

## **St Gregory's and Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Robert Dibdale Faith in Action Committee The Minutes of the Meeting on 15th January 2025**

**Present:** Fr Oliver, Maureen Thompson (Chair), Marion Whelbourn, Edmund Blackie, Jane Thomas, Damien O'Brien, Becky Bailey, Terry Phillips, Theresa Phillips, Jane Thomas, Teresa Franczuk, Cecilia Donnelly, Simon Chappell

**Apologies:** Helen and Mike Dolce and Barbara Cassidy.

1. Opening Prayers and welcome Maureen Thompson (Chair)
2. Apologies: as above.
3. The Minutes of the meeting on the 16th October 2024 were approved as drawn.
4. Matters arising:
  - The Cyrenians were very grateful for the items donated by the Parish at our November collection (at Our Lady of Peace) – this will be fed back in a future bulletin item.
  - Security at the Churches: having established that we are not eligible for a grant from the Police Commission, Fr Oliver suggested a security audit might be the next step.
5. Heating at St Gregory's: having initially been advised of and quoted for the need to replace the boilers, it is now understood that they are still viable. Further research has revealed that it is the flue that is defective and quotes are being obtained for the work. Alternative heating solutions have been investigated. Infra-red heating from above is expensive and not appropriate, some eco solutions have been looked at but do not appear practicable because of the nature of the building but the search goes on. Fr Oliver is of the view that temporary use of an industrial blower would not be safe. In the meantime a decision will shortly be made about whether to hold Masses at Our Lady of Peace acknowledging that the Polish Mass will be at St Gregory's on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
6. PPC Update:
  - The existing constitutional arrangements continue for 6 months
  - The AGM be further postponed
  - A group be appointed to consider constitutional arrangements and draft a new constitution (acknowledging that we await the draft standard constitution for PPCs being prepared under the Deanery process)
  - A Communications Group has been established
  - At the appropriate time a parish skills audit will be undertaken
  - Warm Hub – Safeguarding can be addressed through a form to be supplied by the Safeguarding Officer.
7. Update on Youth Club:

Chair referred to the recent Youth Mass, the views obtained from young people (who attended the meeting beforehand) about what they wanted as well as venue, frequency of meeting etc., the subsequent meeting and Carol Service. The next meeting will be in early February and be announced in the bulletin.
8. Proposed Social Events of the Year:

Following a wide ranging discussion it was agreed that:

  - There should be both fund-raising events (and consideration be given to the possibility of the Parish supporting particular charities for a given period say 1-2 years) and purely social events
  - The school be asked (Chair) to agree to allowing use of the School Hall for a number of events a year

- The next event be a general social event in March of the **format/type** of the St Patricks Day celebrations held in the past but not so attributed which will include music, children dancing and a quiz. The event will include fund-raising activities to support the Medjugorje Trip.

9. Fire Safety:

Fr Oliver to consult other Parishes on the extent of obligations imposed on them by their insurers and arrange a meeting to discuss with St Gregory's Insurers the extent of obligations imposed on St Gregory's.

10 Charities:

- Lenten Lunches at Our Lady of Peace are under review for a number of reasons, for example, Saturday may not be the best day to attract people and funds raised for CAFOD are not significant. It may be better to have coffee and cakes days and a theme of "sell cakes for CAFOD" with Lenten Lunches every now and again. It is recognised however, that both such events present an invaluable opportunity for socialising.
- Mention was made of Fr Clement's Orphanage and his request for more support and the possibility of more publicity this year.

10. Update on Constitution: See PPC update at 6 above.

11. Parish Open Day:

Fr Alex had considered holding an Open Day at Our Lady of Peace after completion of the works. After discussion it was agreed that this be something to be considered again in the future.

12. AGM: See PPC Update at 6 above.

13. Christmas update: None given

14. Any Other Business

- Feedback from the work of the Communications Group is contained in the Appendix
- The 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope: it is intended to have Parish Outings (pilgrimages) to the Jubilee Churches in the Diocese (St Chads Cathedral; St Anne's Church, Caversham; Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Hednesford; St Michael's Church, Penn, Wolverhampton; The immaculate Conception and St Egwin Church, Evesham; Harvington Hall near Kidderminster; Bl Dominic Barberi Church and St John Henry Newman College, Oxford) and Parish Days of Retreat at Oscott. More information to follow.
- The World Day of Prayer - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 2pm is to be held at the Baptist Church and will be advertised in the Church Porches and on the Website
- Consideration is being given to brightening up the Parish Room at St Gregory's by adding windows, the provision of a wall in front of the toilets and reconfiguring the access from the outside into the kitchen and Parish Room.
- Warm Hub: the purpose of the Warm Hub is to provide for anyone during the day, a warm environment/place to meet and chat and have something warm to eat. There was general support for holding such events after St Gregory's Thursday Morning Coffee. There is a need to advertise the Warm Hub in the bulletin and ask for volunteers.
- The next Stratford Churches Together Meeting is to be at St Gregory's on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
- Fr Oliver will investigate the cost of having a Contactless Card Payment Machine at Our Lady of Peace but does not feel that Livestreaming or WiFi is justified

- Date of the next meeting to be fixed by the Parish Pastoral Council .

## 15. Closing Prayers

### **APPENDIX**

#### **Communications Activities**

##### Engagement;

- Fr Oliver's Induction photos and news story for website. Archdiocese News and Stratford Herald.
- St Stephen's Day Mass and photos for website
- Christmas – 2 photos from St Gregory Carol Concert received
- Website and Calendar is being kept up to date
- eNewsletter has 470 contacts. You can sign up via the Parish Website

##### Initiatives:

- TV Display for Signage installed at St Gregorys. Display includes welcome messages, key links and Newsletter. Will feature a page from the Polish Community when received.
- Our Lady of Peace: Audio Mixer set up to improve hearing the musicians play. Still being finalised with keyboards.

##### Emails and GDPR key points:

1. Occasionally mistakes are made when sending group emails. One common error is unintentionally revealing personal details such as email addresses to unintended recipients. To prevent this from happening, it is essential always to ensure that you have express permission from all individuals before sharing their contact information.
2. If permission is not granted, please make sure that all recipients are added to the BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) field instead of the To or CC fields. Depending on your email provider you may leave the To field blank or use your own email address if one is required.
3. The purpose of this guideline is to align with best practices and the requirements set forth in the Data protection Act 2018.
4. This helps us protect personal data and ensures we maintain the highest standards of privacy and compliance.

Thank you for your co-operation in following this important guidance.

##### AOB

Our Lady of Peace does not have a contactless card machine, livestream or TV Display. Are these required?