

MINUTES OF ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2019 @ 8pm.

HELD IN THE UPPER HALL

Deacon Ged Perkins (DGP); Bob Eaglestone (BE); Gerard Cowie (GCO); Gordon Clark (GCL);
Andrew McMillan (AM); Anne O'Donovan (AOD); SAVIO FERNANDES (SF); Tony Price (TP);

1/ The meeting began with a Prayer led by GCO, which FRD had requested – namely the Pope's Prayer for October, the Extraordinary Month of Mission.

2/ Apologies for absence were received from Fr Deo (FRD); Fr Tomasz (FRT) Elinor Symons (ES); Diana Wemambu (DW); Jade Li Tai Leong (JL);

3/ The full minutes of the previous meeting, held on Wednesday 14th August 2019, were read by all present and agreed.

4/ Matters arising from the previous minutes:

- GCL advised that all asbestos had been removed from the boiler house, with appropriate health and safety certification of such issued. We can now go ahead to use this space for storage.
- Also see Finance Report.

5 / PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In FRD's absence, the following were reported on his behalf by GCO:

- A Day with Mary takes place here on Saturday 16th November. The church and the hall will be used throughout the day.
- We have now secured Saturday 10th October 2020 for A Day with Mary next year.
- We look forward to our International Mass at 6.15pm on Saturday 23rd November, followed by a selection of foods from different nations in the hall.
- The details of the funeral of Archbishop Emeritus Michael Bowen have now been released. The funeral Mass itself will take place at 12.30pm on Monday 4th November at St George's Cathedral. Full details of the programme will be in the Newsletter for 26th/27th October.

6/ FINANCE REPORT

AM distributed various documents to illustrate the current position, having adjusted for an accounting error as referred to at our previous meeting. So far this year, we have spent £142k on the new heating and lighting. This leaves our loan to the diocese at the revised figure of £23k.

The CLUNIAC funds, which are under clergy control now stand at £12k.

We now have a total of £70k in our main accounts plus loan to the diocese of £23k, bringing total assets to £93k. There are outstanding liabilities to the diocese of approximately £60k, specifically DDF (Diocesan Development Fund) which require consideration. The current DDF payment is deducted monthly, standing at £2k.

7/ MAINTENANCE REPORT

GCL reported that the upstairs bathroom in the presbytery, used by the Assistant Priest, had now been completed. His bedroom had also been decorated.

The wall by the parking area gate is to be done soon, to conform with health and safety legislation.

There are a number of outstanding jobs yet to be done, maintenance being an ongoing requirement.

8/ SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

In the absence of DW, we were reminded of forthcoming events, including the International Day, referred to in FRD's report, and the Dinner Dance at BTG in February 2020.

TP said we needed clarity on whether Fundraising and Social Committee were synonymous.

The two functions need separating out, BE suggested.

9/ PLANNED GIVING DRIVE 2019

The principal issue for this meeting was to make headway in our preparations for the forthcoming drive. BE and AM have been in regular contact with Laura Dudhee in order to put together the various leaflets for each weekend of the drive. Jobs and scripts needed to be allocated for the days and literature finalised in order to meet printing deadlines at the Finance Office.

WEEK 1 – FRD had already approved of the words presented. Amendments were suggested to the explanation of tithing. GCL stated that the average amount per giver per week currently stands at £2.22, which equates to around 1% of earnings.

WEEK 2 – AM put forward revised wording to explain the general financial situation, to which will be added in figures for 2018. In respect of the hall, AM advised that it operates at a loss, a fact about which most people are completely unaware. It was agreed that it should be referred to as the Parish Hall as opposed to the Parish Centre.

TP opined that people might not necessarily take in everything that is said from the pulpit, and that what we put in the leaflets should in essence be able to stand alone for those who rely solely on the written word.

WEEK 3 – A better picture was required, which TP would provide.

AOD noted that the two-line GDPR statement on the front should be linked to the full statement within the leaflet, to avoid any doubt. A short debate was held on what should and should not be included in the list of items surrounding time and talents, given the limited space available, and to be as relevant as possible to all parishioners. Should the leaflets be larger? How would people get to fill them in whilst in the benches? Should the leaflets be distributed prior to each Mass, bearing in mind that perhaps 10-15 minutes would be required in order to do so?

TP maintained that we should also look at things which we are looking to do in the future, in particular forming a Young Persons' Choir, following unsuccessful attempts to find a new leader for the Family Choir. We also had to consider the order in which various activities would be listed. It was accepted that, due to restricted space, we could not put absolutely everything on the list.

There was general discussion surrounding the efficacy of filling out forms during Mass and of having people available at the back of the church to answer questions. It was generally agreed that using the hall would not necessarily be worthwhile, as the volume of questions was predicted to be relatively low. Would people who took home their forms necessarily return them? Can we ensure

privacy for people putting personal information into forms? Could we have some boxes available in which forms may be inserted without other people getting to see their contents? Whatever questions arise, the answers given should be the same, and we should avoid our own versions of such responses. Encouraging people to route their enquiries via the parish office might work better, particularly where a definitive response is not possible.

BE will approach members not present at this meeting in order to ascertain their availability for the duration of the Planned Giving Drive. He also suggested that we all meet prior to Week 1 in order to finalise and perhaps hold a rehearsal of some sort in the church. Wednesday 6th November was agreed as the best date.

AM and GCO will meet shortly in order to finalise the wording for the leaflets so that, following our discussions on the topic, the revised text can be incorporated into those leaflets by Laura Dudhee, who will then proceed to printing.

10/ DATE/S OF NEXT MEETING/S

BE felt that this should be our final meeting for the year, notwithstanding the rehearsal for the Planned Giving Drive and the Follow Up planned for December.

11/ ANY OTHER BUSINESS

TP asked whether any arrangements for Fr Innocent's 'Farewell' had been agreed as yet. So far, nothing has been arranged. This will be discussed with him by FRD.

12/ DGP closed the meeting with some prayers at 9.55pm.