

SAINT PHILIP NERI PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th November 2021

Present: Lynn Ireland (in the Chair), Andrew Collins, Father Niall Mullaley, Rev. Pat Regan, Rev. Gerard Boyle, Mike Flynn, Stella McGann, Andy Davies, Rev. John Birch and Clare Williams.

Opening Prayers “The Temple of the Lord” and “God’s Temple” were led by Rev. Gerard Boyle and Father Niall.

Apologies for Absence: Graham Lysaght, Steve Goulding, Sr. Catherine Bibby and Fr. Humphrey Agbim.

It was reported that Steve Goulding had offered his resignation from the Council as the Communications Representative, as due to his Health and Safety responsibilities, he was unable to attend meetings regularly. This was noted, and the position would continue to be kept under review.

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th September 2021

The minutes were approved as a correct record. Specific matters addressed were:

- St. Joseph’s would develop a Church history leaflet including a Church tour similar to St. Michael’s under the St. Philip Neri Parish banner. However, software issues remained to be addressed, and it was thought that Jake Murphy at the Diocese may be able to help and set the draft up for printing in due course. Lynn remained happy to produce the text for the Leaflet. **[Action: Lynn Ireland].**
- With regard to the Outreach Team and associated Groups, it was still intended that a meeting of those concerned would be convened in due course, subject to consideration of the Strategic Vision for the Parish and Community. **[Action: Lynn Ireland and Andrew Collins].**
- Steve had updated in writing on the development of the Woodland at St. Michael’s and it was confirmed that other groups including the Youth Team had been consulted. An ongoing action plan was still being developed to maintain this area, and it remained a longer term project. **[Action: Steve Goulding plus Others].**
- A meeting of Eucharistic Ministers had been held on 6th October, with a view to resuming visits to people’s homes in due course. However, the

restrictions remained very tight, including the need for DBS forms to be completed. It was understood that this was progressing, and that a further item should be included in a forthcoming Newsletter **[Action: Gerard Boyle]**.

- It was noted that a further meeting of Stewards would be arranged, once any changes to the current procedures were announced **[Action: Steve Goulding and Paul Davenport]**.
- With regard to Health and Safety issues, Steve had reported by email that for St. Michael's, the Parish continued to work through the actions of the Fire Safety Report many of which could be achieved fairly easily with minimum expenditure. After a recent meeting the Diocese appeared to accept the recommendation that the side door be converted into a fire exit. A scheme of works was being drawn up, together with the costs involved. For the Old Presbytery, the reopening of the Parish rooms for parish groups had been agreed, subject to the necessary risk assessments being submitted, which could be done online. However, the use of either the Church or the Parish Rooms by external groups continued to be very problematical as any such group would require public liability insurance which specifically covered any covid issues, which is very difficult to obtain. Steve wished to thank Tony Ireland for his expert advice and assistance on these issues. **[Action: Steve Goulding and Tony Ireland]**
- It was noted that at St. Joseph's the warning notices had been removed from the non – asbestos three walls in the basement, which made the use of the space much more convenient.
- The Liturgy Team had met, and a list of proposed events in the lead up to Christmas and beyond was circulated and agreed. It was noted that Father Humphrey would be away for his Mother's funeral in Nigeria from 15th November until 21st December, but that the proposals for Advent services and Christmas Masses should be fulfilled. Also noted that the Carols for All gathering on 10th December was dependent on other Groups being willing to participate, and that a Carol Concert for St. Michael's Junior pupils would be held on the afternoon of 17th December. The Liturgy Team had agreed to meet again on Tuesday, 16th November at 7.30pm to keep the programme under review. **[Action: Lynn Ireland]**

2. Strategic Vision

It had been agreed at the last meeting that this gathering should focus on the strategic vision for the new Parish as we emerged from the pandemic and to take account of future questions and the right way forward. Father Niall had prepared a note of the relevant issues, and this was circulated at the meeting, to focus particularly on our faith, prayer and the way forward emerging from the Diocesan Synod.

A number of relevant points were made – for example although one Parish we do consist of two churches from which a number of preconceptions emerged, so we need to work harder on the one Parish issue and leading with our communities. The “99” programme was an important part of this, and should be relaunched when possible. The Diocesan Synod was also highly relevant, particularly the messages about listening to each other and evangelisation and influencing others. It would be important to avoid being nebulous about our future, and to move forward together as a community.

One main problem was how to involve younger people and families, as the absence from Church of younger people was a big issue. It would be essential to reach out more effectively to the Schools. We need to listen more to what young people actually want to do, as opposed to our perceptions of their needs. Younger people preferred to have a cause, which they can pursue and develop interests in, which may not necessarily be based on religious ideas.

It was however noted that 18 people were potentially interested in joining the RCIA programme, which was very encouraging.

In Advent there would be a need to focus as a Parish on our future needs to move forward as a community. Accordingly, Father Niall was willing to preach on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of Advent on the vision which has brought us to where we are now, and how we may be called forward.

It was proposed and agreed that there would be a Day of Recollection in January 2022 to further the Parish “Vision” and decide on our Parish Synodal response. This could be held at St. John Plessington College, perhaps with a visiting speaker.

The meeting agreed to adopt Father Niall’s paper, including the suggestions as mentioned above, and also that extra times of Prayer and Holy Hours to encourage regular praying of the “Synod Prayer” and “Come Holy Spirit”.

It was also agreed that the relevant dates should be included in the Newsletter as soon as possible.

3. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 7.30pm in the Raiswell Room at St. Joseph's. It was noted that future meetings could be held at St. Michael's Church.

Closing Prayers were "Adsumus Sancte Spiritus" for the Diocesan Synod.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

Mike Flynn, Secretary