

MINUTES OF ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 @ 8pm.

HELD IN THE UPPER HALL

Fr Deo (FRD); Fr innocent (FRI); Bob Eaglestone (BE); Gerard Cowie (GCO); Deacon Ged Perkins (DGP); Gordon Clark (GCL); Elinor Symons (ES); Savio Fernandes (SF); Irene Carbin (IC); Anne O'Donovan (AOD); Andrew McMillan (AM); Diana Wemambu (DW).

1/ The meeting began with our Parish Mission Prayer led by FRD.

2/ Apologies for absence were received from Nana Bonsu – Amako (NBA); Tony Price (TP)

3/ Minutes of the previous (inaugural) meeting held on Wednesday 30/01/2019 were agreed for posting on the parish web site in their redacted form. This is standard practice where issues of a sensitive nature have been discussed. The full minutes were also made available to PPC members.

4/ Matters arising from those minutes:

Fr Deo spoke of how he would like to see the Youth Club develop, and how we might reach out to the youth, perhaps considering changing the format of club nights to include catechesis in some form, though acknowledging that not all members are Catholics.

The issue of safeguarding must take priority. Our Safeguarding representative and PPC member, Nana Bonsu-Amako (NBA) would now be consulted in order to ensure that all those holding DBS certificates have up-to-date accreditation, and are watertight in line with our Archdiocesan policy.

NBA will check with the Safeguarding office for the Archdiocese for a list of all those with DBS. If anybody's is found to be lacking, then a temporary suspension of any person or persons involved might be required whilst this is resolved.

FRI asked whether those who run the Parish Playgroup have DBS, or if they need it. However, it was noted that all children are accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian. Nevertheless, NBA will be consulted on this too.

5/ PRESIDENT'S REPORT

a/ Fr Deo called upon all to pray for those who have suffered and continue to suffer after the storm which devastated Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

b/ FRD intends to invite Canon Jim Cronin to a future meeting in order to share his own particular expertise with us in relation to the function of the PPC. This was to have been item 9 on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

c/ FRD hopes to arrange for PPC members to have their photographs taken at the next meeting, so that they can be posted up in the porch. People need to know who represents them on the PPC.

d/ We are currently supporting the parish of St Michael, Pollards Hill, due to the illness of the Parish Priest, Fr Huebert Miranda. From April we shall be covering Sundays there also, which means that both priests will be saying three Masses over the Saturday evening/Sunday period. Given that St Michael's was born out of St Bartholomew's, it is fitting that we should aid our 'daughter' parish.

e/ Hall bookings: we are currently in talks with Praetorium. They have approached three companies looking to use our facilities, and what we call Option B is the one which would suit us best. We need funds urgently, and this would guarantee us an income. This would involve asking hall users to adapt

their start times later to 6pm. ES asked about repairs, damage etc. These would be included in any contract. DGP asked if it would affect competition for places generally, thus possibly affecting St James the Great, and affecting our closer relationship with them. AOD suggested making it a condition that priority be given to Catholics.

All hall bookings would be managed, taking the matter largely out of the Parish Office. The company involved has a track record in several parishes within the deanery and archdiocese. The upper hall would be closed to anybody else, save one of the small rooms. No planning issues are envisaged.

Whilst the Uniformed groups have all been informed through a meeting, it remains for us to communicate with Barts Seniors and the Parish Playgroup.

**ACTION POINT:** GCO to approach Praetorium for clarification regarding questions raised.

f/ A parishioner has now come forward offering accommodation for the Mission Priests.

g/ The programmes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are progressing well. We await confirmation from Croydon Council in relation to our Corpus Christi Procession in Norbury Park.

**ACTION POINT:** GCO to chase Croydon Council.

l/ Maintenance continues, with all sorts of issues cropping up every so often, as one might expect from a combination of buildings this size. This is one of the principal reasons we need to raise funds.

6/ CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – The Chairman had nothing urgent to report on this occasion.

7/ MAINTENANCE REPORT –

a/ GCL described the lengthy process which has brought us closer to completion. It now remains for the new power cable to be installed. This in itself involves about 7 agencies and engineers! It is hoped that all will be ready in time for Easter. AOD gave our compliments to GCL for the task he had taken on, and what he has achieved for the parish. GCL commented that in due course, that is after the new lighting has gone in (which is scheduled for June 2019), the church will require redecoration after many years since the last time this was carried out.

b/ The main porch requires new carpeting, with the danger of a trip hazard being only too clear.

c/ The wall by the car port, between the presbytery and the hall urgently requires strengthening so as to conform with current building regulations. ES pointed out that some maintenance issues involve the imposition of mandatory upgrades.

d/ Alarms – contracts on alarms only seem to cover the hall. The company which looked after the house went out of business years ago. GCL will now approach S.P.E., the company which deals with the hall alarm, to quote for all the parish buildings, as well as looking at other security arrangements such as front door entry to the presbytery. Planning rules forbid us adding a porch to the outside.

