

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Zoom Meeting

April 12th 2021 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Item Number	Item Title	Time Allocated	Running Time	Lead
1	Opening Prayer	2 minutes	2 minutes	FLB
	Fr. Lee opened the meeting with a prayer.			
2	Apologies and Absences	1 minute	3 minutes	Vic Chair
	Apologies were received from Deacon Des and Suzanne Shutes			
3	Minutes of Meeting of 21.09.20	3 minutes	6 minutes	Chair
	The Minutes of the meeting of 14.09.20 were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting. The minutes will be signed by the Chair outside of the Zoom meeting in the near future but may still be published as usual.			
4	Matters arising from minutes of 21.09.20	4 minutes	10 minutes	Chair
	None			
5	Correspondence	2 minutes	12 minutes	Vice Chair
	None			
6	Good News Reports/Observations	10 minutes	22 minutes	PPC Members
	<p>FHC: 14 children registered interest for the FHC programme before it had to be postponed. FLB put a review date of June 2021 for an assessment of the situation and risk assessment according to this. With the problem of not knowing the children it was decided that Zoom would not be a good forum to begin a course – e.g. building up relationships; supporting those who required additional input. It is intended this review will still take place. FL and BH remain in frequent contact regarding the situation.</p> <p>Music: Restrictions to Liturgy has meant that hymns have not been permissible, and this constraint remains. However, the organist has begun playing quiet music pre-Mass before the Sunday 10:00 Mass. This has been welcomed amongst parishioners.</p> <p>Numbers: Two new families are attending Masses. One of these is renting and so may not be permanent to the parish.</p> <p>Visions Group: This is a new group to the parish led by a parishioner every Tuesday. The purpose is to share scripture; pray; promote positive mental health, joy and laughter; use pictures and art as a focus. Membership of 12 is consistent and reports are that people are enjoying the sessions. However the times of the sessions do exclude some parishioners.</p>			
7	Draft North Essex Parish Partnership	10	32	Clergy

	The Partnership document was re-sent to all members prior to the meeting. This document gives background information but has now been superseded by Covid-19. The PPC will await the next steps from the Diocese.			
8	Vision Document	20	52	Clergy
	<p>The Vision document written by the clergy. It was circulated again prior to the meeting. This was first sent out in December 2020 but has since had additions.</p> <p>FLB</p> <p>FLB explained the reasoning for the vision document as being the effects of Covid-19 on all churches. All parishes are facing the need to adapt fairly quickly. The Parish of St. Theresa's has seen less of a fall in numbers than many parishes, but the Diocese is down two thirds in Mass attendance compared with pre-Covid-19.</p> <p>Many of the clergy are mature and have not coped very well; others have. Many have had bad experiences and some parishes are no longer financially viable. The Vision document recognises that as a parish we are not in such an awful position as some others, but we need to grow out of the position we are in as soon as possible. St. Theresa's clergy recognise that prior to Covid-19 the parish was on difficult ground - small numbers; no school to boost these. The Partnership document was pre-Covid and is no longer valid. The parish has had a much better lockdown than other churches within the partnership. It has not been hit so hard (good news) and St. Theresa's is now one of the main parishes in the deanery. With the only existing document for the future out of date, the parish requires a plan for future necessities. This could perhaps be put to the Bishop and show what St. Theresa's has to offer.</p> <p>The Bishop will ask each parish priest to submit attendance figures post Easter and will review these with SW. The Bishop has access to the finances of each parish and will be making his decisions after reviewing parish information. It is expected that we will be told rather than asked.</p> <p>KM: We need to continue to improve our own church and carry this on.</p> <p>FLB: The Diocese were not aware of the situation in Dunmow and without taking on responsibility for the Dunmow Parish, St. Theresa's could have supported. Fr. Lee doesn't mind taking on some of the 'burden' of the pastoral care of Dunmow e.g. FHC but this needs to be co-ordinated by the Dean. There needs to be a willingness from St. Theresa's but without the responsibility.</p> <p>KM: Liked the term about mixed economy e.g. the Latin Mass – most attendees are from outside the parish of St. Theresa's – Cambridge, Felsted, Dunmow. Thaxted.</p> <p>DM: St. Theresa's has been considerably successful over the last months during Covid-19 with DD and FL's influence – they can function well. Also, the way FL facilitates confession before every Mass. DD and FL have done everything in their power to make things go very well. St. Theresa's is a small parish, but the message of the good works needs to get across to the whole parish.</p> <p>BH: Do we know how many people are watching on-line? How do we keep people on-line feeling that they are still a part of the parish?</p> <p>FL: We had a ropey system up to last week. They system lends itself to a marketplace approach. It would be a problem if the Diocese used these numbers but currently, they do not. The first priority is for those who feel vulnerable and the second to go beyond our parish boundaries.</p> <p>BH: With regard to the investment in altar requirements – BH felt FBL should go ahead and buy the necessities out of a requisition budget without the PPC needing to be asked specifically.</p> <p>FLB: It is helpful for people to have a say.</p> <p>The statue of St. Theresa was discussed. Agreed that donation requests will be put in the Parish Newsletter.</p>			

