

## MINUTES OF ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 11 JANUARY 2023 at 7.30pm.

### CHURCH HALL

Bob Eaglestone (BE); Gordon Clark (GCL); Deacon Ged Perkins (DGP); Savio Fernandes (SF); Irena Corbo (IC), Mario Kumar (MK), Manuel Casas (MC), Louisa Odewale (LO) and Raffaella Williams (RW).

#### 1. Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened by FRD with a prayer for former Pope Benedict XVI.

#### 2. New Members, Introduction and Welcome

Everyone introduced themselves and new members Louisa Odewale, Mario Kumar, Raffaella Williams and Manuel Casas were welcomed. A further four new members will attend the next meeting; Ged Murphy, John Lee, Molly Morruzzi and Jade. Photos will be taken at the next meeting for the noticeboard at the back of the church.

#### 3. Apologies for Absence

Jade Marie.

#### 4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Three minutes were issued for agreement but will be tabled until the next meeting.

#### 5. Reports

##### a. President's Report

FRD apologised for being unable to complete any outstanding actions from the last meeting due to recovering from two operations on his foot. All tasks are on hold until he has made a full recovery. He updated the committee as follows:

- New members were nominated to the PPC and by attendance today have become official members.
- FRD agreed the request at the AGM for the financial report to be issued to parishioners by display at the back of the church. There will be a finance meeting by the end of January.
- The church is waiting for the final few DBS notices in order to recommence the Children's Liturgy.
- FRD explained that the reason he put the posters up in the church were to remind parishioners to have reverence whilst at mass and to avoid situations of parishioners becoming annoyed with each other. The Chair read out an email from a parishioner regarding the uncomfortable way another parent made her feel when her child was making noise. The ongoing incidents mean she no longer feels welcome at St Bartholomew's as she feels uncomfortable and that she is being judged. FRD will meet with both parties to resolve the issue. FRD confirmed the posters will be removed but at a time when a handyperson can fix any decorating needs to the walls. The Chair advised the posters are kept in case they need to go back up in the future. Members agreed the church should be welcoming and that this was not acceptable behaviour regarding noisy children. The 10am mass is a children's mass and parents shouldn't feel obliged to stand at the back of the church. Previously parents were asked to remain at the back of the church by a previous Priest if they had noisy children, but this has changed. Members felt parents should understand that there are boundaries and parents should not be bringing

breakfast and noisy toys for their children to mass. FRD will speak with both parties and then decide whether or not to put a note in the newsletter.

- FRD is keen to bring someone from another church to help with the contactless reader machine which needs to capture gift aid. It was agreed that if the church has to pay for someone to do this, then it will.

b. Finance

To be updated at next meeting.

c. Maintenance

There was not much to update on pending the Finance committee meeting, but there is a long list of outstanding jobs. The church needs a handyperson to complete minor jobs and would pay for expenses incurred. Cleaners, cash counter and other voluntary helpers are dwindling in numbers or not returning after covid. LO confirmed she will ask a couple of friends regarding the minor building jobs that could be completed in one day and the Finance Committee will decide if they can be paid an hourly rate. Church maintenance is constantly ongoing with outstanding jobs that need to be completed.

d. Building Committee

Error - There is no Building Committee and this item will be removed from the next agenda.

e. Social Committee Report

FRD confirmed there are 9 members of a new social committee and they had a meeting yesterday. They are arranging Father Augustine's leaving do. One member will join or liaise with the PPC to update the committee and if this is not possible, they will issue a report and the PPC will feed back to them.

6. PPC

BE stated the coffee mornings are running twice a month and thanks were noted to Julie McDonagh. FRD would like them to happen every week in the future. The committee is happy to welcome new members to help revive it.

a. Future Meeting dates

PPC: Wednesday 8 March at 7.30 p.m.

PPC: Wednesday 10 May at 7.30 p.m.

PPC: Wednesday 12 July at 7.30 p.m.

PPC: Wednesday 13 September at 7.30 p.m.

PPC: Wednesday 8 November at 7.30 p.m.

AGM: Wednesday 14 June at 7.00 p.m.

It was agreed that if the Scouts return to use the hall on Wednesdays, PPC meetings will take place in one of the upstairs rooms.

