

MINUTES of the 255th meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held on Tuesday 29th September 2020 at 7.15pm in the Parish Centre.

PRESENT: Father Simon Leeworthy, President of the Council, Mrs Josephine Lea, in the Chair, Mrs Maureen Favager, Mrs Carole Kelly, Ms Rosemary Muntus, Mrs Mary Robinson, Mr Allan Scott and Mrs Pat Smith.

APOLOGIES: Mr Richard Hall, Ms Debbie Kerry and Mrs Gillian Millyard.

IN ATTENDANCE: Frank Lea, Clerk to the Council

16/20 WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER: Jo welcomed Father Simon to his first meeting of the PPC and to all other members of the council, meeting in such strange circumstances.

17/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: It was agreed that the MINUTES of the 254th meeting of the PPC, held on 6th February 2020, constituted a true record. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

18/20 MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETINGS WITH THE PPC: The Minutes of the joint meetings held on 10 and 25 June and 1 and 14 July, having been previously agreed, were formally signed off by the chairman.

19/20 MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

20/20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Jo reported as follows. I have to let you know that Richard Hall has given his apologies for this meeting, but has also tendered his resignation from the PPC effective late October. I would like to record my thanks to Richard for all he has done during his time with us. We already have vacancies on the PPC and we would normally have had elections during the month of October. At the moment this is physically not practical so she proposed we carry on with our present membership and hold elections when normality returns; hopefully sometime in early 2021.

The past few months has been a very trying period for us all, but it was a great joy when we were able to open the church, first of all for private prayer on 18th June and then for the celebration of Holy Mass from 11th July. I think it is important that we minute our thanks to all those who made it possible for this to happen carrying out the removal of pews and deep cleaning in anticipation for the opening. Special thanks go to Richard Hall for his dedicated work in producing the Parish Newsletter during lockdown until the arrival of Father Simon and for drawing up the detailed Risk Assessment which enabled our re-opening to be safely undertaken. I would also like to minute our thanks to all those who volunteered to act as stewards at the Masses arriving early to ensure the church was ready and staying afterwards to do the necessary cleaning. Thanks should also go to Frank for organizing the stewards' roster and this is still ongoing. A big thank you also to Simon Millyard who has worked closely with the contractors, Manning and Woods, to ensure that the refurbishment of the upper hall has gone ahead smoothly and to Gillian Millyard who has spent many hours getting the parish records up to date and making sure that sick and housebound parishioners have been kept in touch.

21/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT SCHEDULED ON THE AGENDA: There was none.

22/2019 REPORT FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Chairman reported that the Finance Committee met on 15th September in the centre. The following matters were discussed/decided:

- ❖ Simon Millyard was appointed Chairman of the committee. Father Simon, quoting from Canon Law, pointed out that the Parish Priest cannot be the Chair of the committee, but is ex officio.
- ❖ Internal church alterations: Correspondence with Ormsby has been re-opened regarding the installation of a tabernacle behind the altar and of the putting up of the crucifix. Mr Bruno Ormsby will be visiting Stowmarket sometime in October to further the matter.
- ❖ Work on the refurbishment of the upper hall is proceeding apace. As you may have seen a lot of the work has been done and the lift is due to be installed in the week commencing 5th October.
- ❖ The committee discussed the necessity for WIFI for the church and centre. Part of the requirement for Wi-Fi arose from the previous requirement to undertake the production of the weekly newsletter in the Presbytery on behalf of Father Ioan. Father Simon was now producing the newsletter himself so there was no need to relocate the parish computer to the Parish Centre. Diane Bowden confirmed that she would continue to work on the parish accounts from home. It was agreed that this matter be put on hold pending the completion of the hall works.
- ❖ Livestreaming of Masses. The committee agreed that there was no need to livestream Masses from Our Lady's. Live streaming from other churches, in the diocese and outside, was widely available. **PPC Comment:** Father Simon led on this item as his would be the final decision in the matter. After some discussion, for and against, bearing in mind Bishop Alan's stated wish for people to return to church in person, Father Simon agreed that if the country returned to total lockdown involving the closure of churches generally, he would consider livestreaming from Our Lady's.
- ❖ DONA. Ben Nickell is looking into this to discover the mechanics of the scheme and cost implications. DONA is an organisation that arranged for routine and special collections by Credit or Debit cards in church. **PPC Comment:** Allan Scott now has this matter well in hand and Ben would be advised that he no longer need to pursue this matter.
- ❖ Woolpit Mass. This is to be re-started on Saturday 17th October.
- ❖ A number of minor works are being undertaken in the Presbytery. **PPC Comment:** It was reported that this was now being undertaken.
- ❖ The next Finance meeting will take place on Tuesday 20th October 2020.

23/20 DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF LAITY: No meeting is currently planned

24/20 DEANERY COUNCIL OF LAITY: Meetings of this Council had taken place on Wednesday 11th March 2020, in Bury St Edmunds, and on 23rd September, by ZOOM. In view of current restrictions, no events, days of recollection etc, have been planned.

25/20 REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL GROUP: Gillian Millyard had tendered her apologies for this meeting but reported that no-one had requested help from the Helping Hands Group and there had been no further forms from new parishioners. Maureen Favager reported that the virtual coffee mornings were still taking place on Monday mornings and Allan agreed to make parishioners aware of the event through the website.

26/20 REPORT FROM THE CATECHISM GROUP: There was no report. It was stated that the “rule of six” did not apply to catechism classes.

27/20 NEWS FROM CAFOD+: Rosemary Muntus reported. She said that CAFOD members, like many other parishioners, have been giving individual donations to Beirut, Coronavirus Cafod Appeal and to the Food Bank. After discussion the group were able to give some money from their funds, £50, to the Beirut appeal and Annie Bowen-Wright offered her garden for a fundraising event which didn't happen. The Parish Just Giving page records that we have donated £1,285 to CAFOD, nearly all of which came from the group's online soup event and event which could be repeated. Before lockdown the group also had a very successful fish and chip supper and hopes to be able to reach out to people in similar ways soon. Allan and Rosemary had taken part in an online conference on involving people innovatively during lockdown for CAFOD which was very informative.

After the end of lockdown, the Lenten Fast Day collection was sent when the parish re-opened. The group now needs to promote the Harvest Appeal to amplify the brief announcement in the newsletter and think how more people can be involved. The Bishops' Conference has asked CAFOD to move the fast day to 9th October so that the Peter's Pence collection, which couldn't be taken up on 29th June, could be held then. Father Simon agreed to make the envelopes available.

28/20 PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Carole Kelly said that nothing of a social nature was currently possible or planned. She thought that holding events in the refurbished Church upper hall might be possible from spring of next year, 2021. It was suggested that the first event to open the hall to the parish might well be a Vintage Tea Party.

29/20 NEWS FROM STOWMARKET CHURCHES TOGETHER: Carole Kelly said that the next meeting of this body is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 7th October. This will be a ZOOM meeting. It was agreed that Father Simon and Jo Lea participate on behalf of the parish.

30/20 STOWMARKET & DISTRICT FOOD BANK – UPDATE: Jo Lea reported that the parish continued to be most supportive of the Food Bank, but that contributions of actual goods was down. Parishioners had, however, continued to be most generous with their cash donations. Jo said that demand on the Food Bank was up 150% on last year. The search continues for alternative accommodation.

31/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

32/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, the 256th will take place on **Tuesday 24th November 2020**. The meeting would start at **7.15pm** in the Parish Centre.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.58pm and the Father Simon closed proceedings with a prayer.

Signed Date

PPC Mins 255