

## Minutes of PPC meeting at Douai on 11/1/16

### Present:

Fr. Peter Bowe

Sue Edwards (Chair)

Peter Collins

Sheila Huelin

1. Welcome from SE
2. Opening prayer, reading and contemplation
3. Apologies: Claire Hicks, Jo Harrison, Catherine Knowles

#### 4. Minutes of the last meeting:

Agreed as accurate

The Parish Advent service and the schools carol service were a success. Trefor and Sue were thanked for organizing and running the events.

#### 5. Spiritual formation of the Parish:

- **Feedback from Pastoral Area catechists meeting 26/11/15:**

The Parish was well represented. The committee is still at a formative stage

A youth event is planned for 9<sup>th</sup> February – bowling at Lakeside Superbowl in Thatcham - details in the bulletin

- **First Communion:**

This will take place at Douai on 21<sup>st</sup> May. Claire Hicks, Teresa Haxton and Sally Brumby are leading the preparation.

First Confession will be on 27<sup>th</sup> February

The examination of conscience is being rewritten

- **Baptism:**

Monica Morris, Susan Servais and Sally Brumby will be running the baptismal course

- **Marriage Preparation:**

It was suggested that this could be discussed at the West Berks Pastoral Area priests meeting.

- **Adult Programme:**

**Laudato Si Group:**

Graham Hodge is leading a group of six parishioners who are meeting regularly to discuss the encyclical and implement any ideas within the Parish.

- **Next programme of talks:**

A Lenten programme is planned around the Creed starting in February. Peter Collins suggested that an open session should be held prior to the start of the scheduled talks to discuss Lenten practices and reconciliation. Dates and time will be published in a flyer.

- **Feedback from Advent Service of Reconciliation:**

The service at St. Luke's was well supported. It was a brief service and readings were delivered from the pews. The music was well chosen. There was a discussion about the examination of conscience and it was felt that there may have been too many questions and too little time to contemplate each question. Suggestions were:

Fewer questions, possibly published prior to the service

Headings could be read out, the rest printed and distributed

Reconciliation is problematic for many people and a discussion was held about ways to help those who find it difficult to participate in the sacrament. It was suggested that questions prompting examination of conscience and/or thought stimulating questions could be distributed each week during Lent. Sheila will research suitable prompts and email them to Fr. Peter

**ACTION: Fr. P/SH**

**Easter services:**

**Ash Wednesday** – 10.00 at St. Luke's and 19.30 at St. Bernadette's

**Maundy Thursday** – St. Luke's and the Abbey

**Good Friday** – both churches and the Abbey

Marc Servais leads Stations of the Cross for children at St. Bernadette's, all are welcome

**Easter Saturday** – Easter Vigil at St. Bernadette's. Fr. Peter would like everyone to participate, especially the children and young people. It will start at 20.30

**Easter Sunday** – Following the Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday mass at St. Bernadette's will be said at a later time. There will also be a mass at St. Luke's.

**NB. Dates and times for all of the above services will be finalized and distributed nearer the time**

## 6. Our Parish's Future:

- The Parish appeal was very successful, resulting in pledges that will raise the income of the Parish by 50%

Fr. Peter suggested that the extra income should be spent on:

- Outreach to the needy - method of distribution to be discussed at a later date
- Maintenance
- Formation of the Parish, i.e. funding educational and spiritual development programmes.
- Extra income possibly to be directed also towards a possible twinning/outreach to a parish in the developing world or a Christian community in one of the persecuted churches.
- All the above subject to approval of the parish Finance Committee.
- Fr. Peter will thank the parishioners for their support at mass on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan

**ACTION: Fr P**

- The adoption of a joint Parish charity was discussed. Fr. Peter is keen that we have a personal connection to a particular charity so that members of the congregation may visit and offer support to .the chosen cause.

Peter Collins has agreed to audit the beneficiaries of our supplementary charitable income, i.e. second collections, occasional giving, Friday Self Denial envelopes, St.

Bernadette's 100 Club, and Mission red boxes. He will collate the information and draw up some criteria for monitoring charitable giving **ACTION: PC**

Sue will liaise with St. Luke's to find out what charities they support

**ACTION: SE**

## 7. Current Issues in the Churches:

St. Mary's wine tasting evening was well attended and enjoyed by all

The committee is planning a Ball in May/June. Details to be announced

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**8. Parish Party:** To be held a Douai on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 15.30 as a thank you to all parishioners.

Those attending are asked to provide a plate of food to share; prosecco and soft drinks will be provided. **ACTION: SE**

Members of the PPC are asked to arrive at 14.30 to help prepare

The children will be able to watch a DVD. Fr. Peter will ensure the equipment is available

Fr Peter will give a short speech **ACTION: Fr. P**

**9. Parish website:**

It was agreed that the minutes of parish/church meetings could be published on the website following agreement that it is an accurate record

**10. IT viewing in our churches:**

Discussion deferred until next meeting

**11. AOB:**

Discussion about suggested changes to the bulletin. Fr. Peter will explore options.

West Berks Strategy Team (Pastoral Area Council) is looking for two more members.

**12. Date of next meeting:**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 19.30 at Douai Abbey

The meeting closed with a prayer