Sacred Heart Church

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

PRESENT

Myriam Rincon	Fr. Jerry Manomey
Siobhan Lees	Peter Leatherland
Hugh Davies	Kath Greenwood
Aggie Keeble	Cassie Wood

APOLOGIES

Paula Bates	Eamonn Diver

Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1	Fr. Jerry opened the meeting with a prayer.	
2	Apologies – as above	
3	Minutes of January 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* Work to date on the structure of the PPC was discussed and passed to Fr. Jerry. A recommendation was made to identify roles that are already been undertaken by individuals. This is a starting point to see where work is already been undertaken and to identify gaps that need to be filled.	KG to action and forward to AK

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	• ***Easter Celebrations***	
	We reviewed the Easter celebrations, and everyone was very pleased with how things went, Easter Sunday was especially busy with lots of visiting families attending Mass. However, we do need to review the pre preparation for the sacristan on Holy Thursday.	Fr. Jerry
	A suggestion was made that going forward we may need a co-ordinator to synchronise all activity as the workload is too much for the Parish Secretary to undertake.	
	Audio issues when live streaming the Mass have been apparent and compromising the quality of the broadcast.	HD to look into this issue and make recommendations.
	• ***Stations of the Cross***	
	Thanks to the amazing generosity of the parishioners, we have been able to purchase the Stations of the Cross and a sample will be made available for people to view. The stations will be commissioned and blessed at the Feast of the Holy Cross Mass on Thursday, 14 Sept 2023.	Fr. Jerry
	We will also purchase a new lectern out of the money raised for the Stations of the Cross appeal.	HD
	• ***Pilgrimage 2025***	
	The next parish pilgrimage will take place in May 2025 which will be 'Following the footsteps of Saint Paul in Greece'.	HD
	• ***Year of Prayer***	
	2024 has been designated as a particular time of prayerful preparation for the forthcoming Jubilee Year 2025. During this year we will focus on the 'Our Father' which is the heart of all prayer. A board will be created to raise awareness to get parishioners involved especially our young people.	KG
	• ***Parish Website***	
	The existing website layout has been mapped, research has been undertaken into best practice for a modern engaging website and a new layout has been created for the PPC to approve.	SL

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	• ***Casper Database*** HD and PL are working with the designers of the Casper system so the software can be tailored to our requirements. It was suggested that the various parish groups would be a good way to communicate how to add details etc. and the benefits of the system to the parish. • ***200 Club*** PL made the PPC aware that due to diocesan regulations all winners must now have their prize in the form of a cheque. This cannot be done as an electronic bank transfer.	HD&PL
6	Standing Items (i) PAC – No report (ii) Health and Safety – HD No accidents, incidents or near misses to report. We hope to shortly relay the uneven paving slabs to the front of church. All fire extinguisher testing and servicing is now complete for this year as is the electrical portable appliance testing. (iii) Pilgrimage 2025 – HD The consensus on the preferred location for a parish pilgrimage in 2025 shows Greece- the footsteps of Saint Paul – being the favoured. We are working with Special Pilgrimages at some options which we hope to present in May. Please note that Leighton Buzzard are organising a pilgrimage to Rome in 2025. (Theresa Short, the organist, was also awarded a Bene Meranti medal at the same time as Suzanne and Klara) Please also see the notices for the Diocesan pilgrimages available on the notice board. (iv) Safeguarding – PB No issues to report. The DBS renewal programme will start soon as volunteers need to be renewed every three years (v) Sacred Heart, Flitwick Children's Liturgy-KG During Lent the Children's Liturgy group adopted the theme 'Prayer journey through Lent' with weekly Promises. This was linked to Pope Francis' call for a year of prayer in preparation for Jubilee Year next year.A display was created on the board at the back of church, and we added 40 prayers. **Stations of the Cross** for children also took place on Holy Saturday morning. The readers were children and young	

