



Parish of Our Lady of Kirkstall, Leeds

Parish Pastoral Council Meetings

Minutes from the meeting on 27 Apr 2017

Participants

Margaret Barnes (Chair), Joe Burns (Secretary), Eric Liddell (Vice Chair).

Eddie Aitken, Alicja Dale, Susie Haywood, Peter Hughes, James Moreland, Paul Mulligan, Fr Pat Smythe, Michael Teggart, Teresa Todd, Julie Trumble, David Wilkinson (listed alphabetically).

Apologies: Clare Lees

The meeting opened with a welcome and an opening prayer led by Fr. Pat .

Key Points and Actions

Refugees & Migrants

The meeting welcomed Rose McCarthy, who works for the Refugee Council and lives in the parish, and Matt Henderson from the SVP Support Centre on York Road who, along with David Wilkinson (Holy Name SVP Conference and volunteer at the SVP SC) provided some special input to help frame our discussion.

A letter of self-introduction from the new Diocesan Refugee Action Support Worker (Lucy Irven) was read out.

There followed a discussion about the current involvement of the parish in actions supporting refugees and migrants and consideration of what else the parish could do. The current work of the Holy Name SVP was highlighted, including the support that they give to specific families in the local area and the LS9 area and their support for the activities that go on at the SVP Support Centre on York Road as well as regular collections of food. The collections of clothing for distribution via Wakefield was also mentioned, as was the parish celebration liturgies that have been held highlighting the diversity of nationalities in the parish and the need to welcome everyone into our parish family.

Various possibilities for further action within the parish were suggested. These included:-

- Organising an awareness evening within the parish to enable people to find out more about the current situation and how they can help.
- Extending financial support for individual families. The SVP estimate that individual family support can amount to in the region of £200 per month. It was suggested that if more details about numbers and circumstances of people were known then it would be possible to support additional families.
- Promotion of the volunteering opportunities at the SVP Support Centre. These include:-
 - The provision of legal advice to those seeking refugee status-and this is becoming increasingly difficult
 - For professionals, the opportunity to become a 'guardian' for a professionally qualified refugee. This would involve mentoring them about how their profession 'works' in the UK as well as assisting them with obtaining work experience locally.
 - Helping to create an environment of welcome and hospitality.

Decisions and Actions:

1. It was agreed that the parish would hold an awareness evening in the Autumn on October 09.
2. It was agreed that a Working Group of parish council members and others should be formed to organise this event and coordinate other efforts in this area. **Action: Teresa Todd to prepare bulletin notice**

Live Simply

The results from the Live Simply survey that was conducted in March were presented. Over 500 people responded to the survey. It provides a 'snapshot' of where we are as a community with regard to care for creation. It will help in planning out the actions that we will take as we move on our journey towards obtaining the 'Live Simply' award. Results from a number of groups are still outstanding and these need to be included in any planning that takes place.

Decision and Actions

1. The summary survey results to be displayed in each of the three churches by the middle of May. **Action: Joe Burns**
2. A Working group needs to be convened to develop full action plans. It was agreed that this should consist of at least one member from each church community plus at least two members of the parish CAFOD group along with any other individuals who are interested. Joe Burns agreed to represent the Assumption community and Margaret Barnes agreed to represent the St Mary's community. The Holy Name representative is to be confirmed. A bulletin notice to be prepared. **Action: Joe Burns**

Parish Calendar

- On **23 May** the parish will mark Fr Pat's Golden Jubilee with a mass followed by a supper open to the whole parish at St Mary's church and school.

AOB

- Work has commenced on renovating the presbytery house at St Mary's. This is with a view to commercially renting the property once the work has been completed.
- Concern had been expressed about the gardens at St Mary's Church. Fr. Pat reported that a parishioner has volunteered to do some work on this to improve it.

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 13 September at 7:30pm. It will be held in the Holy Name church hall.