

St Catherine's PPC Meeting held Saturday September 9, 2023

Present were committee members Fr Boniface, Deacon Adrian, Mike Webber (chairman), Brian Haran (clerk), Shola Akinmurele, Adrienne Blondell, Mellisa Brook, Gill Hawkins, Anne Haynes, Adriana Jamesova, Lachlan MacKay and Anita Tackley.

Also in attendance were Peter Ripley (ex-officio, finance committee chairman), Teresa Burbidge and Bart Bond.

Fr Boniface opened the meeting with a prayer.

Apologies for absence were received from Charlie and Kay Cleary, Sue Pegrum and Boguslaw Kobos.

The minutes of the May 13 meeting were agreed and signed by the chairman.

PPC TERMS OF REFERENCE: Adrienne Blondell said we should set short and long-term goals for the faith, formation and mission of our parish, and suggested we should review it annually.

Deacon Adrian said we need to identify what our mission is, with the parish council supporting its delivery.

As chairman of the finance committee, Peter Ripley is an ex-officio member of the parish council. Father B said any future discussions involving money can thereby be conveyed back to the finance committee.

It was agreed there should be 4 PPC meetings a year, in addition to an annual meeting.

Fr B/Deacon Adrian said the PPC chairman or vice-chairman should make announcements at mass on items such as forthcoming prayer group meetings, no midweek masses, coffee mornings, social events etc to help in more community interaction.

Anne Haynes suggested photos/names of PPC members could be put up at the back of the church to make members more accessible to the wider church community.

ST CATHERINE'S DAY CELEBRATION: Fr B suggested that we should celebrate St Catherine's Day each year on the nearest Saturday to her 25th November feast-day, starting with an 11.00am Mass and followed by a shared lunch and celebration in the Hall along the lines of his anniversary celebrations. If this was not possible this year (due to the Hall already being booked), the 2023 Celebration will take place on Sunday 26th November after the 11.00am Mass. Suggestions to form part of the celebration included people dressing in national costume, St Catherines' School being invited to do artwork.

REPORTS FROM GROUPS:

Formation/catechism: Deacon Adrian said the RCIA programme starts on October 3. He will report back on RCIA and Baptism, while Adrienne Blondell will do so regards the Holy Communion programme. As Deacon Adrian has taken on other diocesan duties, it is to be hoped that Marriage Formation can be entrusted to another.

Eucharistic ministers: While there are sufficient ministers for communion under both kinds on Sundays, the number of ministers available on Saturdays remained sparse. Father B said more eucharistic ministers for the housebound are required.

Welcoming: More welcomers are needed for Saturday evening masses, especially with the darker evenings approaching. The Chair praised Adrienne's efforts in rearranging the porch area, which had created a larger and more welcoming environment. While it was pointed out the some of the hymn books are up to 40 years old and quite battered, Father B said we should carry on with them for now. Father B also said that the Offertory Procession on Sundays should be restored from the First Sunday in October.

Two people, preferably members of the same family, who do not perform other functions in church, should be asked to perform this duty by the Welcomers of the day.

A credence table would be provided at the back of the church for the bread and wine to be carried.

Adrienne asked if some of the children and their parents could help with the welcoming from time to time.

Church cleaning: Brian Haran pointed out there had been 3 occasions in recent months when the cleaning team could not get access to the church because it was being used. Father B said he would endeavour to notify the cleaning team in advance if the church is busy on certain Saturday mornings.

Choir: Father B said he was "touched and proud" by the choir members' commitment to Friday practice and Sunday masses, and said the choir had got better and better.

Sacristy: Sacristan Anne Haynes said the vestments/linen drawer was rotten and festering with woodworm. Father B said they would explore providing a replacement drawer and getting in woodwork treatment specialists. He added that the vestments were old and would need revamping.

Parish events/fundraising: The only regular event is the coffee mornings on Sunday, although the 7 coffee making teams had dwindled to 4, meaning sessions could become fortnightly unless more volunteers come forward. /..

Ideas put forward for future parish events included quiz nights, a monthly cake sale and a summer barbecue/picnic.

Littlehampton Churches Together: Next year's LCT event for Pentecost will be held in St Catherine's car park. A series of free classes in English Conversation will be held at Littlehampton United Church from October. Members of other churches had been invited to Dennis's Dementia talk.

Food Bank: About 400 food items have been donated to the food bank basket at the back of the church over the past 12 months. Contributions have included two bags of food donated by Father Seamus, and an anonymous £20 donation.

CAFOD: Mike Webber said he stood down last year as the parish's CAFOD volunteer, and a successor was still sought. Also, the Mission 'red boxes' collection needed a collector.

Our Deanery Justice & Peace Group were collecting clothes for the Gatwick Immigration Detention Centres. Fr B supported our parish's involvement in this. Clothing could be bagged and stored in the Parish Centre until collection took place.

Reading: We now have a relatively healthy stock of readers (6 at the vigil mass, 15 on Sundays), but a better speaker system is needed.

Any other business:

Teresa Burbidge said she had taken a diocesan course on bereavement support and is willing to provide this support to members of the parish.

Bart Bond said a scripture group is held in the church hall after the 10am mass. Numbers had grown, but more are welcome.

Peter Ripley said more expenditure would be needed on the church hall. Most useful would be if people remembered St Catherine's in their wills.

Date of Next Meeting: Saturday 9 December 11.00am