way ahead.

41/19 REPORT FROM THE CATECHISM GROUP: Debbie Kerry reported that there were only two candidates this year, one in each of the courses. She was hopeful of extra numbers when new families filled in the Newcomers Information Form, once available.

42/19 NEWS FROM CAFOD+: Allan Scott reported. He said that the fish related activities had already raised some £700 – the target had been £170. The group was planning a Fish & Chip supper event, but this would not take place until October on a date yet to be decided. Prayers for Peace was planned for Sunday 24th November and full details would be advised in due course.

43/19 PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Carole Kelly reported. She said numbers for the Parish Summer Party were quite a bit down on previous years. It was unlikely that the Cedars would

be available for World Food Day next year and it might be best to see if this could be held in our own church hall, once refurbished, sometime in 2020. Carole said she was in favour of having a Newcomers Party, but this again really needed the use of a revamped church hall. She agreed to call a meeting to discuss this and to consider other fundraising issues, Baskets of Toiletries and Christmas drinks raffle. This will be advised in the newsletter. The Social Committee will organise refreshments following Father loan's Induction on 1st October.

44/19 NEWS FROM STOWMARKET CHURCHES TOGETHER: Christine Cannon reported. She said that the Stowmarket Funday had been a great success. Our Lady's had been responsible for the Cream Teas, serving over 300 teas. The next meeting of the Churches Together Group would take place in the Parish Centre on Wednesday 18th September. She and Carole Kelly would attend the meeting, and this would be an opportunity for Father loan to meet other clergy from the town.

45/19 STOWMARKET & DISTRICT FOOD BANK – UPDATE: Jo Lea reported that numbers requiring help were still increasing. She commented that Our Lady's contributions, both in goods and cash, continued to be most generous. Once our own parish hall had been refurbished, she was hopeful that the parish could provide a "lunch club" on one day a week during school holidays.

46/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. **RE-LOCATION OF THE CHRIST FIGURE:** The figure was currently located in the garage and it was proposed that it be formally re-located to the vacant plinth in the left-hand transept, above the emergency exit. It was agreed that professional expertise was required to carry out the task and this would be put in hand.
- b. **ELECTIONS TO THE PPC:** Richard Hall explained that there were currently two vacancies for elected members and one Parish Priest appointee on the PPC. In October 2019 four elected members of the PPC would come to the end of their four-year tenure of office. In accordance with the constitution these four members could apply for a further tenure to serve on the PPC. This still left two vacancies for election. A suitable notice will be compiled and entered into the newsletter from the end of September. Election, if necessary, to take place, in the last two weeks of October.
- c. **PROCEDURE AT MASSES:** Father loan said that wished to make some changes as regards the entry procession, to include himself, servers, readers and lay ministers of Holy Communion. He also said that he would like the Altar Server/s to sit alongside him during Mass. Exact details will be worked out and promulgated to all parties with the changes being implemented from the beginning of October. It was proposed that there be some singing, perhaps a couple of hymns, at the 8.30am Sunday Mass. Father loan said he would be happy with this and Jo agreed to speak to Maureen Favager to see if she would be available to play the organ on a regular basis at the early Mass.

47/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, the 253rd will take place on **Thursday 28th November 2019**. The meeting would start at **7.30pm** in the Parish Centre, Upper Room.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.46pm and the Father loan closed proceedings with a prayer.

Signed Date