

MINUTES OF PARISH CORE TEAM 13 DECEMBER 2022 @7:30pm (postponed from 6/12 due to illness)
PRESENT: Kevin Rourke, Claire Fairlie, Robin Landells, Canon Tim Madely, Jenny Marsden
OPENING PRAYER Cn Tim
APOLOGIES: Claudine Maude, Denis Woodhouse, Denise Bass (Secretary)
Minutes of previous meeting were agreed
Correspondence: the meeting was asked to reconsider its recommendation not to allocate parish funds for the hire of a meeting hall for the CFG. The Parish Core Team meeting recognised that the CFG does a great deal of good work both practically and pastorally for our communities and was at pains to express its gratitude and admiration for this. It was also recognised that feedback to the CFG had been slow and has resolved to act on this as an area for development as it becomes more established. The position of the PCT remains that it cannot recommend to the funding of alternative meeting rooms. It was thought that all groups that decide to use outside resources should fund this themselves. The PCT is aware of many calls on parish finances during the current economic crisis and it is sad that not all calls can be accommodated. The offer of the use of the Parish Hall (at no cost) at times when it is not already in (paid for) use was reiterated.
Finance: update for end of year finances is being prepared. Confirmation of the official 'end of year' as 31 March is being sought. The greatest financial liability at W Grinstead is the repayment of the loan for repairs to the organ. Current balance £12,500. Repayment of this money remains a priority in terms of outgoing expenditure commitments. Finances for Billingshurst have been handed-over (from Justin) to Cn Tim pending appointment of new personnel to manage these. Figures are produced by Neville (?) and reviewed by Cn Tim and DB. It was suggested that a Finance Meeting be held in January, inviting all parish Finance Team members to come together. The aim is to merge both parishes into one financial hub (when practical) in future. This merger would also provide opportunity to invite new people to join the committee. Transcribed notes from RL as follows: • Organ repayments £231 per month for the organ rebuild project from 2007 • Last payment due 1 July 2027 • Loan balance £16k at 30 September 2021 • £694.44 per quarter • Loan balance stands at £15.5k at 31 October 2021 • In 2022 £2777 paid back • Loan balance stands at £12.5k
Our Lady of Consolation – updates and developments: Altars from Womersley have been dismantled and partially delivered to W Grinstead with the rest to follow. They will be securely stored on the grounds of the church in sealed packing cases until fitted into the church at a future date. The architect will be asking for 3 Quotes for the works to be carried out, on the understanding that the works cannot proceed until finances have been made available. Kneelers that need to be reupholstered and/or repaired are an ongoing project (RL) to follow-up the 3 quotes needed prior to work starting.
St Gabriel's – updates and developments: Sale of the land at Pulborough, planning application is being resubmitted and works to address water consumption at St Gabriel's is ongoing.

A new water heater for parish hall is to be installed, assessment of works to repair external wiring of hall and more efficient taps to be fitted in the priest's house.
Outdoor crib is in place (thanks noted: to Gary) and fitting of suitable lighting is under discussion. Signage for accessible toilets and direction to the church hall to be put on an A-frame for display outside church during times when the building is open. Gary to be approached possibly, to make the frame (KR).
Fencing for the boundary of the priest's garden requires 3 quotes, now that a small group of parishioners has cleared the existing fence. Chris Dobbie to be approached again to confirm quote. (RL)

Suggestion Boxes and emails from both churches: KR noted that more suggestions are being received by email than by handwritten notes. Billingshurst box to be re-checked in case anything has been missed. RL to check the box at W Grinstead.

Kathy Bishop has offered to help with a Christian Enquiry Q and A to explore and deepen our faith (for anyone who would like to attend, once the sacramental programmes have been completed). Cn Tim suggested 'Sycamore' DVD presentations might be a good starting point for this as other parishes (inc Horsham) have found them useful. It was noted that Kathy is proactive and generous with her contribution to our parish. The Faith magazine might be linked to our parish website or promoted via the parish newsletter (KR suggested the website link).
Heating has been raised as an issue – the church at W Grinstead being v cold and drafty in places. Cn Tim noted that the heating has been more efficient this year than in many previous years. Keeping church doors open to welcome people may contradict the need for warmth in the building. Point to be monitored...?

Synod Qn3 "Speaking Out": the meeting discussed how and when we can feel safe or confident enough to speak out about our faith. It was agreed that the Synod Groups were a valuable opportunity for listening and speaking respectfully, freely and openly to different and diverse thoughts and opinions.

Opportunities for further discussion or meeting are evident in our parish – Zoom rosary group, Lenten groups that built-on the Synod groups, Christian Friendship Group.

It was suggested that a coordinator with oversight of the different groups might be useful (KR)
The formation of Lenten Groups for 2023, on the foundation of the Synod groups was suggested and a focus for this would be needed from January (Cn Tim).

Other possibilities for sharing and building faith were suggested; Bible Study House Group (JM)
Teams of Our Lady (KR)

The possibility of a Press Officer role might be useful in the near future for disseminating our collective voice and actions within the parish. This would be on a local level to avoid misinformation of any matters relating to diocesan or national issues. Initially, Cn Tim asked the PCT to consider/suggest to him, anyone who might be suitable for this role, prior to advertising in Newsletter.

The Church has begun, at the direction of Pope Francis, to address the need for a greater breadth of representation in some areas of Church administration (such as the appointment of bishops) and the introduction of new ministries for lay people (see 'The Word Who Is Life' Pastoral Plan) is evidence of this at a Diocesan level.

Feeding back to people who have approached the PCT may need to be more proactive so that people who are exercising their voices feel heard and acknowledged.

Welcomers could benefit from a 'feedback to all' the essential points of their role going forward (CF) DB to confirm with Cn Tim if an email from Margaret Fraher has been received (with electronic notes for suggestions of how to make improvements).

While not a voice, the service of others speaks to our life as a parish. Thanks for flower arrangers and the offer of help with flower arrangements for Easter was raised, to share the load if it is becoming burdensome? (JM)

Recognition and thanks for the services of the many people who help in our parish was suggested by Cn Tim. Potentially a gathering at Easter.

Meeting ended with a prayer Cn Tim

Next meeting: Tuesday 10th January 2023. 1 Carylls Meadow, W Grinstead (JM)

Minutes CF