

MINUTES OF ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2022 @ 8pm.

CHURCH HALL

Fr Deo (FRD); Bob Eaglestone (BE); Gordon Clark (GCL); Deacon Ged Perkins (DGP); Savio Fernandes (SF); and Irena Corbo (IC).

1. Opening Prayer

FRD opened the meeting with a prayer for the deceased Queen of England, Elizabeth II.

2. Apologies for Absence

Nana Bonsu-Amako (NBA); Elinor Symons (ES) and Irene Corbin (IC); Diana Wemambu (DW); Anne O'Donovan (AOD); Andrew McMillan (AM); Tony Price (TP); Fr Augustine Ghado (AG); Jade Li Tai Leong (JLTL)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Due to the lack of attendees, the discussion and agreement of minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

4. Reports

a) President's Report:

- Fr. Deo thanked everyone for their prayers. He returned from Tanzania on 31 August 2022.
- During the period of mourning for the Queen, the Bishops requested a mass be held at 5pm in memory of the Queen and a mass will take place for the new King Charles III.
- Fr Deo commented that everything in the Church is returning to normal after Covid. He is still not sure about receiving the Lord in both ways and at present only the host is given and not the wine. A committee member asked if mask wearing was still mandatory and Father Deo stated it was personal choice. The congregation at St Bartholomew's is older and so many of them wear masks as they still feel vulnerable. Post meeting it was noted that Covid is already on the rise.
- Preparation for the sacraments continues with First Holy Communion and Confirmation completed this year. The information for the new programmes will be issued soon.
- Fr Deo is hoping the international mass and food will take place before advent. Date tbc. Delay has been due to organising readers and singers in different languages. If it doesn't take place this year, it will happen early next year.
- Quorum for meetings is still a problem. There were not enough committee members attending today to agree the minutes of the last meeting. Once a new Chair of Finance joins, the current committee need to discuss members and quorum number to be able to continue.
- The Sum-Up cashless system is becoming difficult. All the information has been received and Gordon is helping but there is a lack of information on installation and training as the Company does not provide this. The Diocese are unable to help at all. The machines can be purchased immediately but the Church needs someone to install and set it all up and provide training on the system. A committee member didn't think there was Wi-fi at the back of the Church. The power line is in now but the technical issue remains on working it and communicating it to parishioners. Fr Deo will issue a request in the newsletter for an IT literate volunteer to help set it up. If this is unsuccessful then the Church will have to pay for someone to do it. Communicating use to parishioners and capturing gift aid are the main issues. It was decided to launch the system at the AGM. Champions will have to be trained in using it so they can help parishioners once its installed. It was agreed the Offertory Team led by Jim Desa could help and a step-by-step guide would be displayed on the notice board and a video on how to use the new system be put on the website.

After masses during the third week in October, a trained parishioner could explain the new system. It was noted a HMRC document requires signing.

b) Finance Report:

Awaiting new Finance Officer. Tabled until next meeting.

c) Buildings Report:

GCL had nothing to report at present.

d) Social Committee Report:

DW was absent and no report was received.

5. Planning for the AGM

The AGM will take place on Wednesday 12 October at 7.30pm in the Hall.

The last AGM was held in 2012. All Groups have been contacted for their reports. Fr Deo wants it to be a nice social event updating the parishioners on Church life and forthcoming events. It was agreed to have a suggestion box two weeks before the AGM at the Sunday coffee mornings. Fr Deo will confirm with Julie McDonagh if she is available to serve tea and coffee.

6. How to communicate the new Sum Up Cashless System with the Parish

Discussed above.

7. Parish Census2023: forward planning

On hold until next meeting.

8. Coffee Mornings

Thanks were noted to Julie McDonagh for all her hard work. She wants to hold the coffee mornings on the second and last Sunday of each month, which was agreed. She is confident in being able to staff it. Over 100 people attended the last one with new parishioners attending also. Coffee mornings may also take place in every Sunday in Advent once volunteers are confirmed.

9. Parishioner's Questions: 10-minute slot. How to organise?

It was agreed to have a 10-minute slot at the end of each PPC meeting to discuss and answer Parishioner's questions. Discussions took place on whether to invite Parishioners to the meeting or answer the questions in the newsletter. It was decided Parishioners could send questions in by email or via the suggestion box. Issues highlighted would be discussed and answered if possible. A decision would be made once it is advertised in the newsletter on how to move forward with this as to whether Parishioners would be invited to the meeting to discuss their questions further.

10. AOB

- It was highlighted that some people are going through the food box at the back of the Church and helping themselves. Although the committee were happy that if people needed items, they took them but the donations are intended for the Brixton and Norwood Food Bank. Linda Leggett needs to be informed as the responsibility lies with her and a decision needs to be taken on deciding what happens. At present, it is removed on a Saturday.
- Fr Deo informed the committee that Fr Augustine is returning to Nigeria in January 2023 after being here for two years. He is unaware if a replacement will be sent. New ordinations are taking place in three weeks' time. Fr Deo has a list of retired Priests who can provide supply until a permanent Priest can be found to replace Father Augustine. The committee wondered if a financial contribution gift could be requested from the Parishioners as a token gesture for Father

Augustine with a celebratory mass followed by a social tea and coffee send off. All agreed it would be a fitting gesture.

11. Closing Prayer

Fr. Deo closed the meeting at 9.30pm with a prayer for the new King Charles III.