Sacred Heart Church

Parish of The Sacred Heart, Flitwick
Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council
Tuesday 16th January 2024

PRESENT

Myriam Rincon	Fr. Jerry Manomey
Siobhan Lees	Peter Leatherland
Maureen Graham	Kath Greenwood
Aggie Keeble	Mick Fagan
	Eamonn Diver

APOLOGIES

Paula Bates	Hugh Davies
Cassie Wood	

Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1	Fr. Jerry opened the meeting with a prayer.	
2	Apologies – as above	
3	Minutes of October PPC meeting approved and can go on website.	AK
4	Focus Areas for PPC continues to be: • Provide opportunities for parishioners of all ages to grow in holiness and enrich the quality of parish life. • Identify new ways to connect with young people • Raise the awareness of church activities with new parishioners. • Show that we are a caring church by being kind to each other in all that we do. • Create opportunities to grow number of people who do volunteering for the church. • Search out and respond to needs, hopes and ideas of parishioners.	
5	**Matters Arising** • Structure of the PCC PPC members have had the opportunity to review the proposed pillar structure for the Parish Pastoral Council. The next step is to identify how we move forward with the new structure. It has been agreed that in the first instance	KG and SL to undertake the initial work to identify current roles and possible team leaders for each 'pillar'

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	we need to identify current roles within the parish, then we have to access where we have vacancies, and from here approach people who we believe have the skills to join the team. We also need to advertise in the parish newsletter. • We reviewed the Christmas Schedule and Mass times. Masses on Christmas Eve were very well attended and going forward we always need to have two Masses on Christmas Day 9am and 11am. • A suggestion was made at the AGM to see if budget can be made available to have proper stations put in place. Hugh has done some work identifying suitable designs and costs and we now have a preferred design. As Hugh couldn't attend the meeting, Peter will be liaising with him to understand the full cost of the project and the planning that we need to do for the fund-raising appeal. • Suggestion was made by parishioner Carmel Gallagher to reinstate the driver rota scheme to ensure that people who are unable to get to church have the option of getting a lift. The PPC have thoroughly investigated setting the scheme up again and following much discussion and debate it was decided that we are not able to move forward with offering a structured scheme organised by the parish. This is due to the concerns raised in relation to additional legislation that is now in place to comply with insurance and health & safety requirements. • Discussion over the existing Sacred Heart website took place and some members felt that the website needs an overhaul and to look more modern. As none of the recommended web companies replied to our request to quote for the work SL is going to review the existing website and create a plan to make enhancements, looking also to get support for a freelance web developer.	PL SL to inform Carmel Gallagher SL
6	Standing Items **(i) PAC – No report** **(ii) Health and Safety – HD** (iii) We have had no accidents or incidents.	

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	(iv) We are in the process of reviewing our Fire Risk Assessment with the Diocese. (v) Boiler servicing, lighting checks etc should be done in January. (vi) The orange cone outside the front door is to highlight some uneven paving slabs. We are 'in the queue' with the builder to get this done. **(vii) Safeguarding – PB** No issues to report **(viii) Sacred Heart, Flitwick Children's Liturgy-KG** Children's Liturgy of the Word The theme board introduced is a great success with the children. They love pinning their work on it for everyone to see. Fr Jerry is very good at engaging with the children when they present the board after the offertory. One of last year's First Holy Communicants remains in the Mass but now has the responsibility of letting the group know when the congregation are saying the Creed.The numbers still fluctuate but usually about 8-12 children attend. Kath Greenwood Children's Liturgy Co-ordinator **Sacred Heart, Flitwick Youth** The Youth hub numbers have fallen over recent months but hopefully with the start of our Confirmation Sessions at the beginning of January, we can increase interest. Members of our Youth Hub are still signed up on the Coffee Morning Rota after 11am Mass. Once a month they continue to serve Teas and Coffees and usually bring along home baked cakes which they have made. The donations received on that day are kept in a Fund for use by the Youth. Kath Greenwood Youth Hub Mentor **Sacrament Programmes 2023-2024** We have 17 signed up for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation which started in November. Within the group there are 3 older children who have an opportunity during the session to spend some time with Cassie exploring the theme at their own level. Also, with the group there are 4 children who will be Baptised in February. To date we have 13 young people enquiring about preparations for Confirmation and are due to begin on 13th January 2024. Fr Jerry is also instructing an adult who will also be Confirmed in June. Kath Greenwood Catechist for Sacramental Preparation	

