



Sacred Heart Church
 Parish of The Sacred Heart, Flitwick
 Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council
 Thursday, 28 September 2017

PRESENT

Martin Brennan	Helen Burgess
Siobhan Campbell	Eamonn Diver
Maggie Dullaghan	John Fletcher
Canon Bennie Noonan	Deacon Philip Pugh
Suzanne Yates	Jim Aylward – Guest

APOLOGIES

Paula Bates	Diana Page

Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1.	DPP opened the meeting with a Prayer	
2.	Apologies – as above	
3.	Minutes were passed as a true record and agreed that they would be published on website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SY to send to TD
4.	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to send out 2018 dates again 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SY to send out dates
5.	Continuing Refugee Crisis – Jim Aylward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The nightmare situation in the Middle East, particularly in Syria, continues. Two years ago, in September 2015, Pope Francis appealed for each Parish in Europe to take in one refugee family, and more recently, in February 2017, Cardinal Nichols asked for more parishes to sponsor a refugee family. ▪ I am aware that the whole issue has been thoroughly explored, and Anne Gadsden has produced an excellent outline of the story so far. It is apparent that for various reasons we are unable to take a family directly into our parish. Furthermore, there is evidently no prospect of involvement with the Kings Arms Project in Bedford. ▪ The UK Government have agreed to take 20,000 Syrian refugees from the camps in the Middle East over a 5-year period. ▪ I believe that there is a realistic course of action for us as a Parish to become involved and make a real difference. There is now a well-established group in Milton Keynes, known as Refugees Welcome Milton 	

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	<p>Keynes (RWMK). This is collaboration between the MK Council (involving all the political parties), the Red Cross, and the local community. RWMK has already acquired five houses and has taken in 30 Syrian refugees (5 families) and are arranging to take in more. There is further information on their excellent website (rwmk.org.uk). They welcome further support, and their aim at present is to fit out more houses. They have a scheme ‘Just One House’ whereby organisations such as Parish Communities undertake to raise £3,500 for this purpose (i.e. to provide furniture and essential mod cons).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obviously as a Parish we would need to agree how much we can commit to, and how we would raise the funds. I think that the easiest way would be to appeal to families and individuals to sign up to a regular monthly contribution, but we would need to discuss the best way of going about this. ▪ I do believe that this is a wonderful opportunity to make an important contribution to what is surely the greatest crisis of our times. • JA referred to Anne Gadsden’s paper to the PAC. • Milton Keynes has a very good set up and they have a mosque and they would like more support. Could we fit out a house for a family from the Middle East? <p>Discussion that followed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we want to do it as a parish? • Would we pledge to raise £3500? • How can SVP help – would it just be part of parish fund raising? • Not just a house needed but also education and language help etc • When would we launch this if we go ahead? • How would we collect this when we now have so many other needs in the parish? • Most of PPC in favour of supporting this cause but one person was concerned whether it was the best way to do something. • If we agree to go ahead we need another group to lead it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC look at a time when it could be done
6.	<p>Focus Areas of PPC</p> <p>Reflection on Changes so Far – SC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Un’s have started again • Numbers are dropping • There is a concern from some people about what they will do when the 6.00 pm Mass goes 	

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7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should we advertise other churches? • Car park is working well and people are getting to know each other on the walk to the church. • Interesting that 9.00 was our favoured Mass when we had the three but now concern that it is not suitable for families. • New people moving into the area and hopefully they will get used to the 9.00 am Mass <p>Discussion on catechist programme – will we be able to continue For the older youth MD and HB are organising an ALPHA youth programme This will be on Saturdays at 4.00 pm starting 4 November and finishing on 9 June 2018. They will have a retreat on 10 March. This programme is a film followed by discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SY at ask all groups to pray that our parishioners will find it possible to stay with us • HB to discuss with Lucy at St Peters and Paul • HB to check with PB that they follow diocesan procedures
8.	<p>Standing Items</p> <p>(i) Pastoral Area Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report as meeting to be held later • Agreed to ask Anne Gadsden and Peter Leatherland to attend our meetings. Only one of them needs to attend and they could decide on their rota. It would be good if one of them could come on 16 November as Fr. John is attending. <p>(ii) Health and Safety – JFle No report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October annual review to be done. • As far as electrical appliance report is concerned VERY important that if any new electrical goods acquired JFle must be informed. <p>(iii) Safeguarding – PB Safeguarding - in mid October PB will be attending a safeguarding meeting regarding the process of all DBS applications. It would appear they are going to be online which PB is very hopeful will speed up the many renewals that are outstanding. PB has been holding into them, as she knew the presentation would be soon.</p> <p>(iv) Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditors have been here. • Fr. John and HD have agreed how they want to deal with finance. This will be different, as Fr. John would like to have a more direct influence on the church finances. • We have three new counters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SY To ask AG and PL

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	<p>(v) Social Media – MD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had a constant number of people being reached and being engaged. The Buckton Retreat and Fr. Jay were the highest reach we have had in the month of September. <p>(vi) CTA&F – HB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred Heart responsible for placing the CTAF wreath in Flitwick for Remembrance • Advent activities – would we like to be involved in distributing mince pies and flyers with Christmas service dates at the light switch on in Ampthill. We would need to suggest a couple of volunteers to team up with Ampthill Baptist Church. • Publicity: dates for Christmas to Marie Mead by 26 October • Walk of witness 30 March HB offered to help with planning of the event • Pentecost 2018 – 20 May St Peter and St Paul leading • Remembrance 2018 centenary Flitwick will have their service at 11.00 am as well because of the centenary, discussions happening as to how this would work with cadets etc. • Youth activities discussed • Next meeting 15 January 7.30pm St Peter and St Pauls. <p>(vii) Calendar of Events – DPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheet presented to PPC • We have four places at the Eucharistic Conference in September 2018. DPP will attend. We have one family interested in going. Need to find a way to help those attending defray costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lights on Ampthill – DPP to liaise with Charismatic Prayer Group • MM and SY to make note re services and send to DPP
9.	<p>Next Meeting – 16 November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note change of date 	
10.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SC thanked CBN for all is support while he had been our parish priest and wished him well in his new parish. 	
11.	CBN closed meeting with a prayer	