

**STM PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Minutes 11 September 2019**

**Meeting opened:** 7:15pm

**PPC Members:** Mariel Adams, David Broom, Marysa Coulter, Father Darryl\*, Neil Dawson (Chair), Tim Hackwell.

**Secretary:** Sue Morris

1. **Opening prayer:** Neil Dawson.

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

3. **Matters arising from previous meetings**  
The minutes of the previous meeting held 26.06.19 were circulated prior to the meeting.

Matters arising not covered under separate agenda items were:-

- **Parish health and safety representative**  
Steve Ferris and Mike Langham have agreed to share the responsibility.
- **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.
- **Cleaners**  
The two actions from the previous meeting were still outstanding so a list of jobs was compiled at the meeting.  
**Ongoing action: Neil Dawson** to compose a notice for Father Darryl to read out at Masses.
- **Bible sessions**  
The outstanding action relating to this was changed at the meeting.  
**Action: Neil Dawson** to ask if the Parish can borrow the videos after Fordingbridge Parish have used them to enable bible sessions to be held at STM.
- **Mass times**  
Father Darryl has been informed about the PPC decisions relating to Mass times.
- **Refreshments for training event**  
Pastoral Area training for Eucharistic Ministers, members of Liturgy Groups etc. on the theme of vulnerable adults and children is to be held at STM 19.10.19. This is an all-day event and the Parish has been asked to provide refreshments in the morning and afternoon and a light lunch for participants. Marysa Coulter, Neil Dawson and Mariel Adams volunteered to help with the catering.

4. **Parish**

**“Inreach” bible study group**

As commented at the last meeting recent sessions have been more in depth than had been originally envisaged. The sessions are now more a philosophical debate than equipping participants to defend their faith. It was felt that the proposed bible sessions (see above) would help in answering more fundamental questions. It was recommended that these sessions be planned to take place weekly so that the impetus is not lost.

**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 August 2019. The report was noted. The official accounts will be available at the next PPC meeting. The PPC was informed that the next Fabric and Finance Committee meeting will discuss the outcomes of the quinquennial inspection. It was considered that the indicative outline future costs (from Daniells Harrison, Chartered Surveyors), which were also circulated, were much higher than might be expected and that the work could be undertaken at considerably less cost. However, since this is under the remit of the Fabric and Finance Committee the discussion was brought to a close.

It was noted that there has been a delay with the installation of new entrance doors but that the doors are in the process of being made.

the church, hall and presbytery and the report included the condition of the electrical installation, emergency lighting, fire detection and alarm systems and sanctuary lighting.

### **Social activities**

#### **Harvest supper**

At the last meeting it was agreed that the event would be held 12.10.19. Marysa Coulter confirmed that her contact was willing and available to be the auctioneer.

**Action: Neil Dawson** to prepare flyers advertising the event for distribution at the Masses to be held 14/15 September.

**Action: Neil Dawson** to appeal for help at those Masses and to inform Parishioners that there will be a meeting after Mass on Sunday 22.09.19 for those willing to help with the event.

### **Reverence in church**

This item had been added because of several observations of disturbing behaviour at Masses especially the Sunday 9.30am Mass. Some attendees have been holding conversations not only before Mass but also during the Mass at a noise level which has distracted other members of the congregation. There seems to be a lack of respect for the Mass, the Priest and other members of the congregation. This is more noticeable during e.g. baptisms when the family are not regular attendees at Mass. It was suggested that Father Darryl might refer to this in his homily.

It was commented that some of the noise at the 9.30am Mass was from the children and that this might be mitigated by having a shorter Mass as most weeks the Mass is over an hour and quarter long. It was felt that when the children return to the church from their children's liturgy a more ordered procession would lead to less noise. It was suggested that the children could be lined up in pairs before they are led back into the church and could be reminded to be quiet and reverent.

### **Ordinariate**

Father Darryl noted that John Henry Newman is to be canonised and it was felt appropriate that the Parish mark this event in some way.

**Action: Father Darryl** to find out from the members of the Ordinariate how they wish to celebrate this event.

### **Aid to the church in need**

Father Darryl had received an email in which "Aid to the Church in Need" invited Parishes to "Stand up for Faith and Freedom" by illuminating churches, ideally in red, to show solidarity with Christians around the world. (The email stated that for more information, contact Catharine Crowson (Catharine.crowson@acnuk.org) or visit them at [www.acnuk.org/redwednesday](http://www.acnuk.org/redwednesday)). The request was briefly discussed. A suggestion was made that a red candle could be placed on the font for the octave leading up to "red" Wednesday (27.11.19).

**Action: All** to look at the website.

**Action: Sue Morris** to leave on the agenda for the next meeting when a decision will be made about illuminating the church.

### **5. Diocesan**

Nothing to note.

### **6. Pastoral area**

The next EST meeting is scheduled for 12.09.19 when the main topic will be the upcoming Alpha course. Neil Dawson will give a brief outline of Alpha at the Saturday evening Mass this weekend and, as there is going to be a baptism this weekend, will talk to individual Parishioners after the 9.30am Sunday Mass.

### **7. Correspondence**

None.

### **8. AOB**

#### **Length of Mass**

After the comment from Neil Dawson (that he would not stand up at the end of the Sunday 9.30am Mass and inform parishioners about the Alpha course because the Mass would be longer than usual as it was because of the baptism) a discussion ensued. PPC members reflected that there was not a single reason why Masses at STM were so long but that there was a combination of reasons. These included the perceived overuse of incense, long bidding prayers, long homilies, hymns with many verses and the choice of Eucharistic prayer. It was commented that for the 9.30am Mass hymns should be chosen that are more appealing to children.

Father Darryl outlined the use of the various Eucharistic prayers and agreed that he would use Eucharistic prayer 3 generally (apart from at Ordinariate Masses) reserving Eucharistic prayer 1 for special occasions.

**Mercy for Life**

This charity was discussed and it was agreed that the proceeds from the Harvest Supper would be used to support the charity.

**Action: Neil Dawson** to contact the charity and ask them to send some information that could be put on the noticeboard to inform Parishioners about the charity's mission.

9. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 23 October 2019 at 7.15pm.

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

11. **Closing prayer:** Father Darryl.

Meeting ended at 8.50pm

\* *Father Darryl joined the meeting at 7.52pm during the discussion about reverence in church (item 4)*