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	people from this year's FHC, Confirmation, and past Sacramental programmes. Even, the under 5's were encouraged to take an active part. The attendance was very good with families other than the readers attending. **Easter Sunday** 11am Mass was led by youth and children. Two of this year's Confirmation candidates selected the hymns and provided the music accompaniment. The Readings and Bidding prayers were read by children of the parish. **Easter Egg Hunt** after both Masses on Easter Sunday. Few children attended the 9am Mass this year but after 11am Mass the Egg Hunt proved popular with children and adults! **Easter Egg Raffle** - proceeds (£172.00) being used to help with the cost of a coach to BLAZE Day Retreat organized by Northampton Diocese in June, for this year's Confirmation group. Kath Greenwood Catechist for Sacramental Preparation Liturgical Update • Congratulations to our newly appointed Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. It was noted at retreat that some people have been exercising their ministry for over 30 years. Congratulations to them too. • Given requests from some mass attenders the musicians are looking at introducing some new hymns including some more modern ones. (vi) SVP – MG SVP Conference Quarterly PPC Report, Sacred Heart, Flitwick April 2024 We have had a busy quarter maintaining contact and visiting our beneficiaries in our area. We had a Coffee Morning in Flitwick Village Hall and made nearly £200. We supplied and served Fish and Chips to the residence of Ferndale Care Home, which was greatly appreciated. We served homemade Soup and rolls in the Canon Denis room to parishioners and have sent £354 to Sudan and South Sudan. We donated 70 Easter Eggs to Food Xtra, Flitwick to help with food boxes over the Easter holidays.	

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	We are hoping and encouraging a couple of prospective new members to join us. Maureen Graham SVP President, Flitwick (vii) Finance – HD Income and expenditure report issued at the meeting (viii) Property Report – HD • Following a fire risk assessment requested by the Diocese we have installed two new smoke detectors; an external fire exit lighted sign and intumescent strips to 5 doors plus some updated signage. In all other respects our fire safety status was considered excellent. • Given the large amount of information now coming from the Diocese rather than increase the size of our parish newsletter we have installed two larger notice boards in the lobby to accommodate all the Diocesan information. • The new Stations of the Cross have arrived. We are investigating the best way of fixing them. All the people who sponsored individual Stations will be given certificates of appreciation. At the donors request their names will not be released but Station No 15 is dedicated to the people of the parish. We were able to get a good discount so there is some money left over which we would like to put to the cost of a height adjustable readers lectern. • The lawns to the back and side of the church have become ingrained with moss, which is not a good long-term potential, so we are looking at ways of treating this. (ix) Calendar of Events Please ensure that Aggie is aware of any events in your particular area (x) Social Media New Facebook page set up which Aggie is keeping up to date. CTA&F - see attached minutes from recent meeting Music – HD	

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	No update (xi) Social Activities – JMcN No update	
7	**Next Meeting** ▪ The next meeting will be the AGM which will take place on Tuesday July 9th, 2024, at 7pm	
8	Meeting closed with a prayer led by Fr. Jerry	

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN AMPTHILL & FLITWICK

General Meeting - All welcome

Saturday 9th March 2024, at 9 am, at

Greensand Community Methodist Church, Chapel Rd, Flitwick, MK45 1EA

Minutes

- **Opening prayer & welcome**
- **Brief reports on**
    - Week of prayer for Christian Unity service

Worked very well with the Taize service, low attendance

    - Coffee Morning for Christian Aid, Flitwick Village Hall

£326 raised, easy to run, well attended.

Next one 25th October 2024

    - World Day of Prayer (SS)

Both services were a lovely moving event but with low attendance, similar to CU event, what else can we do to encourage people to attend? £261.51 raised

- **Planning: (**from events calendar)
    - Good Friday Walk of Witness, 29th March (MA)

Service ready, pls bring hi-vis if possible for the day's walk, refreshments at ABC. We are covered by public liability insurance up to £5m for this event. Could we host a family "hot cross bun" service in future years?

    - Easter Day Sunrise Service, 31st March

6:30 in Ampthill Park, to be led by Rev Clare.

CA Big Brekkie

Saturday 11th May in Sacred Heart - ministers table TBA. Please email us if you are available to help.

- Breeze in the Park (celebration of Pentecost, 27th or 28th May) (MA)

Children's event in theme Pentecost, wind (Kites, paper boats across a pond, etc)

Ampthill Town Council are supporting us in this event. More info to follow

- ?Summer event in Ampthill/Flitwick?
- CTAF Accounts (MA)

Treasurer required for CTAF, a minimum amount of work, please email if you are able to help

- Safeguarding and GDPR

CT Beds now have a safeguarding policy and RA

- Any other business

CT Beds Annual Forum in Lidlington 6pm buffet, 7pm AGM followed by speaker on Wednesday 17th April, Marjorie attending, all welcome

The new crematorium will be opening this year in Flitwick, maybe CTAF can be present on special days (Mothering Sunday, Easter, Christmas etc) providing refreshments and comfort

Soup for Sudan - Sacred Heart Tuesday 19th March 12 til 1:30pm

DDay 80 service at St. Andrew's Sunday 9th June at 6:30pm, details to follow

- Date / venue for next meeting

Saturday 29th June @ Ampthill Baptist Church