

**STM PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Minutes 20 February 2019**

**Meeting opened:** 7:15pm  
**PPC Members:** David Broom, Marysa Coulter, Neil Dawson (Chair), Tim Hackwell, Father Darryl\*.  
**Secretary:** Sue Morris

1. **Opening prayer:** Father Darryl

2. **Apologies for absence**  
Mariel Adams, Kevin Burnham, Rosemary Farrow.

3. **Matters arising from previous meetings**  
The minutes of the previous meeting held 28.11.18 were circulated prior to the meeting. Matters arising not covered under separate agenda items were:-

- **Garden of remembrance**  
This action has been completed.
- **Parish health and safety representative**  
There was an ongoing action from the last meeting for members to think who could be asked to take on the role of Parish health and safety representative.  
**Ongoing action: Neil Dawson** to ask Steve Ferris to approach the suggested person to see if they would be willing to take on the role.
- **Website**  
**Ongoing action: David Broom** to see if the PPC minutes on the website can be re-organised so that the newest minutes are at the top of the list.
- **External doors**  
**Ongoing action: Neil Dawson** to ask Steve Ferris about replacement of the external doors.  
When this was discussed it was raised that it would be useful if a member of the PPC also sat on the Fabric and Finance (F&F) Committee. David Broom noted that he did sit on both committees and that there had not been a F&F meeting for a while. It was reported that enquiries are being made about the doors. However, modern doors only have a surface laminate of real wood and require that there is a canopy above the door to retain the integrity of the door. It is not possible to install a canopy at STM because of the mosaic above the entrance door.
- **Advent initiative**  
The actions relating to this had all be completed and the recipients of the gifts have expressed appreciation to Parishioners.

4. **Parish**

**“Inreach” bible study group**

Neil Dawson has contacted Richard Martin and his opinion was that what the PPC was proposing came under the category of “catechism” rather than “evangelisation” which was his remit. Neil Dawson commented that he felt that Richard Martin was unlikely to agree to be involved. It was agreed that there needed to be someone in the study group with expertise in church doctrine. Father Darryl agreed to attend the sessions although he felt that it was not necessary for him to facilitate the sessions. It was agreed that the sessions would take place during Lent after the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings (6.30pm).

**Action: David Broom** to send Father Darryl the suggested list of topics again.

**Action: Father Darryl** to insert an item in the newsletter.

*Update after the meeting: The item appeared in the newsletter for the weekend 23/24 February inviting Parishioners to “I’m glad you asked” discussions on questions of Catholic belief after Stations of the Cross during Lent.*

**Sound system**

It had been raised that Parishioners had had difficulties hearing Father Angelo when he made his appeal when Father Darryl was away. Sometimes readers are inaudible because they do not have the microphone close enough to their mouth.

**Action: David Broom** agreed to investigate a solution.

## **Youth involvement and activities**

Nothing to note.

## **Update on financial picture in the Parish**

Steve Ferris had provided a financial update which was circulated at the meeting detailing the income and expenditure from September 2018 to the end of January 2019. Weekly envelope offerings have been slightly up on previous months but have not reached the ideal £450 a week average.

The nursery school wish to increase their use of the hall from 3 whole days and 2 half days to 5 whole days a week from September. This will help the financial outlook. However, it was commented that the hall is being left in a less than ideal state by nursery staff.

Tim Hackwell informed the PPC that Steve Ferris has met with the Diocesan Surveyor and the diocese have not agreed with the plans to install an additional toilet in the sacristy citing safeguarding reasons. The facility will now be refurbished and a new sink and toilet installed.

## **Social activities**

### **Social evening**

Tony Adams has agreed to perform a few songs during a social evening. Discussion ensued about additional activities that could be planned for the evening and when it might take place. It was agreed that as STM celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary on a Saturday (22.06.19) the event would take place then.

**Action: All** to think of what additional activity could be planned or if they know of any singer/musician who could be approached to perform.

## **Ordinariate**

Father Darryl had left the meeting at this point.

## **Cleaners**

The shortage of church cleaners was raised. Tim Hackwell, Neil Dawson and David Broom agreed to help but could not commit to doing so on Friday mornings when the cleaning currently is undertaken. It was suggested that a rota could be drawn up.

**Action: Neil Dawson** to talk to Father Darryl about an item in the newsletter asking for volunteers to come forward to clean the church and also to enrol additional Eucharistic Ministers.

## **5. Diocesan**

Nothing to note.

## **6. Pastoral area**

Neil Dawson has circulated the latest EST minutes and highlighted that “welcoming” had been discussed at the last EST meeting. Mariel Adams, in her email offering her apologies for the meeting, had also commented on this. A discussion ensued on welcoming and the issue of silence before and after Mass. David Broom volunteered to make some signs reminding Parishioners that before Mass they should be talking to God and that after Mass was the appropriate time to talk to fellow Parishioners.

Neil Dawson noted that the EST has decided not to use “Churchbuilder” (software).

A working group is being set up to discuss ways of involving the youth in Parishes.

A “Welcome to Worship” session is planned for Tuesday 26 February at 7.00pm at St Joseph’s Church.

## **7. Correspondence**

None.

## **8. AOB**

### **Parish strategy**

It was suggested that the Parish should develop a strategy to attract new Parishioners and to engage parents that come to church to have their children baptised or for First Holy Communion. It was noted that letters have been sent for the past few years to the parents of First Holy Communion candidates inviting them to become welcomers or readers but that there had been no response.

**Action: All** to think of strategies to attract new Parishioners for the next meeting.

**Action: Tim Hackwell** to ask the organist and Paul Tabor (the Sunday music director/cantor) about input into the choice of music during Masses.

**Action: Sue Morris** to add "Music during Mass" to the agenda of the next meeting.

9. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 7.15pm

10. **Refreshments for next meeting:** Sue Morris

11. **Closing prayer:** Neil Dawson.

Meeting ended at 9.17

\* *Father Darryl left the meeting at 8.11pm during discussions about the sound system.*