

Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church, Norbury

MINUTES OF THE PARISH AGM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY 2016

Those present included:

Fr Deo, Fr Paul, Richard Bush, Gerard Cowie, Tony McGing, Gordon Clark, Richard Harries, Savio Fernandes, John Ambler, Melvin Carty, Lucy Nwagwu, Deacon Ged Perkins, Tony Price, Eddie Sanders. (Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Members) Rosemary Clark, Andrew McMillan, Jo Taylor, Jonathan Akehurst, Katheleen Netherwood, Linda Leggett, Christine Dicker, Ruth Kamalagharan, Sabina Bush (Representing various parish groups and parishioners).

Apologies were received from:

Claire Rhodes, Teresa Furtado (PPC Members); Therese Martins, Nana Bonsu (Parish groups)

The meeting commenced at 8.10pm with an opening prayer from Fr Deo.

Reports were received and read out from various persons and groups, the full contents of which are available at the back of the church:

1/ Fr Deo's report as President of the PPC. This covered the following areas:

- The Pastoral Visitation by Bishop Patrick Lynch
- The Diaconal Ordination of Ged Perkins
- The Parish Mission
- Lenten/Easter/Christmas Liturgies
- Reverence and respect in church
- The reintroduction of the Legion of Mary
- The Clergy Support Fund
- 24 Hours for the Lord and Parish visit to the Door of Mercy at the Cathedral
- Future plans including the purchasing a Parish Mini Bus and the reintroduction of the Parish Bazaar

Comments relating to this included the following:

The length of the Easter Vigil - Could it be shortened? Some found it tiring and burdensome, and many then felt unable to stay for refreshments afterwards

Some found the idea of silence in Church difficult to accept, especially with children, and they see the Church as a meeting place

There is an argument that children should be better educated about why silence is important

It is important to remember at all times the presence of Jesus Himself in the Tabernacle

Naturally, babies and young tots are not expected to behave like adults

The idea of bringing back the weekly coffee bar, with the provision of free beverages, as a way of enabling parishioners to socialise in the hall rather than the Church was raised. This would require commitment from people to keep it running. This would not prevent groups from fundraising.

2/ Richard Bush's report as Chairman of the PPC. This covered the following areas:

- The restoration Father Carolin's grave through private donations
- The family choir
- Parish Welcomers
- Parish Web site
- Annual Parish Diary of Events
- Catechists
- The local council
- Corpus Christi Procession
- A new painting for the Retro Chapel, by a Catholic artist.

3/ Tony Price's report as Director of Music. This covered the following areas:

- The Polyphony Choir
- Parish Music Workshop in October 2016
- The need for a leader to take forward the Family Choir
- Christmas Concert of carols and readings.

4/ Tony McGing's report as Chairman of the Parish Finance Committee. This covered the following areas:

- The weekly offertory (down about 4%), including Gift Aid (now paid to us quarterly).

5/ Gordon Clark's report as Chairman of the Parish Maintenance Committee. This covered the following areas:

- Balancing Safety, Soundness and Security
- The Hall refurbishment
- The failing Church boilers
- The state of the roof of both the Church and the presbytery
- The Repository drainage issue
- Keyholders.

Comments relating to this included the following:

The subject of the Fire Exit gate to Danbrook Road always having to be open whenever the hall is in use was raised.

We need to make sure that this is made clear to all hall users and keyholders from various Parish groups. Over time, there have been many changes of keyholders, often non parishoners. All those who signed for keys also acknowledged salient fire regulations, including the unlocking of this gate. The Parish Secretary confirmed that it had indeed been opened in readiness for tonight's meeting.

Perhaps we should have a special Maintenance Fund.

6/ John Ambler's report on behalf of the SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society). This covered the following areas:

- The success of the recent appeal
- What the SVP have done and are currently doing.

7/ Eddie Sanders' report as leader of the Parish Youth Club. This covered the following areas:

- The urgent requirement for help
- Getting the hall set up each week for club members.

8/ Melvin Carty's report on behalf of the KSC (Knights of St Columba). This covered the following areas:

- Attendance at Parish Activities such as Episcopal visits; Fundraising; the Streatham Common Crib.

9/ Deacon Ged Perkins thanked all those who supported him during his journey to ordination as a deacon, all those who attended the event and sent their good wishes and prayers. He now looks forward to many years serving the parishioners of St Bartholomew's.

10/ Lucy Nwagwu's report as President of the UCM (Union of Catholic Mothers). This covered the following areas:

- All events in which the UCM take part at both local, area and national level.

11/ Rosemary Clark's report as leader of the Hymn Choir.

12/ Jo Taylor's report on behalf of Teams of Our Lady.

13/ Linda Leggett's report on behalf of the St Anne's Group.

14/ Safeguarding Report from Nana Bonsu – read by Richard Bush;

15/ Brownies & Rainbows report from Therese Martins – read by Richard Bush;

16/ Savio Fernandes' report on behalf of our Catechists. This covered the following areas:

- First Holy Communion – 36 children this year; Confirmations to resume in 2017.

17/ Any Other Business – this included the following:

- The reintroduction of the Parish Social Committee, disbanded in the past;
- The attachment of a Parish Diary to the newsletter in order to keep parishioners better informed;
- The encouragement of new blood to all parish groups;
- The proposed introduction of Young SVP in conjunction with BTG School;
- The date of next year's AGM to be before the school holidays – Wednesday 14th June 2017.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm with a prayer and blessing by Fr Deo.