

MINUTES

Sacred Heart Parish Open Meeting

Sunday 15th April, 2018 15.00 in Parish Hall

Present:

Speakers: Fr Karol Porczak – Parish Priest; Elizabeth Barker – Religious Education and Liturgy
David Kerr –Proclaim! , Michael Read –PSC Chairman,
Magdalena Kania – Parish Secretary – Minutes,
and 13 Parishioners

Apologies from: Michael Lynch, James Howe, Arthur Ryans

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Fr Karol opened the meeting with a greeting and a prayer.

Minutes of the Last Meeting in November 2017

Minutes were confirmed.

Chairman's Report

Michael updated the membership of the Parish Steering Committee:

- The New Year Resolutions exercise proved to be very successful in drawing a wide range of volunteers to the parish.
- Christine Allard and Angela Love have resigned as parish representatives on CTSI. New reps for our parish are Elizabeth Barker, David Kerr and Margaret King has agreed to be rep for CTSI Carnival committee. But not CTSI.
- Paul Kent resigned as Parish Treasurer
- Biggest event of the year has been the Lent Studies based on book by Sherry Weddell "Forming Intentional Disciples"
- The decision of the Liturgy Group to present Spiritual Bouquets to Fr. Karol and Fr. Ivan on Maundy Thursday, proved to be a very popular idea and was well supported by the parishioners.
- Changes to the Data Protection Laws (GDPR) coming into force on 25th May 2018, David Kerr will make sure that we as a parish comply with the new legislation.
- We have no representation to go to the World Youth event in Panama.

Financial statement and Annual accounts

Michael Read (in Paul Kent's absence) presented a summary of the parish accounts – see attached spreadsheet. He particularly referred that:

- Alive in Faith isn't affecting our Sunday collections.

Alive in Faith: Income has fallen from £209,405 in November 2016 to £187,627 in March 2018. It is £21,778 difference. Reasons? Cancellations, Deaths.

Overall he did not see big funding problems and we should be able "to keep our heads above water"

- Ellen Kemp asked question about progress on Papworth church.
Michael Read replied that we had an update at the PSC meeting .The new chairman of the F&B committee, Michael Lynch, has picked up on the status of social housing in the application which means that there will be almost double amount of money from the sale of the land.

David Kerr proposed a vote of thanks to Michael Lynch for enlightening us on this matter. The Diocese had not been aware of the change in the regulations either. Without Paul no more details were reported.

Religious Education and Liturgy – see attached report

Elizabeth also drawn attention to two events

- RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS - Four adults, 2 women and 2 men were confirmed at the Easter Vigil Service on 31st March 2018. Three of them were received into full Communion with the Catholic Church and one was confirmed as an adult as he had been baptised as a child in the RC church. A young man who did the course decided that he was not ready to be baptised yet and so we remember him in our prayers and hope that he will be able to make the decision later in the year or even next year.
- CONFIRMATION MASS took place on 10th April much later than anticipated due to Bishop Alan being held up in traffic on his journey here. Thirteen young people, who had studied the YOUCAT programme were confirmed at the Mass celebrated with their sponsors, families and friends. A reception was held in the parish hall afterwards. It is recommended that the confirmands should attend the IGNITE FESTIVAL on 5th/6th May in Swaffham. Victoria Roff one of the catechists will go with the young people and so far 2 have chosen to go.
- A coach was shared with Huntingdon parish so 14 went from this parish to the Chrism Mass in St John's Cathedral. But only 12 came back as our sacristan Eddie Francis was taken ill to hospital.
- Spiritual Bouquets summary : 101 Masses, 140 Holy communions, 117 Rosaries, 21 Station of the cross, 81 Divine Mercy Novenas, 7 Novenas, 300 other prayers
- Fr Karol also mentioned that four banners were ready and will be hung on the front of the church building representing at the appropriate times the Christmas and Easter seasons and the Feasts of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady of La Salette.

Finance & Buildings Report

Projects in parish

- a) The sound system in the Church, Extension and Hall;
- b) En-suite in upstairs room and refurbishment of the corridor;
- c) Surveillance cameras;
- d) Decoration of the hall (new paint); last painted 8 years ago

Fr. Karol mentioned that the Easter collection was very low this year.

This year was £1400 last year was £2000.

Proclaim! – see attached report

David introduced his attached report on Proclaim in our parish.

Proclaim plans have continued to progress since the last Open Meeting, with particular emphasis on building up an evangelisation team through the Lent course, which Elizabeth will explain. Fr Karol will then look to the future for Proclaim in our parish and in the Diocese, where he is leading as Vicar for Evangelisation. Our work in this parish has progressed on all three of the main parts of our programme.

CTSI

CTSI has gone through a difficult patch since their AGM on 25th September 2017 when they failed to decide on a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman and deferred their election until the

29th January meeting. We took our full voting team, of Fr Karol and three lay representatives for the second attempt at an election and Sue Kinder from the Methodist Church was duly elected. That was the final meeting for two of our representatives – Christine Allard and Angela Love – who have now resigned.

Elizabeth read out a report on the evangelization situation. see attached report

Father Karol was appointed the Vicar for Evangelization in our Diocese he decided that we should be one of the first parishes to study the book. Using the Plymouth model as a useful guide for the Sacred Heart Parish. Lenten Series was based on the manual produced by the Plymouth Diocese who developed and presented the course to us at a meeting of the Diocesan Evangelization team in October last year, using the book *Forming Intentional Disciples* We were advised to use the manual closely in order to set up an evangelising parish work and we did. Next meeting on 1st of May (first Tuesday of the month).

Fr. Karol mentioned an article from Daily Telegraph from Good Friday, emphasising that Christians need to talk about their Faith others wise it will die out. He also gave an example of how he wished us to spread the Word.

Fr Karol's Report

In an oral report Fr Karol referred to:

- A religious house of the Missionaries of La Salette has been formed between Peterborough, All Souls and St Ives, Sacred Heart. The appointed superior is Fr Adam Sowa MS;
- There will not be an additional priest appointed next year from the La Salette order.
- Bible Weekend for Parishes: from Friday till Sunday was being considered but the high cost of the course is discouraging..
- Brother Jarek started last Monday his 5 weeks course of English in Studio Cambridge (Station Road); he is now absent in the presbytery from 7.30am until 3pm from Monday to Friday;
- The Polish Mass introduced last Advent is proving necessary with the attendance greater in number than the 8am Mass and matching the 5pm Mass on Saturdays (ca. 80-90 people) Polish Mass is mostly attended by families with children.

Any Other Business

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Ann presented a summary of the SVP report. — see attached report

Hoping for new Youth group in parish, but a trained leader will be required.

The Chairman, Michael Read, read a letter giving reasons for his immediate resignation as Chairman and from his other parish commitments.

Michael stated that he is no longer able to continue with any active involvement due to his own health problems and his wife's declining health.

Fr Karol thanked him for all his service to the parish.

Date and time of next meeting

Next Parish Open Meeting will be held on Sunday November 18th at 3pm.