

Meeting of Parish Core Team 10 th May 2023 7.30pm	
Present:	Kevin Rourke (KR), Claire Fairlie (CF), Canon Tim Madeley (CTM), Jenny Marsden (JM), Claudine Maude (CM), Denis Woodhouse (DW)
	Minutes Secretary: Denise Bass (DB)
1.	Opening Prayer
2.	Apologies: None
3.	Minutes of the last meeting: KR queried that there was no mention of discussion about the census at the last meeting. DB looked back at notes and found it had been omitted. The following was discussed at the last meeting: The census was last done at St. Gabriel's in 2018 and the response was quite low. It's not known when a census at Our Lady of Consolation was last done. The form needs to be straight forward to complete. They will be completed at Mass after a short homily. Pens will be provided. It will take place on two Sundays in order to catch as many parishioners as possible.
4.	Matters arising from the Minutes not on the agenda: The burglary at St. Gabriel's was caught on the CCTV but the image was very poor and no details could be seen. New, more up to date CCTV cameras have been purchased which give a much clearer picture. The property manager is dealing with repairs and the insurance claim.
5.	Finance: RL has resigned from both the Core Team and the Finance Committee. KR suggested that it provides a good opportunity to create a new finance committee to cover both churches and to look out for some new volunteers for the roles not covered. It was suggested that the committee needs to comprise: Chair, Gift Aid, Property, Health and Safety, and Fundraiser. CTM and the PCT to identify people to approach.
6.	Update on developments at Our Lady of Consolation: CTM reported that he had received the second instalment of the donation towards the organ debt at Our Lady of Consolation. He has also been offered financial help towards a project at the Shrine in memory of a loved one. He thought perhaps this could be to help with the cost of installing the new font which has now been released from the Diocese of Salisbury. Once in place a memorial plaque could be added.
7.	Update on developments at St. Gabriel's: CTM has recently had a meeting with the property manager. The main points discussed were the disabled access to the church and the hall. Linked with this the white lines indicating the parking bays were raised. CF said it was great that the church is so full on Sunday now but it is becoming increasingly difficult to find somewhere to park. This is in part due to inconsiderate parking and of course this isn't helped by the fact that the white lines have almost disappeared. CTM said that the white lines would be repainted once the slope up to the front door of the church had been built as it would have an effect on the amount of space left at the front of the church. It was felt that two disabled spaces are needed: one at the front of the church and one near the hall. The team requested a timescale on this project and it was hoped that works would be completed by 31st August. In the meantime DB will place a notice in the newsletter requesting more considerate parking.
8.	Synod Question 6 Part 2: Dialogue in Church and Society The Core Team examined the second part of the summary of responses to this question and made the following observations: CTM said that in smaller dioceses such as our own it may appear that nothing is happening with regard to the Church being involved in the wider society and its problems. In bigger dioceses such as Westminster, Birmingham, Liverpool etc. there would be homeless shelters, community hubs etc. These do happen in our diocese but perhaps are less visible.

	• There is a need for more Catholics to be politicians and councillors. At the higher level the team felt this was more difficult as the Church's values are contrary to those of modern life. • Some of the initiative for projects to help could come from the laity rather than the clergy. • The team could produce a list of volunteering opportunities within the parish with time limits clear to encourage people to commit. This could be available at the Parish day in September. • The existing groups in the parish and some of those from local organisations such as Street Pastors could be invited to make a 2 minute presentation at the Parish day. • We need to be aware that how we deal with people on a 1 to 1 basis has a profound effect. • The A&B News used to raise awareness of what was happening at a diocesan level but this is no longer in production. The diocese does produce E-news each week which people can subscribe to. This excludes those who do not use the internet. • Perhaps computer and internet training could be offered? Maybe this could be done through Churches Together in Billingshurst? KR to investigate.
9.	New Parishioners' Get Together: A new date has been agreed: Friday 26th May at 7.30pm. DB and KR have emailed invitations and the invitation has been put in the newsletter. A few replies have been received already and the deadline is 22nd May. DB will print some for both churches so welcomers can give them to any newcomer they spot. Nibbles and a glass of wine will be provided. DB will ask Jasmin if she'd like to provide the food. KR and DW will be responsible for getting the drinks. There will be a short welcome by KR, and the Core Team will be there to mingle and chat. DB will provide labels for name badges.
10.	Census: The census will take place over two Sundays in the Autumn. Parishioners will be able to complete the forms at Mass. GDPR statement will be included to inform people how the information will be used and stored. People will be given the opportunity to opt out of how they will be contacted. There will be the opportunity to complete the form electronically. DB to produce a template for discussion at the next meeting. The team looked at the new parishioner form. To be added – the parish email and phone number so people can contact if they wish. To keep – people's occupation as it is useful to know peoples' skill set. To remove – 'ex directory'.
11.	Suggestion Box Submissions: Painting the lines in the car park at St. Gabriel's – see 6. Could we have a catering team for parish events? The team thought this was a good idea. Volunteers needed so this could be on our list of volunteering opportunities within the parish.
	Date of next meeting: 21 st June '23 7.30pm at JM's house
	Final Prayer