

Holy Rood Pastoral Parish Council meeting: Notes of Meeting, 28th September 2015

Present: Marguerite Holliday MH, Camille Benony CB, Norman Cambray NC, Julia Arkell JBA, Mary Reeve MR, Gertrude Mwape GM, Noreen Bint NoBi, Jose Almeida JA, Canon John CJ, Nick Barrett NiBa, Penny Lake PL, Pas Mazzotta PM, Mary Carthew MC, Jose Estrocio JE, Kathy Lee KL.

Apologies: Jenni Miles JM, Sr Mary SM, Pedro Barretto PB, Norman Cambray NC, Clare Kingston, Fr Dominic, Ron Lawton.

The meeting started with some reflective music, a prayer and an extract from scripture. This was followed by an introduction and welcome by NiBa.

1. Nick invited Mary Carthew to present to the meeting an idea she had come up with in response to doing the Joy of the Gospel study sessions: a way of inviting the whole parish to engage with the Pope's call to mission and outreach in a simple way by having a topical monthly focus – put together by the various sub groups of the PPC and other parish groups. See appendix for her summary. There were some questions, clarifications and discussion on this material. **It was agreed that we adopt this approach.**
2. Nick invited Noreen to present back to the meeting something of what she and Jose Estrocio took from the national Proclaim 15 conference in July. Noreen's report is appended below. It gives an excellent flavour of the day and its themes, and includes Cardinal Vincent Nichols' address. Please do read it. There is also a whole website dedicated to Proclaim 15 to which you can refer.

<http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Special-Events/Proclaim-15-Building-Missionary-Parishes>

There was some discussion around how our parish and our diocese respond to all of this. There was also some acknowledgement that, as a parish, we are already engaged in a number of Proclaim 15 initiatives including the 3 session study groups and the recent 40 hour prayer vigil.

3. Nick invited us to consider again the proposal which has come out of the last few PPC meetings. In its final form (as noted open this meeting's agenda) this was:

"Let us adopt the Proclaim 15 three session starter course as our major focus for this point forward - as a way of addressing the many issues which are of ongoing importance to this parish council i.e. increasing people involvement, inclusion, adult formation, evangelisation etc.

There was much discussion and questioning and many suggestions around 'how' we might do this – including the idea that those people who have already done the study programme might invite a small group to their home to run it again; and also that existing groups/ families who pray together be encouraged to use the material. It was finally agreed that the **PPC will both re-launch the Proclaim 15 material** (with the aim of inviting as many people as possible to come along to these sessions) **and go ahead with the monthly parish prayer/ action focus discussed above.** NiBa and MH agreed that, together with the communication group, they would plan this re-launch, put out the first monthly focus (from the communication group) and invite other parish groups to volunteer to prepare material for a particular month/ publish a rolling programme for this.

The whole group were encouraged to familiarise themselves with both the Proclaim 15 material and to keep an eye out for more material which will be coming from the diocese on the forthcoming Year of Mercy. A group from the parish will attend the diocesan day on the Jubilee of Mercy on Saturday 3rd October. MH can offer a lift to those interested.

4. Updates from other subgroups

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a) Communication and Welcome group

Welcome Pack: MH introduced this resource which we have developed. A first draft will go to the printers soon. It was agreed to email it out to the committee again for any final corrections.

Welcome Sundays: MH explained that we have had the first of these brief meetings – an initiative that has come out of the PPC meetings. It was proposed and agreed that we role this out every couple of months – with dates published in advance, in the bulletin and on the projector screens where possible. MH to invite PPC members to volunteer to come along to co-host these sessions (very simple cuppa, biscuit, chat).

[Update since the meeting: next date – Sunday 1st November at 4.30pm. Thanks to Penny and Jenni who have kindly agreed to host together with Canon John].

New website: Nick presented the new website to those gathered. It is not quite ready to go live, but nearly there. Those who looked at it were very impressed. He explained that individuals linked to particular parish groups and ministries would be identified, invited and briefed re taking responsibility for keeping their 'page' updated. Questions were taken and clarifications made.

b) Safeguarding

Penny alerted the meeting to a forthcoming evening meeting:

Thursday 27th October, 7pm, presbytery

for leaders of certain ministries where safeguarding is an issue. This follows a training event which she and CJ attended recently. PL is willing to meet individually with those who can't make the meeting.

5. AOB

Gertrude raised a question about singing in church when the choirs are on holiday. It was agreed that there is no reason why a member of the congregation should not lead the signing in this event. MH, on behalf of the liturgy group, suggested that Gertrude speak to people she think might like to be involved in this; and that the Liturgy group would also think about 'how' to take this forward.

Norman asked if sub group meeting dates could be published. It was agreed that they could be published on the website.

Noreen reminded members that there was still an opportunity to sign the CAFOD Climate Change petition.

Date of next meeting: Friday 20th November at 7.30pm

See below – Mary's notes and Noreen's report:

Mary's notes:

Evangelii Gaudium Joy of the Gospel

My suggestion re a parish focus(from my reading, prayer and attending the group discussions)

Four areas struck me

Mission /Outreach

1.Prayer individual and group, 2. Responsibility to our neighbours in parish community and outside, 3. Social justice 4. Christians together (other Christians and Catholics in other parishes).

Each parish group could apply these criteria to the work they are doing to develop/extend their outreach/mission and talents. There could be a monthly parish focus e.g. CAFOD for Oct...optional suggestions for parishioners to do during the month

1.Prayer: Individual- CAFOD prayer, community prayer- harvest mass

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2. Responsibility to neighbour... donation to CAFOD read about the work of CAFOD
3. Social justice... sign the petition on climate change, buy a Fairtrade item from the church stall or supermarket.
4. Christians together read a copy of the Grapevine produced by Swindon Churches Action for Justice.

Each parish group could put forward suggestions for a month's theme. (Lateral thinking applied e.g. Fundraising for the church group might have: 1. Prayer... thanks for our church, prayers for those with no place to gather and persecuted Christians 2. Responsibility for neighbours: funding for our church access or suggestion box of ideas that would improve access for all disabilities.and so on.

Noreen's report – attached to email.