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	(ix) SVP – MG **SVP Conference Quarterly PPC Report, Sacred Heart, Flitwick January 2024** We continue to maintain contact with beneficiaries through visits, telephone calls, transport to church, writing letters to a prisoner and visiting Care Homes on a regular basis and having regular zoom meetings with our members. We decided this year with the Advent Giving Tree to donate to the homeless - SMART in Bedford and NOAH in Luton (and new this year) to the Women's Refuge in Bedford. This was very successful, and we had over 1,200 donations! We are very thankful to the generosity of our parish and the charities are hugely grateful. The donations are used at Christmas and during the year. We have recently given donations to Ferndale Care home in Flitwick and to the SVP Kindness Appeal. We are supporting 3 SVP Conferences in India. Also, we have just bought 20 Vinny Packs - (bags to give to homeless people with hat, gloves, socks, toothpaste etc. sometimes sitting outside Tesco). We continue with a busy year ahead and are always looking out for new members to join us. Maureen Graham SVP President, Flitwick **(x) Finance – HD** Income and expenditure report attached with these minutes. **(xi) Property Report – HD** • Lamps in the church have now been replaced and a new light installed in the parish office. • We have had extensive tree surgery carried out – including some additional work due to dead and diseased trees. This should last us for a few years now. • Some of the windows in the Canon Denis room have become cloudy but because of the construction of these windows it is impossible to replace the glass. The problem is an aesthetic one not a functional one, so we have applied film to the two windows facing you as you enter. If people are happy with this as a solution, we do the same to the other windows.	

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	• The shower screen in the presbytery has now been replaced. • We suffered from some leaks during the period of high rainfall. We only get these when the rainfall is high, and the wind blows in a certain direction. We have been trying to solve the problem for years, but we will get the roofers back in shortly. • Solar panels. The cheapest quotation we have been able to source from a reputable company was over £22,000. As the church is only open for a few hours a week the use of electricity is relatively small, so the savings are correspondingly small. The payback period is just short of twenty years and the investment would take about 25% of our reserves. While, from an ecological viewpoint, solar heating is desirable I believe it would be the wrong decision for us at this time. Bedford Borough are offering grants, Central Bedfordshire are not at the moment, but we will monitor the situation. • Stations of The Cross. It looks like we have consensus on the design to move forward with we just need to agree a time for an appeal. I think the first Sunday of Lent would be the most appropriate. • We once again must thank John and Carmel Galagher for their stewardship of the Canon Denis room and the grounds particularly during the heavy leaf fall period. **(xii) Calendar of Events** Please ensure that Aggie is aware of any events in your particular area **(xiii) Social Media** New Facebook page set up, thanks to Aggie for doing this (xiv) **CTA&F** - see attached minutes from recent meeting **Music – HD** No update **(xv) Social Activities – JMcN** No update	
7	**Next Meeting** ▪ The next meeting will take place on Tuesday April16th 2024, please note the earlier time of 6.30pm.	
8	Meeting closed with a prayer led by Fr. Jerry	

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN AMPTHILL & FLITWICK

General Meeting - All welcome

Saturday 13th January 2024, at 9 am,

at Greensand Community Methodist Church, Dunstable Street, Ampthill, MK45 2JS

MINUTES

- **Opening prayer & welcome**
- **Brief reports on**
  - Carol Singing, Ampthill Park (LP)
  - Singing in the rain! About 25 attended, including people who turned up remembering the event was held each year.
  - Discussion about having other carol events in Tesco and Aldi for this Christmas, MA and Mariella Cook to make contact
  - Carols at Flitwick (CH)
  - SS P&P not at this meeting to report
  - Christmas services, warm spaces (MA)
  - Warm spaces info is still being circulated on FB
  - Methodist Church created a resource for Advent / Christmas that has been shared with us "Out of the Ordinary", available from Methodist website, if anyone wishes to use this year https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/30322/out-of-the-ordinary_worship-resource-final.pdf

- Methodist Church 150 yr anniversary weekend went very well and events continue to raise money for Action for Children

- **Planning:** (from events calendar)
  - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, **21st January, 2024** (HB/BH/CH)
  - 6:30pm at St. Andrew's Church, Ampthill
  - Refreshments afterwards
  - Helen to email reader allocation out
  - Christian Aid Coffee morning, Flitwick – **16th Feb 2024**
  - Sheila S, Margareat F, Marjorie A, Debbie B and Hillary W are the team for the day
  - Request cakes and raffle gifts via email, delivery on the day or contact CTAF for collection / delivery in advance
  - Provide CTAF info on tables (MA) and DL to contact Ann Blair to get CA flyers
  - World Day of Prayer, **1st March** (SS)
  - St. Andrews's, Ampthill 10:30am
  - Sacred Heart, Flitwick 7pm
  - SS holding a planning mtg at Wednesday 17th Jan @2pm
  - Good Friday/Easter Day (MA)
  - Walk of Witness - 10am from St. Andrew's to Ampthill Baptist Church
  - Sunrise Service - 6:30am led by Claire Harald at St Katherine's Cross
- CTAF Accounts (MA)

- Any other business
- Children's event in park to be planned for May Half Term holiday
- CA Big Brekkie - Saturday 11th May at Sacred Heart
- Community Cafe at the Upper Room, Ampthill Methodist 10:30 to 13:30 each Thursday everyone welcome, please share info

Date of next meeting - Saturday 9th March @ Flitwick Methodist

- Close of meeting