

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council 30th January 2025

Present: Fr Oliver, Peter Finkel and Theresa Finkel (Joint Chair), Chris Danes, Marina Smith, Maureen Thompson, Con McHugh, Mark O'Connell, Simon Chappell

1. Opening Prayers.

2. Apologies: None

3. Minutes: the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council on the 6th November 2024 were approved.

4. Matters Arising:

- Chair spoke about the need for more Eucharistic Ministers, particularly at the 11.15 Mass. It was agreed to revisit the current list of Eucharistic Ministers and the rota in relation to all Masses. **Fr Oliver to** hold a meeting to address this and any safeguarding issues.
- Fr Oliver has asked for volunteers for Readers but as yet has not received any response.
- Agreed Con to advertise for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers in the Newsletter.
- Fr Oliver to meet with Chris and Marina on 14th February 2025 to plan the Calendar for the year of the Jubilee.

5. Feedback from Sub-Committees:

Faith in Action

- Warm Hub: the purpose of the Warm Hub is to provide for anyone during the day, a warm place to meet and chat and have something to eat. It is proposed to start meetings in the next couple of weeks after St Gregory's Thursday Morning Coffee at 11am. Volunteers are being sought through posters and the bulletin.
- Youth Group: the next meeting is on 5th February 2025 in the Parish Room 6.30-8.00pm.

Liturgy and Formation:

- Jubilee Year of Hope: Diocesan programme of visiting the doors of named churches; St Gregory's School – Fr Oliver has blessed doors in the School which is developing its Jubilee plan, to include a school pilgrimage walk through a park on a date to be agreed.
- Note change in name of Committee to Liturgy and Formation

6. Car Park at St Gregory's

Chair stated that parking was once free for Mass Times including weekdays and Holy Hour but that now it is free only at weekends between 5pm Saturday and 2 pm Sunday. It was also mentioned that at all other times (including Council and Committee meeting times) parking has to be paid for. Chair also mentioned that the parking spaces needed to be more clearly marked out. Fr Oliver to consider the possibility of new arrangements with the Management Company. Chair is also pursuing discussions with the Highway Authority about the recent loss of 2 roadside parking spaces outside the church.

7. Our Lady of Peace Shottery

Fr Oliver referred to the meeting on 25th January 2025 at Our Lady of Peace about the proposed building works ("the scheme"). In short, the Parish Reserves are 1.1 million pounds. Tenders priced the scheme at over £700,000 (but unfortunately didn't cover all elements of the scheme). With inflation (and the cost of the additional elements), the total cost would use up most of the Reserves if not all. In conclusion, the Scheme is not viable.

Fr Oliver proposed and it was agreed that a new Committee be appointed to oversee the requirements for repair and ongoing maintenance of the Church. At the meeting at Our lady of Peace Fr Oliver asked for volunteers for the Committee and Council agreed that Fr Oliver and Chair will appoint the Committee from volunteers and others. The new committee will in addition consider alternative layouts for seating, heating, aesthetics/décor, sound and lighting as well as reported minor structural issues.

The next 5 yearly survey (to be undertaken in February) will inform the repair and maintenance needs.

Fr Oliver stated he is considering a change in the mass timetable and perhaps holding one morning weekday Mass and/or an evening weekday Mass at Our lady of Peace. It was agreed that Lent would be an opportunity to trial any change in the mass Timetable. Fr Oliver also suggested that Stations of the Cross at St Gregory's could be led by someone from Our Lady of Peace and visa versa.

It was also recommended that a new keyboard be purchased for Our Lady of Peace.

8. Parish Finances:

After discussion, it was agreed that:

- Fr Oliver would at the next meeting of the Finance Committee in March, appoint someone from this Council to be on the Finance Committee and arrange for the delivery of a full statement of the Parish's finances to this Council
- Maureen and Simon examine the legal title to the land at Our lady of Peace in order to establish the ownership situation

9. AGM:

After discussion, it was agreed that:

- Chair to find out what progress has been made by the Deanery with the preparation of the draft constitution/guidance for Parish Pastoral Councils (next Deanery Meeting 27th February 2025). In the meantime, Con to circulate a copy of the template he has received
- An extraordinary meeting be called to consider the draft when received
- The group to consider the new constitution to include Fr Oliver, who will with Chair, appoint the group to draft the constitution.
- The AGM be further postponed until after a new Constitution has been concluded.

10. Fr Clement's Trust

Chris advised that:

- An up-to-date statement on the Charity and its financial situation has been prepared (Con asked for an electronic copy)
- As the Charity does not have a "champion", a Parish update and a weekend promotion are proposed
- The Comms Group will be asked to assist with publicity and displays.

11. Safeguarding

Mark reported on:

- a. Volunteer forms having been prepared for those involved with the Youth Group and Warm Hub.
- b. Safeguarding Sunday (17th November 2024).
- c. Fr Oliver has received safeguarding training.
- d. Mark liaises with Fr Oliver on issues which arise from time to time

and the Safeguarding Team at Cathedral House have been of considerable support to them.

12. Any Other Business

- Heating St Gregory's: Quotes of £27,000 and £37,000 were received for repair of the gas central heating boilers. However, it was subsequently established that the boilers are viable and that the flue requires repair, for which a quote of £24,000 was received. Fr Oliver is at the same time seeking to obtain a reduced quote for the repair of the flue while pursuing other "more-green" heating solutions. In particular, Fr Oliver has investigated an "infra-red" heating option and has looked at the installation at St Lawrence Church, Napton on the Hill, which is regarded favourably there. The cost of installation at St Gregory's of a similar system is likely to be in the region of £15-17,000 and electricity running costs are more favourable than gas running costs. Two companies will be attending on 5th February 2025 to talk about their products. Fr Oliver is considering a trial of the equipment in the Church. Consideration will also be given to strengthening the ring-main to provide supplementary heating as necessary.
- Parish Room: Fr Oliver circulated preliminary plans to enhance the Parish Room with 3 windows over-looking the garden and a partition wall in front of the toilets, for which there was general support.
- Social Event 15th March 2025: After general discussion it was agreed that the social event, which will be a quiz night, will take place at Our Lady of Peace after the 5.30pm Mass. Initially it was proposed to have a larger event at the School, to include music and dancing and a quiz. However, it was agreed that as it is unlikely that the heating issues at St Gregory's will have been resolved by the 15th March 2025 and as a consequence, the 5.30pm Mass will be at Our Lady of Peace, this would discourage attendance at the School, should an event be held there.
- Fund-raising in support of the Parish Medjugorje Pilgrimage: in addition to being a social event, the quiz night will also be a fund-raising event in support of the Medjugorje Pilgrimage. Although total costs are not yet known, there will be 27 people going of whom 4 require financial help towards the cost which will include the flights, accommodation and transport to the airport. The raffle has raised £460 already. In addition, consideration is being given to establish whether a contribution might be made from "the Lourdes Fund" which also might be made a "Parish Pilgrimage Fund". In the

