

Church of the Assumption of the BVM - Pastoral Church Committee meeting

7:30pm Thurs 17 Sept 2015 Assumption Social Centre

Minutes

Present Fr. Pat and 6 members of the local church community

Chair Michael Emly

Apologies Peter Dowson, Mauricette Knowles, Teresa Todd, Eddy Aitken

Previous had been agreed

Matters arising:

Collection Counting: Working well

Baby Change facilities. The unit has now been fitted and is in use

Access Bus had come back with all sorts of mixed messages.

It is suggested that next year we should pre-empt their not turning up by making our own arrangements for those needing a lift

Annual Blessing of the Sick service 3pm on Sunday 27th September 2015 at the Church of the Assumption.

Numbers appear to be around the same as last year.

Susan Teggart and Teresa Todd are co-ordinating. Fr Pat has the service sheet in hand. Our sister churches are involved and making arrangements for their folk to be brought.

Michael Teggart will organise lifts for our community where needed.

Susan and Teresa will ask for help with both supplies and serving of tea (Jack to announce on Sunday)

The (rescheduled) Parish Feast is now confirmed for Saturday 10th October at St. Mary's. Mass at 6pm with the children of the schools providing input.

Buffet Supper a notice will go out asking for contributions

Help to set up and tidy away will be needed.

A run through for musicians will be announced

Fr. Pat has the new programme brochure in hand with "Supporting Refugees as the theme.

Lead agenda item

Fr Pat focused the meeting on the recent events that had raised the plight of refugees from many lands. The Holy Father, the conference of Bishops, and our own diocese had all issued statements on the plight of refugees. We discussed what might be our response in OLK parish: by this we would be responding to the Popes request for "every Catholic community to act".

The Diocese of Leeds is liaising with the council and a number of NGO's e.g. Leeds City of Sanctuary, the SVP, Leeds Asylum Seekers' Support Network and others.

The first step is to share resources, expertise and those existing systems that are tried and tested. It was acknowledged that key to intervention is

- 1) Money is needed
- 2) Durable foods are needed
- 3) Volunteers to give time and help to refugees
- 4) We need to foster a welcoming community.

Some of our Assumption people had been at a recently convened meeting of the parties involved and were inspired that more than 150 had turned up despite short notice.

A summary sheet from that meeting and another that Fr. Pat provided were distributed for people to take away and think about. This would help inform the discussion at the Parish council meeting next week and also the action needed from October.

Leeds Council has already got things in hand to receive 50 people from Syria and is committed to offer refuge for another 200 people from there.

However there isn't an overarching strategy and framework in the city for supporting refugees and this makes things more difficult. However, for example, St. Lukes in Beeston are acting as a collection point for clothing and bedding needed by refugees in Iraq and PAFRAS is stockpiling food, but outside of such organisations there isn't really a focus on what people could do. For example summer clothing is being donated when the real need is for heavier garments and the greatest need overall is for men's clothing.

We thought that providing toilet packs for men/women/children might be a way we could help

Many of the NGO's and local support organisations are strapped for cash already so here is another way we can give immediate help

It was acknowledged that (at the moment) the plight of refugees is high profile. There is a danger this will be lost especially if attitudes towards refugees become changed or distorted by press and less supportive people. Keeping politicians, councillors, business and the wider community "on side" is hugely important.

Advice from the Dioces is expected soon but it was felt that we should provide the communities in OLK with something to do NOW, and then see how we can develop support further.

Ideas are welcome and the delegates for the OLK Parish meeting (23rd St. Mary's meeting room) are asked to bring some.

Fr. Pat will ask if Rose Macarthy can come to the meeting as she has considerable experience in this area.

Finance and Property

The meeting was reminded that the F&P Committee now meet only 2 times each year to fit with the fiscal cycle. F&P matters can be raised at the PCC meeting, and will be remitted to the next F&P meeting (October 2014)

The gutters had now been cleaned and are weed free

The club has funded new crockery for use in the parish centre

The Kitchen refurbishment will be remitted to the next F&P meeting

The possibility of a decking outside the parish social centre was also remitted to the F&P meeting for their observations – cost approx. £1800

Peter Dowson is negotiating with the local community association (which sadly is closing) for the purchase of their (stackable) chairs. There are much better quality and condition than those currently in use. Fr. Pat noted that with the closure of the community centre perhaps has made an opening for us to take on some of the activities as well as making our rooms available.

Church Services and liturgical matters

Timing of the Christmas Vigil Mass was discussed. After consultation outside of the meeting it was suggested that a 6pm Mass with Carols from 5.30pm would further enable families with young children.

Children's liturgy group: All going well

Group reports

Michael Emly reported that **Abbey Churches together** will now meet the second week in October to plan for the year ahead. Any items please to him.

CAFOD

The Fair Trade stalls in November will also have Traidcraft catalogues available....another idea for your Christmas gifts?

There will be a meeting in December to begin reflection on the Pope's encyclical Laudato Si (date to be confirmed). 30 copies of the study guide had been received from Cafod.

There had been excellent support for the climate change initiative in June. A prayer vigil at Holy Name after Mass on the 24th November will be held for the success of the Paris talks

FLOWER TEAM

Working well

GROUND FORCE

Again, the gardens are much commented on and visitors to the church say how nice the grounds look. Thanks to those who help and who faithfully tend the gardens

The ground clearance on the north side of the building went well and the ground is now back to bare earth. Further work is needed to level the ground up. And then a decision whether to lawn or artificial turf this area.

We haven't forgotten the proposed appeal for cost of shrubs winter plants, that will be made in a few weeks time.

MUSIC GROUP

Joe making strides into our learning the new tunes for the Mass of Joy and Peace

SERVERS

Lyndsey to be asked when she feels the new servers will be ready for induction. Fr Pat said he looked forward to the event.

SVP

Although a box is now in place in the porch with a notice for gifts of food cupboard items we don't seem to be picking up where we were before. Perhaps an appeal (coinciding with Action for Refugees) might be appropriate.

SUNDAY COFFEE CLUB

Going well: a new rota is due that will have some new helpers on the list. Many thanks.

SOCIAL CENTRE

Please note items above under property and ground force

ASSUMPTION SOCIAL CLUB

Mention was made of the continuing low numbers on Friday nights. A previous suggestion that these nights be made more available for general social events could be followed up.

The **VOLUNTEER ROTA** is working well.

Other business

The Christmas Raffle was mentioned and it was agreed that we try a New Year Raffle with a social event again as this was welcomed after rather than in the run up to Christmas when there is sometimes a conflict with other events in the Parish. This will be on Sunday January 17th 2016 after Sunday morning Mass. Jack to liaise with Su for printing of tickets and look at Big Breakfast or similar events

Next Assumption Church Pastoral meeting:

Thursday 14 January 2016 at 7.30 in The Assumption Social Centre

The meeting closed with prayer