

SAINT PHILIP NERI PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 17th May 2022

The Meeting was held in the Raisewell Room at St. Joseph's

Present: Lynn Ireland (in the Chair), Andrew Collins, Father Niall Mullaley, Father Humphrey Agbim, Rev. John Birch, Sr. Catherine Bibby, Rev. Gerard Boyle, Mike Flynn, Stella McGann, Matthew Edwards and Graham Lysaght.

Apologies for Absence: Clare Williams, Steve Goulding, Rev. Pat Regan, Rev. Paul d'Ambrogio and Andy Davies.

Opening Prayers were offered by Father Niall.

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd March 2022

The minutes were approved as a correct record. There were the following matters arising:

- The Council was updated on the now completed installation of the new microphones and sound system at St. Joseph's which had just been finished. There was now a lot of surplus older kit in the Church, which might either be given to the Arrowe Park Hospital Chaplaincy, or where possible generally sold on (eg.) Ebay. It had been confirmed that the Parish was in credit for £6665 from the OMT initiative and it was agreed that this could be used to offset any costs.
- The Chrism Mass at St. Michael's on 13th April had been a success despite Bishop Mark's absence due to Covid.
- The hearing loop at St. Michael's was not working, due to the main installation being outside the building. Also, the microphone system there was not functioning correctly, probably due to outside interference with the connection leads. Both issues were being addressed.

2. Parish Priest's Update

Father Niall referred to the following:

- The Parish COBRA Team, which had been renamed 'The Parish Service Team' had been meeting during the Pandemic, but in recent days it was considered that much of the discussion at this meeting was also duplicated in the Parish Council Meeting. After discussion it was agreed

that the Parish Service Team should be discontinued for the time being, and at the next Parish Council we could consider whether the role it had previously held was now being covered in other ways **{Action: Mike Flynn}**

- The First Holy Communion Mass arrangements were well in hand, with Masses taking place in both Churches, as follows:

St. Michael's: 14th May

St. Joseph's: 21st May and 18th June

- Consideration was being given to setting up Prayer Spaces for Peace locations in both Churches. These would involve separate space for Prayer, including the ability to leave notes and light candles. Maps of current conflict locations across the World would also be displayed. It was thought that these special areas might best be located on the left hand side of Church in St. Joseph's and on either side of the Altar at St. Michael's. It was agreed that this initiative should certainly proceed and that Fr. Niall would consult Revs. Gerard and John on the preferred locations in both Churches **[Action: Fr. Niall]**.
- A drone inspection of the roof at St. Joseph's Church had been carried out, and we are awaiting the results of this to see if anything needed to be followed up upon.
- Work had started on the roof of the Parish Centre at St. Joseph's and although asbestos had been found, it was thought that the building could be repaired with a possible completion date in September. When asked about the funding for this Father Niall said it was being covered by the Shrewsbury Diocese Commercial Company (SDCC), which managed the business side of the Diocesan Parish Centre and Clubs. In partnership with our Diocesan Property Department and SDCC ways were being considered as to how we could better use the Parish Centre for Parish and Community events whilst maintain the commercial ventures. Further consideration would be given to this. Scaffolding and Security presences were now on site, and the position would be kept under regular review.

3. Health and Safety Issues

Steve had sent in some written comments about Health and Safety issues mainly at St. Michael's, as follows:

- The new Fire Exit doors were now operational, but more work remained to be done on the glazing in the Lobby. Also, it was noted that the entry door into the back Sacristy required attention.
- The Boiler Room and the Electrical Switch Room were very full and both needed a good tidy up. It was suggested that some heavy duty shelving should be purchased to help with this, and that the Premises Team should be involved.
- The risk assessments previously carried out at the Old Presbytery should be reviewed and updated now that the premises were coming back more into use. There was also a need to focus on the Office which contained much probably redundant electrical/IT equipment.
- There was a need to revisit the Covid guidance as set out in the Newsletter, as for example the need to wear face masks could be left more to individual choice. It was agreed that the current wording should be examined and any preferred changes made **[Action: Fr. Niall]**.
- Defibrillators had been installed at both Churches and congregations advised. It was felt it would be helpful to remind people of their availability **[Action: Fr. Niall]**.

