

## **Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council meeting September 13<sup>th</sup> 2023.**

**Opening Prayer – The Chairman led the opening prayer.**

**PRESENT : Joe McCrossan (Chair) Elizabeth Barker (Secretary) Joe Robinson, Claire Downham, Lydia Fernandes, Helma Brown.**

**APOLOGIES: Fr Tom, Matthew Laugharne, Philip Spencer, John McManus, Kay Etienne.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING of 20<sup>th</sup> July were signed as a true record of the meeting.**

### **MATTERS ARISING**

**The parish BBQ was very successful with over £500 being raised for parish funds. Joe R and Matthew L were the main organisers with Joe doing a Risk Assessment before the event. Lots of new, younger parishioners were there. The chairman thanked all who worked so hard to make this a successful event.**

**The Afternoon Tea which was held in the garden of Bluntisham House was enjoyed by 30 people raising £80. Joe Mc, Joe R and Matthew L did most of the organising. Paul Hodgson-Jones was thanked for the use of his garden. It was said that transport, maybe a minibus should be laid on for those who did not have their own transport.**

**The next fund-raising event will be a Quiz Evening when Filipino food will be served on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 6pm. The Filipino members of the congregation have organised the food and Joe R will be the Quiz master. Tickets at £8 for adults, £5 for children will be on sale after each Sunday Mass with posters advertising the events on the church notice boards.**

**It was said that if a specific topic was chosen for the funds to be raised parishioners would be more enthused to support the project e.g.. resurfacing the car park. It was also mooted that we need to widen the selling of tickets to the wider community.**

**A Sponsored Walk will take place on Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> around the Thicket path, Houghton then through the meadow to the Hemingfords. Joe will pick up at the Hemingford Grey Pavilion in his school's minibus for anyone who does not wish to continue the walk back to the church. It was agreed to make**

**an announcement after each Mass this Sunday to encourage the take up of the sponsor forms and appeal to the congregation for donations for the walkers.**

**Children's Liturgy Questionnaire was available for parents to express an interest if they wanted the Liturgy at 11am Mass to be restarted. There was also a request for young people to return a form if they are interested in starting a Youth Group. These matters will be added to the announcement this Sunday for the return of the forms.**

**Parish Retreat on 14<sup>th</sup> October at the Sacred Heart and Eucharistic Ministers' retreat on 21<sup>st</sup> October at Cherry Hinton. Lists are in the porch for people to sign up for these events.**

**Joe M will speak after all Masses on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> October to introduce himself and the work of the PPC. Members are requested to send a photograph and a note of their position on the Committee to Lydia before the 1<sup>st</sup> October. These will be displayed in the church and hall.**

**The following reports had been received and sent to members. Finance and Building: Safeguarding: Health and Safety: SVP and Welfare. Copies attached to minutes. The Parish treasurer, Sinead Jackson, has also sent an update on the work to set up a new website and a Facebook page. On the Finance statement it was noted that there was a £9,000 deficit and this will be discussed at the joint meeting of the two committees in January 2024. From the Health & Safety report the comment on how unsafe the car park surfacing is becoming was noted.**

## **THE CONSTITUTION.**

**The chairman had sourced Constitutions from other parishes on the websites. It was said that there was a great similarity between them as they all had to be written to take into account Canon Law.**

**Joe distributed copies of the Constitution from St Bartholomew's in St Albans. Members had a short time to familiarise themselves with the document and a discussion ensued.**

**Particular emphasis was given to the paragraph:**

**In order to fulfil its role, the PPC will:**

- *Search out and respond to the hopes, ideas, needs and concerns of parishioners.*
- *Foster unity and a sense of community in the parish.*
- *Grow in knowledge and awareness of what is already happening in the parish.*
- *Encourage and support the good work of existing groups within the parish.*
- *Evaluate carefully information gathered in order to contribute towards the making of decisions that reflect the values of the gospel and teachings of the church.*
- *Set long term and short-term pastoral goals for the parish.*
- *Provide opportunities for parishioners to grow in their relationship with God and with each other.*
- *Develop, implement and approve parish initiatives that assist parishioners in their continuing efforts to live as effective Christians in society.*

**There were a few suggestions given at the meeting, but the chairman asked all members to read the document in full and send their comments on the 8 bullet points to Elizabeth not later than the 1<sup>st</sup> October so that she could collate a collective response to each item.**

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**The parish Christmas Fair is scheduled to be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> and it was agreed that preparations should begin as soon as possible. This to be on the Agenda at the next meeting.**

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**Joe M led the closing prayer. We prayed for Fr Tom on the sudden death of his brother, David and prayers were said for the repose of his soul. Joe asked Elizabeth to contact Fr Tom as we send our condolences to him.**

**Date of next meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6.30pm in the parish hall.**