8/ FINANCE REPORT

AM reported on funds held by the Archdiocese on our behalf, something like £300k in units. How easy might it be to access those funds from which we receive a small sum each year for Mass Intentions and around £5k which goes into the Father Carolin Retirement Account. (FRD advised that this was set up for Parish Priests and cooks who retired from St Bartholomew's after 10 years' service.

Needless to say, Fr Carolin never made a claim for himself, and nobody since has ever fulfilled the conditions to claim). These funds are held for charitable purposes, and the heating and lighting have come out of those funds as an exception. Much came from bequests from the Carolin family to the parish. Without Fr Carolin's foresight, and without the generosity of both himself and his family, we would not have such funds at all. This was reflected back to the Carolins by the generosity of parishioners who kindly donated the money required for the refurbishment of the family grave.

9/ CANON JIM CRONIN INVITATION – This will be discussed at a future meeting.

10/ FUNDRAISING IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS –

DW reported as Social Committee Representative. Preparations are underway for an Easter Bank Holiday fundraiser, mainly centred around children's activities. We shall be seeking donations of prizes from individuals and companies.

Looking to next year, we are also planning a Valentines event at BTG school, whose hall we shall hire. GCO reminded the PPC of the old Dinner Dance, held in years past, often above what was Grants of Croydon.

IC suggested collecting clothing etc to sell, in order to raise money.

AOD suggested that it was better to have a few larger events than a number of smaller ones.

11/ REINTRODUCTION OF PARISH BAZAAR.

As a particular fundraiser, the annual bazaar used to bring in a good sum, and would take place in both halls over a Friday and Saturday. AMC recalled some of the stalls, including the UCM jam and plant stalls, bottle stall and various raffles. It provided a good opportunity for parishioners to interact. It would be important to avoid clashes with other local or possibly national events. Ideally a sub committee would need to be involved in the organisation. Of course, we may only have access to the lower hall by the time we get to holding a bazaar. With much planning and organisation involved, it would be better to work towards say next year, and begin working on it in January 2020.

12/ FUTURE OF YOUTH –

SF noted that it was important to find out from the youth, during the period between First Holy Communion and Confirmation, what they would actually like. There will be a difference between what we think they want and what they actually want. AOD suggested linking in with the Youth Club in that respect.

The final Confirmation session is scheduled for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019, and perhaps members of the PPC might like to go long and listen in for ideas. DGP pointed out how Confirmation generally marks the end of formal catechesis, with adult formation only available if sought. Marriage, family and school inevitably follow in most cases. We tend to lose touch with the young once Confirmation has occurred, and thus far we have not sought to make contact after this point.

DGP also pointed out that organising a Youth Mass had been difficult. Attempts to attract a Parish Youth Worker in the past had not been productive.

It was suggested that perhaps we invite some of the older servers to a PPC meeting and seek their views, and perhaps invite a representative to join the PPC, such as Jed Murphy or Jade Li Tai Leong.

AOD suggested that we look at going into the schools with which we have links, in order to strengthen those links, including St James the Great (shared with Thornton Heath) and St Andrew's Primary as well as BTG.

### 13/ CENSUS

GC reported that he had already chased the diocese in respect of our census. The process had been taken forward by the previous PPC, but had been stalled by the advent of GDPR and the restrictions which might be imposed as a result. There is a list of all parish groups and activities in the porch areas, which is duplicated and indeed expanded upon in the census form and the current New Parishioner Form. How do groups advertise their existence otherwise?

**ACTION POINT:** GCO to chase again. Also bring template to the next PPC meeting.

14/ FUTURE MEETINGS/DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019. It was not an opportune moment to look at setting dates ahead.

15/ ANY OTHER BUSINESS –

AOD referred to the increase in knife crime amongst the young. Perhaps it would be worth inviting the Police to attend and speak about this subject to the youth. This would need to be age specific. Even workshops for parents and guardians could be considered. Involving local authorities such as Lambeth and Croydon would be a good move. AOD said she would approach Lambeth. We could find youths to come to our youth, perhaps having a talk at the Youth Club. There are speakers who might be requested, such as the Mizen family whose son Jimmy died a few years ago after having been stabbed.

16/ CLOSING PRAYER – FRD gave a blessing. The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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