

Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council 10 February 2022

In Attendance: Fr Pawel, Dcn Martin Smith, Mr James Carmichael, Mrs Helen Appleby, Mrs Lydia Burchell, Mrs Tanya Wilkins and Mrs Christine Flood,

Apologies: Mrs Bernadette Long, Mrs April Reading

	Item details	Action
1	OPENING PRAYER Deacon Martin welcomed the meeting with an opening prayer.	
2	MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.	
3	MATTERS ARISING St Simon Stock 50 th Anniversary and Fr Pawel's inaugural mass. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was agreed our celebrations were well received and thanks were expressed to all involved in the organisation and on the day. Church Field gardening and Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fr has been slowly clearing some of the overgrown area and cutting back some of the overhanging branches. A lengthy discussion was had on the extent of the work that is required and how this could be approached. Several good suggestions were put forward including requests for parishioner help, co-ordination of a team of people and the disposal of waste- both garden and general rubbish that has been dumped. It was agreed CF would liaise with Fr and draft a plan of proposed works for presentation at the next meeting.	CF

4	<p>AGM REPORTS</p> <p>Notice of consideration of reports for the church AGM. It was agreed that reports should cover time since the last AGM. Fr agreed to ask Josie to request reports from parish committee chairs</p>	Fr P
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5	<p>SYNOD SURVEY ACTION PLAN</p> <p>Fr outlined the Action plan that has been provided by Lynne Pearson and Mavis Westbrook. The plan is quite lengthy and a lot of work has gone into collating all the parish answers from the Synod Survey into a format from which we can work. The whole team were incredibly grateful for all the work that both Mavis and Lynne have done. The team decided to take a point-by-point approach even if some items had overlaps to ensure nothing is missed. It was agreed this could not all be done in 'one hit' but that at each meeting we would work through several of the raised items. It was agreed that we need to let parishioners know what has come out of the Synod Survey and the approach we are taking. Ensuring we keep everyone updated on progress and discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we contact all the Catholics in the area? This is a complex situation where even diocesan messages reflected different and sometimes mixed messages, making it quite difficult to determine how best to approach this within our parish. People have become more transient during the pandemic with some preferring to remain with on-line services and others choosing to visit Aylesford Priory. Additionally, some parishioners have moved and now belong to new parishes. We do have our parish directory to work from and this would need to be our first point of reference. It was felt that any contact with parishioners we have not seen since before the pandemic needed to be made to feel like a real and personal outreach albeit a little time consuming. Whereas for some it was agreed that a card or quick call may be more appropriate. The difficulty would be in gauging the appropriate course of action in each case. • Improving attendance at all services, especially Reconciliation. It is hoped that as we contact parishioners and Government restrictions are eased that increased Mass attendance will follow. Fr is looking at increasing reconciliation availability for Lent, as he did during Advent, with consideration to offering confession before Mass each day alongside the current Wednesday Adoration, Friday, and Saturday evening times. He is also happy for people to call him to arrange confession. • How to get lapsed/spasmodic attendee parishioners back in Church? This item sits with the first. Further discussion recommended a team of people working together to sensitively 	JC
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	<p>get in touch. It was also agreed that as a whole parish family if we are aware of parishioners we know and no longer see at Mass we need to know we can reach out and make that first step.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster contact with other churches. Fr had received an email about churches together. It was agreed this is a challenging time to think about this wider circle and discussion ensued on ways we previously came together and the difficulties people are currently facing. • Taking on a mission project as a parish. It was agreed we need to amass what we know and have on forming parish mission statement. From here we can then further look at taking on specific projects as a parish. It was agreed this would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. • Interaction in spiritual global concerns. This is approached as part of our 2nd Sunday of the month reflections. E.g. Racial Justice, Peace etc. However, if any parishioner wanted to become more involved and pro-active on any issues, they should contact Fr to discuss further. • Address issue of lack of religious instruction after primary school. This is something we need to work on at Parish level down from the Church as a whole. The diocesan scheme is to build a 'net' of people with dedicated responsibility with leaders of Catechism, Formation and Evangelisation. The Leaders would need to be confident in their area to work with and support individuals and responsible teams. Formation can be supported by the parish. Deanery Mentor for Evangelisation is Dcn James Coleman. Fr has a meeting on the 16th with the diocese. We can then work with the detail and build on this as a Parish. More locally we need to look at what our parish resources are and what we can offer. We have previously looked at a youth group within the Parish but this requires consistent dedicated commitment. It was suggested we could consider working with groups in other parishes. <p>It was agreed to work more effectively on the survey results we need to further group some of the findings. JC agreed to do this for our next meeting.</p>	
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6	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>HA raised the funding of Deanery lunches hosted by the UCM on behalf of the church. It was agreed this should not be the responsibility of the UCM itself and reimbursement should be sought from the Parish. HA/UCM to liaise with TW</p> <p>TW raised that despite requests within the parish newsletter and verbally at mass only one new person had come forward to help. It is hoped that more parishioners may come forward at the next social committee meeting on the 26th. Fr agreed that if volunteers were not forthcoming then the viability of holding events needed to be considered</p>	HA/TW
7	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>21st April 2022</p>	
8	Fr Pawel closed the meeting with a prayer	