

Sacred Heart Parish Open Meeting

Sunday 8th May, 2016 4pm in Parish Hall

MINUTES

Present:

Fr Karol – Parish Priest
Elizabeth Barker – Chair
Paul Kent – Treasurer
Ellen Kemp – Finance & Building
Rosalind Bubb - Minutes

Mary and Terry Baker, Kathy Bishop, Claire Downham, Iris Flanagan, Pat Francis, Tony Haddock, James Howe, David Kerr, Angela and Peter Milledge, Angela and Sean O Farrell, Michael Read, Rika Sanderson, Gina and Mario Sant, Carol Sayer, Mike Smallman, Fiona Smith, John and Pat Symmons, Dot Wade, Anne-Marie Zimmerman

Welcome and opening prayer – Fr Karol

Chairman's Report – Elizabeth Barker

Reports from Mass reps

8am: Rotas are created for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers, as well as a small list for the Offertory Procession; these rotas have the beneficial effect of involving more people. Our coffee morning is very popular, and gets people talking and laughing. There is an occasional big breakfast every couple of months, which is also very successful. It's all running pretty smoothly, and is going very well.

11 am

Holy Land

Music: The Music Group provides music at the 11am Mass, with instruments and singing, and for occasional feasts and events. The recent Holy Week celebrations went very well, with a mix of traditional and modern music. If you know anyone with any music ability, please invite them to come and say hello, and to join us.

R.E.

S.V.P: The SVP has eight members; we have had one new member join this year. The SVP makes regular visits to the housebound; it gives lifts to Church, and to the shops. The SVP is supported by members' donations, and the Palm Sunday collection. The donations are always welcome to help with the cost of the £545, which pays for the Walsingham pilgrimage coach.

The SVP also organises the Autumn Club and activities in the Hall (tea and cake, and talks.) We provide entertainment. We take our Autumn Club members out to lunch or to a garden centre; there is an annual boat trip. It's all very enjoyable.

We hope people will keep supporting us. If you know anyone who needs a visit, you can contact the SVP through Fr Karol, the SVP President, or through the office. Please do join us.

Social

Planning sub-committee

Courtyard Project update – Ellen Kemp

Annual Accounts – Paul Kent

Questions following Paul's presentation:

Q: The Alive in Faith surplus, is that going towards funding the Courtyard?

A: It has not been factored into the accounts, that's been done separately. The first pledges will arrive in September. It is expected to be £90,000, over 5 years. That will help.

Papworth Church may be sold, and the proceeds may be shared between the Diocese and us.

The last Quinquennial Review took place in 2011, and provided 3 reports about the state of each of the buildings, which lead to lots of activity for maintenance. There will be another QQR survey in June this year, so there may be more maintenance needed that has not yet been discovered.

Child Protection update – Mike Smallman

Mike Smallman is the Parish Safeguarding Representative. He is responsible for undertaking DBS [used to be CRB] checks, and is the first point of contact.

1. The forms need to be updated regularly. An electronic system called bulk is to be introduced in the near future. Out of the 48 people on our books, 28 people need to be re-checked, as their checks are now more than 5 years old. Mike has 6 months in which to do that.
In the next few months, anyone who was checked before 2011, will be contacted. It is all done electronically now, including disclosure and barring service checks. Then, Mike will meet with them, and do ID verifications again. It is all surprisingly simple, for everyone! For non-electronically minded, there is still a paper form available (formerly the CRB form.)
2. Mike wants people to know that there is available an online training programme, by NCSC, being promoted. Mike was a policeman for 30 years, and therefore has a very suspicious mind. Even for him, this on-line training has been eye-opening, in particular regarding Cybercrime and bullying. (Those involved in Children's Liturgy might find this useful.) If you are interested, please sign up for it.

La Salette Missionaries in the Ukraine – Fr Waldemar Smialek

Fr Waldemar was a pastor in the Ukraine during 2014. In line with the Pope's call for help, this is to help us to be more aware. La Salette have a mission over there, with 5 parishes. The part of the west of Ukraine where he was stationed is the poorer part of the country, but is 1,000km away from the part now affected by war.

The majority of the people there speak Polish, as this was part of Poland, before the 2nd World War. There was a great deal of suffering and hardship. The temperature varies between minus 20 and plus 40 Celcius. The roads are in a terrible state. The people are very friendly, and are delighted to have a Priest, who is very well taken care of by their parishioners.

The Ukraine got independence in 1992. The majority of the population is Greek mostly Byzantine Christians, with services which last 3 hours, with the congregation standing and singing throughout. The Catholic population is about 10%, and Catholic Churches are 100 miles apart.

Fr Karol's report:

- Of the pledges raised by Alive in Faith, £90,000 will be given to the parish over 5 years; the first money will be arriving in September, and can be claimed to pay for our Courtyard project.
- Papworth Church is on the way to being sold, and we believe we will receive a percentage of the money.
- There have been lots of marriage preparations. Fr Karol is pleased about this. There will be some mixed marriages, in which the other spouse is being encouraged to become Catholic. Of the 3 marriages currently happening, 2 spouses may join the RCIA programme.
- Parish Mission will take place, as an exchange with Fr Pdraig from Poringland Parish. It will be a time of abundant preaching about basic aspects of our faith, and will take place in the evenings.
- World Youth Day will be in July and Bishop Alan has asked Fr Karol to organise and accompany the 85 people from the diocese, including 5 young people from our parish. They need to raise £1,500 to top up the full amount of the pilgrimage.
- The polish community are presenting a challenge. They need support. Relatives of those living in the UK come to visit from Poland, sometimes for months or years, and they would like to be able to participate in Church life. Otherwise, they have to go to Peterborough or Huntingdon, for a Polish Mass.
- There is no prospect of having an assistant parish priest this year. Peterborough has first priority.
- As part of the Year of Mercy, the Pastoral service of the confessional is being held on Saturday mornings as well as in the afternoon. Fr Karol thinks that this is a good thing, and people are coming.
- Quarante Ore [40 Hours] was held at the start of March this year. It will be done again in October; it is part of the Diocesan initiative for the Year of Mercy. Fr Karol was pleased to see how many came to take part.
- We will try to mark The Feast of the Sacred Heart, our patron saint, by having some kind of social event. There will be gifts of appreciation given to all who are involved as volunteers in the parish.

- With regards to financial issues, nothing is currently being done about the fabric of the presbytery. The QQR survey in June might show up some issues that need to be addressed. Some of the furniture and furnishings are very old.
eg new furniture is desirable in Fr Karol's room which currently only has one wardrobe.
- Fr Karol would like to create a 2nd floor in the parish Hall, to make a better use of the ceiling space – these are plans for the very far future.
- Fr Karol is looking for a housekeeper: someone to do his washing and ironing, once a fortnight. Cooking is not required. This post will be properly assessed, advertised and remunerated, and the cost is allowed by the diocese.
- Fr Karol outlined changes within the Order of Our Lady of La Salette Missionaries. There are currently 11 members, and this may soon become 12. The Order does not currently have a formal structure, or constitution. Fr Karol is trying to create religious houses, with a minimum of 3 religious per house eg Peterborough and St Ives together.

There was no ANY OTHER BUSINESS raised.