

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

The Minutes of the Meeting on 23rd January 2024

Present: Maureen Thompson (Chair), Marion Whelbourn, Val Sedgwick, Teresa Phillips, Terry Phillips, Edmund Blackie, Jane Thomas, Damien O'Brien, Becky Bailey, Maria Mealey, Teresa Franczuk, Peter Finkel, Teresa Finkel, Simon Chappell

Apologies: Barbara Cassidy, David Cox, Lucy Dudley, Mike and Helen Dolce

1. **Opening Prayers** Maureen Thompson (Chair) welcomed those in attendance
2. **Apologies:** as above.
3. **The Minutes** of the meeting on the 20th September 2023 were approved as drawn.
4. **Matters arising:** in response to a question, Chair confirmed that Minutes are made available to the Parish as a whole through the website and a link to them is included in the Bulletin and that email addresses provided on the attendance sheets will be used for other purposes such as to provide information between meetings. It was acknowledged that on the occasion that email addresses were used for providing interim information, some addressees, but not all, had received it, but it could not be explained why this happened.

5. Feedback:

Prior to November 2023:

- In response to the desire for better communication about activity in the Parish, a calendar of "events" has been included in the website
- Additional/alternative storage facilities for flowers and equipment that can meet the requirements of both Churches has yet to be found (despite attempts to find them) but the search continues. The use of Father Alex's garage is being reconsidered.
- The RCIA Course: it is hoped that a Priest can be found for the Easter Vigil Service during Fr Alex's absence.
- The Confirmation Course: Confirmations will take place on 22nd February 2024 (Fr Abbot Paul Gunter to preside)
- Fr Abbot's Pastoral visit last November went well.
- When 60 or more people are present at a service, the main doors of the Church should remain open or if closed, there should be someone available at the doors to open them in the event of an emergency.

After November:

- Volunteers: the search for volunteers generally continues. Despite the Bereavement Team's pulpit address, there remain only two members in the Team
- Our Lady of Peace and Blessed Robert Dibdale Planning Application:

Following the November 2023 meeting of the Building Committee, the Planning Application was re-submitted without the car park proposals (which proved the stumbling block in the first application). A decision is expected in a matter of weeks. If successful the works will then be put out to tender.

6. Committees/Working Groups for specific purposes

Chair referred to the need for additional committees or working groups to research, manage or oversee particular Parish projects from time to time, such as the Building Committee managing the works at Our Lady of Peace. In the circumstances, Committee agreed to recommend that:

“the Parish Pastoral Council and existing Committees have authority to appoint Committees/working groups for particular projects when appropriate and provision for this be incorporated in the Constitution”.

7. The safety of all having recourse to the Churches and their services

After Chair introduced this subject there was a discussion about regulation relating to, for example, fire awareness and food hygiene and it was agreed that there is a need for a Parish wide approach to Safety and to recommend to the Parish Pastoral Council that this Committee be authorised to investigate (i) safety requirements in general and (ii) the safety requirements in relation to specific events and/or activities and make recommendations to the Parish Pastoral Council.

8. St Patrick’s Day Celebrations:

Chair recommended the usual approach to these celebrations be suspended this year in the light of Fr Alex’s absence due to his forthcoming operation and anticipated recuperation period. Chair suggested that instead, there should be a Parish social evening on his return to fitness in the spring (perhaps April, if appropriate). Matters to be resolved are venue (the School was suggested and this will be investigated) licensing requirements, theme (possibly an Irish theme), food, music and dancing. Committee agreed to this recommendation being made to the Parish Pastoral Council.

9. Young people.

Chair explained that this item had been included at the request of a young person who (although unfortunately could not attend the meeting) would like to discuss the possibility of a Youth Group. After discussion it was agreed that the likely venue would have to be Our Lady of Peace (after completion of the

proposed works) where suitable facilities are most likely to be available and to postpone a full investigation of the possibilities until after completion of the works.

10. Any Other Business

- Confirmation 22nd February 2024 (Fr Abbot Paul Gunter): Chair referred to the possible provision of refreshments after the Confirmations. It was agreed that Chair and Becky Bailey speak to the parents of those being confirmed about their thoughts/wishes about this.
- The Bible Group may soon be holding its meetings (which are currently on line) in the Parish Room. The Bulletin will provide details.
- The World Day of Prayer (no longer the Women's World Day of Prayer – all are welcomed) is on 1st March 2024 at the United Reform Church at 2pm (St Gregory's to host the event in 2025).
- St Gregory's Year 3: Sacraments (split between both Churches);
 - i. Reconciliation - 21st March 2024 and
 - ii. Holy Communion - 16th June 2024

11. Closing Prayers