	<p>DM: What about the positioning of the statue? FL: I have an idea. EQ: Processions – do you think this is very important? FL: It is very important to bring back traditions and to do things that neighbours (churches) are not doing – offering something else. It will be interesting putting these on and seeing the attendance at these. Do these things make a difference? It will be interesting to see. BH: People from different countries and cultures where some of these traditions are still widely and frequently practised may like to see some of these traditions. EQ: We have growing numbers of African and Asian families – it may be worth asking what they would like. GS: All comments about investing in on-line provision was very good. It has been a very good substitute for this year and has probably kept the parish structure in place. BH: The numbers showing viewers on-line don't necessarily reflect the numbers actually watching Mass. e.g. where you have a couple or a family. FLB: The Bishop will ask for numbers over a greater length of time. We are the second largest church for capacity in the deanery plus a car park to fit all the cars coming to Mass; a Parish Centre and a young clergy team. We are in a very positive position. We are best placed to come out of this (pandemic effect) very well. We have talked about plans and discussed with committees of lay people within the parish KM: We can double the numbers with chairs. Other parishes may need many more Masses to accommodate the larger numbers. DM – We must make sure the parish is included on how we go forward. KM: With regard to the vision document the PPC is going to support FL.</p>			
9	Proposed Post Covid-19 Recovery Plan	20	72	Clergy
	<p>KM: We seem to be in agreement. What do we need to do to support FL going forward and how do we communicate this to the Parish? FLB: The PPC can assist in getting people on board. Dynamic groups of people are now not easy – people are withdrawing from these. We need people taking ownership of meeting with people – be it a Masses – see who is missing. Ask questions: have you seen xx out and about but not at Masses – explore why they are not there; the everyday conversations. Some people will not be coming back – we need to let them know the door is open; the door will never be closed on members of the family. They will be embraced and welcomed on their return. KM: Talking to those people who might be nervous. FLB: Catholic Social teaching – these things are only going to happen if we make plans to make them happen. e.g. Catechesis for long term Catholics – a series of sessions. We must think about timing. We can't do anything until we are ok - soon. DM: Yes, we can plan but we have to wait for the right time to implement things – we can put things in the diary ready to go. FLB: The CST with DD and the Catechism course are ready to run when we can move forward with these. We can run daytime and evening sessions for some programmes. KM: To Clergy: Do you want more from us at this particular time? FL: As members with strong voices – are we speaking up – to know our views as parishioners? This plan can be developed with good mood music. GS: It would be good to do an analysis of what has changed e.g. is it common that young people/families have depleted in numbers? Is there enough in the document to appeal to everyone especially the young? FL: not everything is there e.g. the social</p>			

	<p>EQ: One thing that is bringing people to Mass is the feeling of community. We don't have a youth group.</p> <p>FL: People don't know where we are. We need to enter into conversation with the youth – to serve their needs we need to ask them.</p> <p>GS: This last year has been difficult – there is no small talk or conversations after Mass outside.</p> <p>FL: This will need to happen as a matter of urgency. We have a set of tracks we can drive down.</p> <p>GS: The other challenge is the significant reduction on financial giving. e.g. some people have direct debits. Is money/envelopes being put in the basket?</p> <p>KM: the marketplace approach is a challenge as GS said – and how the church is getting the finance it needs.</p> <p>FL: People do get upset when money is mentioned in the newsletter. If a significant number of people stop giving, we would become financially unviable, but people are finding it tough – lost jobs, furloughed etc.</p> <p>KM: We are keen to support FL and will do more when the time is correct.</p>			
10	A.O.B	3 minutes	75 minutes	Chair
	<p>EQ: Will you keep the Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass?</p> <p>FL: Yes. We are full on Saturday evenings and the Sunday 10:00 a.m. is almost full. 8:30 a.m. is the least well attended Mass.</p> <p>KM: FL you have put a lot of work into this and have responded to our questions and this is very positive.</p> <p>SS: would the document be put as an attachment?</p> <p>FL: Yes; we would normally do this. (The Vision and Proposed plan)</p>			
11	Date of next meeting	1 minute	76	Chair
	Monday June 28 th 2021 7:00 p.m.			
12	Closing Prayer	2 minutes	78 minutes	Deacon
	DD said the closing prayer.			
	The meeting closed at 8:50 p.m.			

Circulation				
FL; DD; KM; BH; EQ; GS; DM; SS;				