The constitution will need to be ratified at the next meeting.

b. Emails

All new members email addresses were received.

c. Activities

BE, FRD and GP will meet to start mapping out all church organisations, groups and parish office functions to streamline jobs, make sure the correct people are doing them, who is responsible and what needs to be changed. Various catechist groups will also be contacted to see if they expect support from the parish office, what that entails and how it is ensured all tasks are met. BE will report back at next meeting.

d. Parishioners Questions

FRD stated PPC members should be able to answer parishioners' questions. Once the PPC email address is arranged, parishioners can email any questions they want for the PPC to answer. In the meantime, there is a suggestion box at the back of the church and at the coffee mornings for parishioners to utilise. FRD wanted to hold Thurs/Fri surgery but that is when he visits the sick.

7. Time and Talent

Pre-covid someone came to church to speak about stewardship at all the masses, which covered time, talent and treasure and how parishioners can help the church in these three ways. A survey was issued and then unfortunately covid hit.

8. Census Form Questions

Talent and time could be listed on the upcoming Census forms. GP suggested the committee utilise Ged Murphy's IT skills for the Census forms and another member will email the committee sample questions. It was agreed name, address, children, skills, groups, time commitment etc would be initial items of information gathered, but data protection has to be a priority with where the information is stored and who accesses it. A copy of the last Census form was provided for the file.

9. AOB

- The Synod – FRD confirmed the process has now returned to Rome and the church will await the results and inform parishioners as soon as they know. There were 12 actions that the brainstorming meeting concluded which are listed below with the action taken:

(i) Eucharistic ministers to get children involved in the 10am Mass.

Action: *The families whose children are preparing for Holy Communion will be asked to help.*

(ii) The Children's Liturgy to be restarted.

Action: *Awaiting final confirmation of DBS checks and then it will restart.*

(iii) International mass and multicultural evening to happen in Sept/Oct 2022.

Action: *This will now take place in 2023 due to lack of support/funds last year.*

(iv) Coffee mornings to take place.

Action: *Julie McDonagh is running the free coffee mornings every second Sunday after 11 am mass.*

(v) Bible Study Group to be started.

Action: *FRD will speak with someone to start running these.*

(vi) Advent Talks to be organised.

Action: *FRD will organise them for this year.*

(vii) Food bank Drive to be organised to coincide with the Harvest Festival.

Action: *The soup kitchen did not happen due to lack of funds. One parishioner will start her own food bank in the parish. FRD to meet with her to discuss set up and where food will be stored.*

(viii) Parish Census.

Action: *In preparation stage.*

- (ix) **Hall use clarification.**  
*Action:* The situation with the hall to be made clear from the pulpit, in the newsletter and current extensive hall use to be put on the website. Current guidelines to be made clear to everyone behind the scenes and in each group.
- (x) **Parish Responsibilities.**  
*Action:* BE, FRD and GP will commence mapping out roles and responsibilities. Sonia, the Parish Groups Communication Co-ordinator is working with Tony on a booklet to be prepared with photographs of people taken and displayed. Information will go on the website and in the newsletter.
- (xi) **The Word for children.**  
*Action:* The Word activity sheet for children will be brought back soon.
- (xii) **PPC to be open to suggestions from the new Youth Club.**  
*Action:* The Youth Club is up and running again for 11-18 year olds and had a section to inform and educate with bible studies. FRD wants a Youth expert to lead this group and change the format. Ongoing.

Discussions took place on how to share the above information with parishioners. A synod update sheet could be attached to the newsletter, followed by the update from Rome and what the parish will do going forward.

- A member queried if screens should be put up at the front of the church with updates and the mass text, so parishioners can move away from books and having their heads bent down. It was decided to have this as an agenda item and discuss further at the next meeting.
- It was confirmed Bob Foster, the organist, has returned to play at 10am mass on the first and third Sunday each month. FRD is looking for someone else to cover the other two weeks.
- FRD confirmed Father Augustine's leaving mass is at 5pm on Sunday 15 January with drinks and bites to follow. He will be leaving on 25 January 2023. At present, FRD does not have a replacement Priest for Father Augustine and will continue with all the scheduled masses on his own, but only once he has received the all clear from the Consultant regarding his foot. He may require more help on the altar, as he will not be able to stand for too long.

#### 10. Closing Prayer

FRD closed the meeting with a prayer.

*The meeting closed at 9pm.*