

## MINUTES OF ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2023 at 7.30pm.

### CHURCH HALL

Bob Eaglestone (BE); Gordon Clark (GCL); Deacon Ged Perkins (DGP); Savio Fernandes (SF); Irena Corbo (IC), Raffaella Williams (RW) and John Lee (JL); Stella and Victoria.

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened by DGP with a prayer.

2. New Members, Introduction and Welcome

Everyone introduced themselves and new member John Lee was welcomed. It was agreed the meeting was not quorate without the President, so no formal decisions will be made. The Secretary to email the constitution to all members for reference. Victoria and Stella arrived to discuss the food bank initiative.

3. Apologies for Absence

Father Deo (FRD), Jade Marie Li Tai Leong, (JM) Manuel Casas (MC), Louisa Odewale (LO).

4. Food Bank

FRD and DGP had previously met with Victoria and Stella to discuss setting up a foodbank. They advised the church works with Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA) group who already have things in place and a couple of options would be discussed. They were in attendance to advise on setting up and running a food bank and would initially be able to help in the first six months. Stella is a parishioner at St Bartholomew's and is a Community Partner in Croydon helping people with disabilities. She has worked with various churches with running food banks, peer to peer support groups, soup kitchens and other community work. She was initially looking for a place to run a community soup kitchen but the hall at St Bartholomew's is not available, so she is looking at other ideas to support the church such as a food bank. Victoria works with the CVA and is also a Community Builder with children under 5 across Croydon. She attends locality meetings every quarter which brings people and businesses together to support established groups in helping them become effective. She started a 'Stay and Play' group and runs several events in a community hall in Centrale shopping centre. Options for a St Bartholomew's food bank include a simple one with tinned, dried and packaged food or a food share which includes chilled meats and frozen food with the requirement of larger storage and fridge freezers. The second option would require membership to Fair Share. It was noted that St Bartholomew's currently has a food bank collection that is donated to another group.

The committee agreed to go for the first option of a dried, tinned and packaged food bank. Donations would be required and volunteers needed to distribute the food. Fair Share can connect groups to supermarkets for free donations but they would need to be collected on certain dates. After discussions it was initially agreed that:

- The food bank would run fortnightly.
- A minimum of 5 committed and consistent volunteers needed with one or two leaders.
- Anyone can access the foodbank not only those on benefits.
- The foodbank would be advertised on the CVA website and families would be signposted.
- Training can be given to volunteers as they may need to direct those attending to other services such as medical, mental health, benefits etc.

- People attending the foodbank could donate £3.50 towards their shop if they wanted and may wish to volunteer to help, as it may help their job search if CV's show voluntary work and skills were acquired.
- Local Catholic schools could have food donation drives.
- Names of people requiring food to be collected to ascertain need and quantities.
- Stella and Victoria to talk at the end of masses to raise awareness and note in newsletter.
- Encouragement of young people to help through Duke of Edinburgh voluntary section or Confirmation programme.
- Not much space required for storage for dried, packaged and tinned food which can be brought out on the morning of collection. Packs could be made up in advance.
- Funding can be applied for further down the line.

#### Next Steps:

- Inform the Parish of fortnightly Food Bank Initiative.
- Create a Food Bank Committee with one or two leaders responsible for volunteers but noting FRD is ultimately in charge. DBS requirements for at least one person present. Check with Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Teresa Furtado.
- Check insurance cover and requirement of food hygiene certificate.
- Set a start date for Food Bank opening times and times and dates of collections.
- Space and Storage organisation.
- Link with SVP / Parish and other Parish Groups
- Food collected on Friday evenings and distributed on Saturday mornings.

#### Committee Decision:

The committee unanimously agreed to recommend the first steps to FRD who will contact Stella and Victoria. Both were thanked for their time and informative report on setting up a community food bank.

#### 5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Three minutes still outstanding for agreement but will be tabled until the next meeting. The Secretary was given the full name of Jade Marie for the minutes.

#### 6. Reports

##### a. President's Report

FRD was unable to attend but updated the Chair on the following:

- The Cashless giving is still ongoing. The Diocese will send one of their IT experts to check the Wi-Fi signals in the church at the end of the month. The Wi-Fi is currently down. An extender has been installed. FRD and DGP went to St Boniface Church with a carpenter to show him the type of stands they require for the Cashless Giving machine.

##### b. Finance

The Finance Committee have met and will update at the next meeting.

##### c. Maintenance

There was not much to update on pending the results of Finance committee meeting on 8 February 2023, but there is a long list of outstanding jobs. No discussions can be made until the accounts have been seen. Preventative maintenance has been completed to include;

- The hall lighting is up and running.
- Pest control has been paid for the hall.

- Security cameras and front doors – awaiting quotes.
- Blinds – 3 without chains and do need replacing. Total cost for all £1,146.00. A couple of blinds in the Presbytery kitchen also need replacing. Awaiting a quote to replace blind at the back of the door.
- H&S check on 28 April 2023 will include fire inspection and extinguishers even though most of them were renewed last year.
- A quote has been arranged for double glazing in the Sacristy.
- Virgin Engineer attending on 9 March regarding Wi-Fi issue.
- One chalice sent away for cleaning and re-silvering, which has not been done for 20 years.

d. Social Committee Report

Met on Monday 6 March. Report outstanding.

7. Coffee Morning Update from Julie McDonagh

Interest in our coffee mornings continues although numbers vary between 90/110. Fund raising has proved popular although I have stressed that they must remain free for Parishioners with homemade cakes sold separately. I am contacting the various Parish Groups to find out when/if they would like to host and/or cater a coffee morning. The Confirmandi and Social Committee will hopefully host some later in the year. Dates for the next 3 months are as follows:

12th March	Portuguese Coffee Morning
26th March	1st Holy Communion Parents
16th April	Coffee Morning Team
30th April	The Daughters of Divine Love
14th May	UCM (and PPC?)
28th May	Coffee Morning Team

Future dates have been agreed and the hall booked, but are subject to review according to any change of dates for Parish activities e.g. Confirmations. Please let me know if there is any feedback from the meeting with any suggestions that might be helpful. Thanks were noted to JM for all her hard work in running and organising the coffee mornings.

8. Mapping Parish Work Activities

Outstanding.

9. PPC Email

Outstanding.

10. Time and Talent/Census

Outstanding. The Secretary to email LO regarding Census questions.

11. AOB

- Parish attendance count 505 in October 2022 which was almost half of attendees before Covid.

12. Closing Prayer

DGP closed the meeting with a prayer.

*The meeting closed at 9pm*