

**St Gregory's and Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Robert Dibdale Faith in
Action Sub-Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting on 20th September 2023

(to be approved at the next meeting of this sub-committee)

Present: Maureen Thompson, Simon Chappell, Monica Clifton, Barbara Cassidy, Marion Whelbourn, Theresa Phillips, Edmund Blackie, Mike Dolce, Helen Dolce, Damien O'Brian, Becky Bailey, Peter Hobbs, Maria Mealey, Cecelia Donnelly, Teresa Franczuk, Pauline Ellen-Brooke, Olivia Lavelle

Apologies: Jane Thomas, Mary Bessey

1. Opening Prayers
2. Maureen Thompson (Chair) welcomed those in attendance and proposed that the meeting be for one hour/one hour and a quarter, to which there was general agreement.
3. It is intended that Committee meet a minimum of **3** times a year. The dates fixed for those meetings are **24th January 2024, 26th June 2024 and 16th November 2024**. Agenda items are to be submitted to the Chair at least **14 days** before a meeting. This does not preclude the holding of other meetings as circumstances require.
4. Information about the new Parish Pastoral Council and its sub-committees has been publicised on line and in the Parish news-letter, which also included the Agenda for this meeting.
5. Chair drew attention to the intention/need to draw up a Parish Plan containing details of events and activities for the Parish and School for the forthcoming year. Such a plan does not yet exist. Where there is hospitality, funding should be organized in advance and expenses incurred refunded.
6. Chair referred to the proposed works at Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Robert Dibdale. Unfortunately, there are no details of when the works will be started. However, when outstanding planning matters have been resolved, it will be necessary to reconvene the Building Committee (to comprise a representative mix of members of both Church congregations) to address Parishioners' concerns about i) costings, ii) timescale, iii) storage and iv) helping Parishioners to and from services at St Gregory's.
7. Pursuant to the agenda each attendee was given the opportunity to speak for 2 minutes about their respective groups/issues and support needed. Responses are summarised in the table below and will be reported to the Parish pastoral Council:

Group	Purpose	Issues/support needed	Common themes
SVP	To help those in need	Greater publicity about activities	

Sunday Coffee OLP/Mary's Meals	To raise funds for CAFOD	Need volunteers, and admin support. Need to refund volunteers' expenses. Perhaps support could be given by another group such as SVP.	
Missio	Administer collection boxes		
CWL	Raise funds for various purposes	Only 5 members. Need support to continue e.g., with Strawberry Teas	
Lunch Club	Meals previously provided for the Catholic elderly in the parish and their friends – to bring people together from both churches (but not since Covid).	More helpers will be needed when meals restart. Costs increases - need to reconsider how to fund meals. Volunteers provide a lot themselves – need for (i) food hygiene training etc. and (ii) refunding of volunteer expenses.	
Repository	Ordering and selling goods for a profit.	The works proposed for OLP have caused the planning of, buying and storage of goods to be an issue. Further, concern that there is insufficient storage capacity at St Gregory's when OLP closes.	
School	School Governor/Catholic Life Governor working with PTA	Want to make links between School/Church and Parish and get more people involved.	
Foodbank	Emptying of boxes at OLP and St Gregory's.	Need cover for existing volunteer when absent	
Cleaning	There is a cleaning Rota	Need cleaners – advertise in bulletin?	
Fred Winter Centre	Provide accommodation and food/services for the homeless and vulnerable – bringing people together.	Need volunteers. Ecumenism opportunities. Current volunteers expanding help to current rough sleepers and forging links with United Reform Church to provide additional breakfast/other services. Need our Parish to provide volunteers to fulfil their rota requirements.	
Flowers OLP	Rota for Flower provision. Budget	Difficulty in planning for work at OLP and	

	available. Florist has agreed to attend School and prepare wreaths for parents' evening.	reducing stock as necessary. Need to produce better accounts and more funding is required. At St Gregory's there is little storage for flowers and flowers get dirty when stored in the garage. Storage in the cellar is not safe. There should be opportunities for joint working between OLP and St Gregory's.	
Bereavement Team	Whole range of bereavement services	Down to two members. Need new volunteers. Need someone to attend every funeral and welcomers for events.	
Polish Community	Support Fr Alex, hospitality, cleaning rotas and events.		
Caretaking and collections		Need to publicize collections in the bulletin (including second collections).	

8. Chair – the need for better communication is a common theme. Perhaps a synopsis of what each group does could be included in the bulletin. Information needs to be kept up to date.
9. We need a timetable for Parish and School events.
10. We need to address the concerns about the building work at OLP, namely i) costings, ii) timetables, iii) storage and iv) helping parishioners to and from St Gregory's services.
11. We would like time slots at Mass for Groups to speak about their organization and encourage new membership. Suggest CAFOD and Mary's Meals initiate such talks as their need is most pressing.
12. Examples of future events include:
 - Confirmation for attendees of all secondary schools (dates to be fixed) to include hospitality afterwards – funding necessary.
 - RCIA Classes (started 21st September 2023). A social event is usually held after the Easter Vigil – funding necessary.
 - Carol Service (a Sunday before Christmas) followed by mince pies and mulled wine (supported by the Bible Group) open to all – funding necessary.
13. In the light of comments made at the meeting Damien offered technical support to the Bereavement Group and other support as required and to host a quiz at a social event.
14. Chair reminded the meeting of the need to promote ecumenism. An Open Day at Our lady of Peace after completion of the works will present an opportunity for this. Jane Thomas as our Ecumenical Rep. has offered to give

her email address to Churches Together so that she can be kept informed of their activities etc.

15. Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and the meeting closed with prayers.