

MINUTES of the 253rd meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held on Thursday 28th November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

PRESENT: Father Ioan Sandor, President of the Council, Mrs Josephine Lea, in the Chair, Mrs Maureen Favager, Mr Richard Hall, Mrs Carole Kelly, Ms Debbie Kerry, Mrs Gillian Millyard, Ms Rosemary Muntus, Mr Allan Scott and Mrs Pat Smith.

APOLOGIES: No apologies for absence had been received but the Chairman informed the Council that she had received the resignation of Mrs Christine Cannon, a long serving and valued member of the Council over many years. She asked all present to sign a thank you card that will be sent to Christine.

IN ATTENDANCE: Frank Lea, Clerk to the Council

48/19 WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER: Jo welcomed everyone and especially Maureen Favager and Rosemary Muntus as new members of the Council. Jo then formally opened the meeting with a prayer.

49/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: It was agreed that the MINUTES of the 252nd meeting of the PPC, held on 12th September 2019, constituted a true record. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

50/19 MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

51/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT SCHEDULED FOR THE AGENDA: Jo said she wished to raise the subject of communication through local village and town newsletters.

52/19 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: Richard Hall proposed that Jo Lea continue as Chairman for the forthcoming year and this was unanimously supported and agreed.

53/19 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN: Jo Lea proposed that Richard Hall take over the position vacated by Christine Cannon. This was also unanimously agreed.

54/19 MASS TIMINGS – WEEKDAY MASSES AND CHRISTMAS: There was some discussion about the level of attendance at the early weekday Masses. It was observed that there were frequently as few as three or four at the 8 o'clock Masses on Wednesday and Friday. It was ultimately decided to change the Mass times on these days to 10am with the changes being implemented from 1st January 2020. Notification of the changes would be made through the medium of the Parish Newsletter throughout December. On the subject of Christmas Masses Father Ioan suggested that there be one Mass on Christmas Eve and that be celebrated in Stowmarket. After some discussion it was suggested that there be the singing of carols from 8pm with Mass at 8.30pm in Stowmarket. Morning Masses on Christmas Day would be celebrated at 8.30 and 10.15am as usual. Father Ioan said he would discuss the matter with members of the Woolpit congregation on Saturday 30th November after the evening Mass. **(AFTER-MINUTE:** Following discussions at Woolpit Father Ioan has decided that for this year the Woolpit 9pm Mass would remain. He has also decided that in order to make it possible for families to attend a first Mass of Christmas in Stowmarket, this will be held at 7pm following carols from 6.30pm. Further discussions regarding the timings of future Christmas Masses will be held in the New Year.)

55/19 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 has again spoken to Bruno Ormesby and he, as Managing Director of Ormesby, is planning a visit to Stowmarket in December to discuss the

matters relating to the move of the tabernacle and the erection of the crucifix behind the altar. It will be hoped to move matters on quickly following the visit.

- ❖ **ACCESS TO THE CHURCH HALL:** The final detailed specifications have now been agreed and various local builders have been invited to tender for the work.
- ❖ **PREZZO WALL:** Ben Nickell from the Finance Committee was still dealing. The matter is being held up awaiting a decision, by Heritage Mid Suffolk, for the work to be undertaken.
- ❖ **ESSENTIAL WORK AT THE PRESBYTERY:** Various works had been identified and many have now been completed:
 - **GARAGE DOOR:** Now replaced.
 - **KITCHEN SINK AND TAPS:** Works complete
 - **HEATING:** The whole system has been replaced and is working well.
 - **KITCHEN FLOOR:** Works complete.
 - **DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM:** Works complete.
 - **GARDENING AND CLEANING CONTRACTS:** Contracts are now in place.
 - **GENERAL ESTATE MATTERS:** Daniel Millyard has undertaken the burying of the outside electrical cable and the removal of the Pampas grass and root. The area has been grass seeded,
 - **RE-DECORATION OF THE PRESBYTERY:** Proceeding slowly. Most of the ground floor rooms have been done and further work on upstairs bedrooms is to be deferred until next year.
- ❖ **WIFI IN THE PARISH CENTRE:** Plans are being made to move the parish computer from the presbytery to the parish office in order to facilitate the production of the weekly newsletter, but this cannot be undertaken until we have guaranteed Wi-Fi in the office. Investigations are ongoing.
- ❖ **CARPET CLEANING:** It is planned to clean the carpets in the church and vestry next spring.
- ❖ **NEXT FINANCE MEETING:** Will take place on Tuesday 28th January 2020.