Steve had offered to join the new Premises Team despite his difficulty in attending meetings, which was gratefully agreed.

4. Safeguarding

There were no issues to report.

5. Strategic Vision and Objectives for the Future

There were many other pressures and changes arising currently in the Diocese due to several Clergy being on sick leave. This was causing us all to review the vision for our Parishes and areas. Accordingly, the proposed “Day of Recollection” and its timing was reviewed in great detail by the Council. In particular, the objectives for such a day were considered. These ranged from forming a new “vision” for the Parish and/or building on what had already been achieved. There was a need to involve the wider Parish in the future agenda and to become more outward looking. It was important that as many as possible should be reinvolved following the difficulties caused by Covid. This applied particularly to younger people, the Indian Community, other groups within the Parish and non – Catholics who also joined in Parish activities.

The meeting considered whether any of the responses to the Synod questionnaire could be used to help to design the day. It was noted that some

from other local Parishes attended at both Churches. It was agreed that the main focus should be on the Parish community, how the community could take a range of matters forward and how best to reach out to others. Relaunching the “99” and “Alpha” courses following the pandemic could also play a part in taking forward these activities.

It was agreed that planning for a Day of Recollection should continue, based on a review of the Synod Topics, and the idea of what it means to be a Parish and how best to move things forward. A team would be needed to carry out this work, including initially some Parish Council members but, hopefully developing into a wider representation involving some of the communities mentioned above. Such a Steering Group would have to be established to take this forward, and Fr. Niall undertook to review and start the process [**Action: Fr. Niall**].

6. Development of Parish Structures and Teams

The Council considered the reports back from the Teams which had met since the last meeting, as follows:

- The Liturgy Team continued to meet occasionally to help consider the detail of Special Services and Masses. It was suggested that the Sacristans from St Joseph’s and St Michael’s should attend these meetings [**Action: Fr. Niall**].
- The Social Team had been reconvened, and was preparing for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebration, which would be held at St. Michael’s on Sunday 12th June following the 11am Mass. It was envisaged that this gathering would follow the format of the reopening event last year, with scout tents, entertainment and food involved. There would be no cost to those attending, although all were to be asked to bring cakes and their own drinks. An assessment was to be made of those Parishioners likely to attend by Stewards at all Masses over the weekend of 28/29th May. The Parish would underwrite any costs, which were to be identified and would be in line with the previous event last year [**Action: Andy Collins**].
- The Social Team had also agreed that the Fish and Chip Supper had been postponed and would now be held next year to coincide with St. George’s Day around 22nd/23rd April 2023 [**Action: Andy Collins**].
- Lynn was continuing to look at the composition of the Premises Team, to include Steve, and also Graham. It was felt important that Gill and all of the Sacristans should be included. Lynn still needed to speak to Mary

and Kate. It was acknowledged that this Team would have a major task to fulfil in recycling much redundant material and waste **[Action: Lynn Ireland]**.

- The Communications Team was regarded as important, but was not functioning well at present. Andy and Kate had fed back comments to this effect, and had offered to act as the point of contact at St. Michael's to pass on relevant information. It was acknowledged that a large part of the Team's work was concerned with Social Media which was not being followed through. Graham agreed to discuss this with Kate and Andy and to report further **[Action: Graham Lysaght]**.

7. Other Business

- Graham reported that a relic of St. Bernadette of Lourdes would be at Shrewsbury Cathedral on 13th September and that numbers wanting to visit from the Parish would need to be identified quickly. This suggested that an item in the Newsletter would be needed and he agreed to follow this through **[Action: Graham Lysaght]**.
- A small number of tickets for the production at the Gladstone Theatre on 7th June in aid of SVP were available from Mike and Tony Evans **[Action: Mike Flynn and Tony Evans]**.
- Congratulations were given to Fr. Niall on his excellent conduct of the First Holy Communion Mass at St. Michael's on 14th May, which had put the whole congregation very much at ease.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 19th July 2022 at 7.30pm in the Raisewell Room at St. Joseph's.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

Mike Flynn, Secretary

