

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

The Minutes of the Meeting on 16th October 2024

Present: Maureen Thompson (Chair), Marion Whelbourn, Edmund Blackie, Jane Thomas, Damien O'Brien, Becky Bailey, Simon Chappell

Apologies: Val Sedgwick, Cecilia Donnelly, Terry and Theresa Phillips, Helen and Mike Dolce and Barbara Cassidy.

1. Opening Prayers. Maureen Thompson (Chair) welcomed those in attendance
2. Apologies: as above.
3. The Minutes of the meeting on the 26th June 2024 were approved as drawn.
4. Matters arising:
 - Youth Activities: After Fr Alex announced he was leaving it was considered appropriate to consult Fr Oliver before progressing matters. It is still intended to pursue the good work done by Damien and Sophie and consult the young people in the most recent Confirmation Class for their ideas as well.
 - The St Gregory the Great Celebrations were amalgamated with Fr Alex's Leaving-do for a very enjoyable and successful evening.
5. Feedback
 - St Columban's Mission – Solihull: a small group of Parishioners visited a most enjoyable and instructive Environmental/Ecological event there in September highlighting the potential that Church Land has for protecting nature through ensuring "creation care is embedded into Church Life and worship" (A Rocha UK).
 - Chair reported on Fr Oliver's concern about how to heat St Gregory's with a quick and short-term solution because of the failure of the boilers. In the meantime, the Parish Secretary is seeking quotes for new boilers. It is also acknowledged that Our Lady of Peace has similar "cold" issues in both church and adjoining room. There was general discussion and a number of options/factors considered
 - a. Go for the most environmentally friendly option.
 - b. Consult the Methodist Church which is considered to be advanced in reducing their carbon footprint
 - c. Investigate "under-pew heaters" (BNThermic.co.uk 01293 547361) and Heated Seat Cushions/blankets etc.
 - d. Review our existing electrical systems to ensure there is capacity for options considered
 - e. The need to consider the vulnerable
 - f. Put a notice in the bulletin about this.
 - g. Address all Health and Safety issues, e.g., how to ensure electrical cables are not trip hazards.
6. Remembrance Garden at Our Lady of Peace: it was agreed to consult Fr Oliver before progressing further.
7. Fire Safety: Committee agreed that Simon bring together a sub group of three to take matters forward and consider the potential for terrorist attacks.
8. Charities: It was agreed that this Committee draw together information about Charities in the Parish. The objective is to have up to date information about their

activities and progress so that it can be made available to Parishioners. Chair is to contact Steve Buckle about the current situation with the 2/300 Club.

9. Constitution:

Chair reminded Committee that the current Constitution (Council and Committee system) was adopted initially for a trial period of 18 months with the intention of review at the end of that period. This will involve reviewing the provisions in the Constitution itself including appointment of Officers, voting and quorum.

10. AGM: A date has yet to be fixed for the AGM.

11. Christmas:

- **Fr Alex's Christmas Parcels:** Fr Oliver to be consulted on whether he wishes to continue the tradition of giving chocolates/flowers and vouchers at Christmas.
- **Carol Service:** traditionally we have an annual Carol Service at St Gregory's after which mulled wine and refreshments are served in the Parish Room. Fr Oliver is to be consulted on a date for this.

12. Any Other Business

- **Communications Group:** Committee was asked to consider the draft Terms of Reference set out below proposed for the working of this Group. Damien spoke to the item about the need for timely information about what is happening within the Parish.

The purpose of the group is to

1. Assist our Parish Priest with his priorities and objectives
2. Improve communications within the Parish (promoting the activities of all Parish Groups) including, FIA and L&FD and Pastoral Council.
3. Communicate to the whole Parish faith formation and Catholic Life activities undertaken at both churches in the Parish. Highlight/assist with any gaps in communications.
4. Identify opportunities to promote activities at a cluster, deanery and diocese level.
5. Identify best practices to use within Parish, including newsletter, social media, website, at Mass and in the Parish Calendar.
6. Meet regularly, say every 2 months except the Summer.
7. Provide written input to FIA, L&FD and Pastoral Council in a timely manner.

Committee agreed the Terms of Reference subject to an amendment to number 2 to include "Finance and Building Committees" after "including".

- **Warm Hub**

Becky spoke to this item about her concern for all vulnerable people as we approach winter. Her wish is to provide for them a place where they know they can come and be warm and enjoy company, activities and refreshments as required. Chair has approached the Warwickshire and Solihull Warm Hub Association for advice and assistance. There was discussion, sharing of experiences and support for the proposal. There is still much to discuss and a need for Fr Oliver's agreement as well as clarity on matters such as

1. The need or otherwise for DBS approvals
2. The need for Food Hygiene Training (Becky to investigate)
3. Which is the best location

4. How often it will happen, how it will be staffed (rotas) and type of refreshment.

In the meantime, it was agreed that Becky, Marion and Damien form a Group to investigate further with a view to advising Chair of their findings before and in preparation for the next meeting of the PPC on 6th November 2024.

- **Next World Day of Prayer-the Baptist Church-7th March 2025-2pm**

Chair introduced this item and expressed concern about how few parishioners were attending meetings, particularly as St Gregory's will be hosting the event in 2026 (the service to be written by women of Nigeria). Becky to enquire how school children might be involved.

- **Bereavement Mass-10am-Saturday-2nd November 2024- St Gregory's-Fr Oliver to Bless the Graves**

Help is required on the day with welcoming and refreshments. "Volunteer Lists" will be made available at the churches.

- **Christmas Concert 3.30pm-14th December 2024-Our Lady of Peace**

To be advertised fully. Chair to contact Katherine Burke.

- **Security at Churches**

Committee agreed that CCTV cameras might help prevent the anti-social activities happening at Our Lady of Peace (evidenced by litter and other discarded items) and improve security at St Gregory's.

- **SVP Collection**

SVP will shortly be publicising a Saturday collection at Our Lady of Peace in support of the work by the Cyrenians in Coventry over Christmas. Details of items required will be given soon and any support the Parish can give will be greatly appreciated.

- **Opportunities to Engage with people/evangelise**

Prior to Closing Prayers, views were shared about experiences members had of talking to people and listening to their stories and the opportunities such activities present for evangelisation. Consideration was also given to whether there are safe opportunities to support hungry young people.

13. Closing Prayers