56/19 DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF LAITY: The last meeting of this council had taken place at Poringland on Saturday 23rd November. The Chairman had attended and produced notes on matters discussed. These had been distributed to all members of the PPC and a copy will be associated to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

57/19 DEANERY COUNCIL OF LAITY: The last meeting of this council had taken place on Wednesday 9th October in Bury St Edmunds. The Chairman had attended on behalf of the parish. Jo reported that the arrival of new priests in the Deanery had been the subject of comment from parish representatives. She also reported that a Day of Recollection was being planned as a Deanery event, at Clare Priory on a date to be decided in May 2020. Father David Bagstaff will lead on the day. Further details will appear in the Parish Newsletter when known.

58/19 REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL GROUP: Gillian Millyard reported. She said that the last Mass for Sick and Housebound had taken place on Sunday 20th October. Thirteen parishioners were anointed on the day and ten cards had been sent to those unable to attend. The last Group Meeting had taken place on 12th November. There was one new member, Caroline Porter, but two members, Christine Cannon and Terry Thornton, have resigned. A new parish interest form is to be distributed at all Masses from the weekend 30 Nov/1 Dec. This will be accompanied by a letter explaining the reasons for the form, almost amounting to a parish census. A lot of information about the parish is very much out of date. Gillian will report the outcome at the next PPC meeting.

59/19 REPORT FROM THE CATECHISM GROUP: Debbie Kerry reported that there was now only one candidate for First Holy Communion this year.

60/19 NEWS FROM CAFOD+: Rosemary Muntus reported. She said that the Fishpond Project had raised £700 and this had been sent off. The group had sent £100 to CAFOD to purchase gifts for those in need and a further £140 had been donated to purchase a Winter Warmer Pack. Further fundraising activities were being discussed. The Autumn Soup Day had realised £184. Rosemary further said that the Prayers for Peace, 24th November, had been well attended and received favourable comment.

61/19 PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Carole Kelly reported. She said that it was proposed that next year's World Food Day be held on Sunday 23rd February, possibly at the Cedars Hotel. Carole asked that Simon make the usual approach to the management of the Cedars.

62/19 NEWS FROM STOWMARKET CHURCHES TOGETHER: Christine Cannon had sent in a written report. She has agreed to continue to represent the parish on this body together with Carole Kelly. The following events were noted:

- Advent Service: Sunday 1st December, 6pm, in the parish church. Allan Scott has agreed to lead that part of the service allocated to Our Lady's.
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th to 25th January 2020. United Service, Sunday 19th January 2020 at 6pm in the Salvation Army Citadel.
- Pulpit Exchange: The Reverend Rita Carr from the Methodist Church will preach at Our Lady's on Sunday 19th January 2020 at both morning Masses.
- Churches Together AGM: Wednesday 13th May 2020.

63/19 STOWMARKET & DISTRICT FOOD BANK – UPDATE: Jo Lea reported that demand was still high, but Our Lady's contributions, in cash and kind, continued to be very good. Wrapping of the boxes to be used as Christmas hampers has been completed. Our Lady's had done 30 boxes and the remainder, some 75, had been done by volunteers including HSBC.

64/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. VILLAGE & TOWN PUBLICATIONS: The information carried in various publications around the parish was not thought to be wholly consistent. Some were displaying out of date information as regards Mass times and clergy. Members were asked to ensure that the information displayed in their own publication was correct and up to date.

65/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, the 254th will take place on **Thursday 6th February 2020**. The meeting would start at **7.30pm** in the Parish Centre.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.23pm and the Father loan closed proceedings with a prayer.

Signed Date