



Meeting minutes

Date: 30 October 2016

Present: Paul Kerryson (Chair); Jose Spinks (Vice-Chair); Annette Hurst (Secretary, minute-taker); Liz Murphy (Treasurer); Francesca Edwards; Sharon Nyasiri; John Gay; Steve Taylor; Deacon John Lomas

Apologies: Katherine Cooke, Xavier Patterson

Opening prayer and welcome

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting and started with a prayer.

Pray for us, O God, that our deliberations may be wise and graceful, and that we may be true disciples of Jesus to generously respect each other's views and generously represent and work for the well-being of the Parish

Paul noted that there was lots to discuss but for our 1 hour meeting we would be focusing on agreeing some priorities and agreeing a way forward for matters that need more discussion.

AGREED: All present agreed the parish council mission as follows:

Mission of parish council:

To enhance the spiritual and practical well-being of a thriving St Gregory's parish within a Salesian community

A wider mission for the parish will be discussed at the next meeting. The following words are a starting point:

Draft mission for parish:

St Gregory's is a Salesian-led Catholic community in Bollington, which aims to help people: know the love of God; grow as disciples of Jesus; go out and share God's love with others

ACTION: All to comment on mission for parish before next meeting. Email Paul.

Paul outlined our mission as a PC with a new and important role- a practical and supportive ministry- running our Parish within the Savio community, representing the whole parish and supporting Father Tony.

Process for minutes

1. Annette to email meeting minutes to PC for comment/approval – please send comments back to Annette so she can amend a 'master copy'.
2. Paul/Jose will approve final minutes.
3. Paul to email final minutes to Father Tony for approval.

St Gregory's

Parish council



4. Final minutes to be displayed on church notice board and put on the parish website.

We discussed the major issue of mass attendance and later in the meeting discussed ways to improve the attendance at all masses.

Confirmation of pre-agenda proposals

AGREED: All agreed to appoint Alistair as caretaker/maintenance person for the parish. His duties will include general maintenance of the church, the surroundings and the churchyard.

AGREED: All agreed mass times as follows: All Saints masses: 9am and 7.30pm. All Souls mass: 9am only

AGREED: All agreed masses times on Remembrance Sunday - 8.30am and 10.30am with a 2 minute silence at 11am. The road closure should not affect those attending the 10.30am mass and those attending the parade can still attend the other two masses. Priority for mass times is what suits Father Tony/Savio.

PC to note what happens this year with these masses and can make revisions for next year.

Spiritual - First communion/reconciliation

Francesca outlined that at present there are no first communion/reconciliation catechists for the children who do not go to St Gregory's school.

Children at St Gregory's school are instructed within the school day now.

ACTION: Francesca to speak to Mr Daly about having the first communion session after school and inviting the none-St Gregory's children to those sessions.

Spiritual - Confirmation

There are currently no catechists for confirmation.

We discussed links with other parishes and Savio and putting announcements in the newsletter about year 8 students who want to be confirmed.

ACTION: Annette to speak to Francesca about the involvement for the catechist role.

Spiritual - School masses

PC discussed both masses in school and in church for the children at St Gregory's school. It was noted that the harvest mass for the children in church was lovely and all who attended got a lot from it and the children were actively involved in the liturgy, for example, bringing up the harvest gifts.

Discussion resulted in the suggestion that once a term the school mass could be in church and once a term in the school.

The general feeling was that it is important to bring the children from the school to church so they can feel part of the community and be actively involved at the weekend masses from their experience of the school masses.

St Gregory's

Parish council



There was some discussion about other parishes who successfully involve young people. The PC agreed that ensuring children and young people are valued and have a role to play at mass is the key to making the mass accessible to young people.

Young people could have roles as welcomers, readers, singers.

There was some discussion about a monthly family mass where the children were more actively involved.

PROPOSAL for Father Tony: To strive for one weekday mass in school per term and one weekday mass in church per term. (To be agreed with Mr Daly and Fr Tony)

Also to have one Sunday family Mass per term at the 10.30 Mass in church where the previous week's junior church has been used to prepare for this mass to actively involve the children from junior church and the school.

If these all proposals were achieved, we would have at least 9 masses next year led by the young people of the parish, plus some Saturday night masses led by the confirmation group/teenage group.

ACTION: Francesca to discuss the termly mass idea with Mr Daly.

Creating a community within the parish will hopefully keep people coming to mass – this includes children, young people, young adults and parents.

Problem with boys as they play football on Sunday morning. Perhaps have teenage masses on a Saturday night at 6pm.

Year of Mercy pilgrimage

The idea of a parish pilgrimage to the door of mercy was discussed.

On Friday 18 November at 12pm Father Cyril will meet any parishioners who wish to attend a 'pilgrimage of mercy' with prayer and reflection at St Albans Macclesfield.

Altar servers

As a parish we have not had any altar servers for 7-8 years

Need a new contact person and information in the newsletter for parents to phone if their child would like to be an altar server.

Deacon John said that Savio has volunteered to train altar servers. Needs further discussion.

Social - Christmas fair

Dan and Mike are happy with plans for the Christmas fair. For next year they would like to look at improved attendance and links between the school and the church in terms of bringing more people to the fair. Raffle tickets are not out yet.

Social night

St Gregory's

Parish council



Parish social on the agenda – perhaps after the carol concert or after mass – requires further discussion.

Parish council social meeting to get to know each other better.

ACTION: All to think about these initiatives for the next meeting.

ACTION: Jose to suggest a meeting date for the parish council.

Parish Communication

AGREED: All agreed we need a new website and this will be discussed fully at the next meeting.

Need a link to school website from the parish and vice versa.

Thanks to Margaret Raeburn who has been diligently looking after our website for many years. Margaret is to be included in the discussions/outcomes of any new website.

AGREED: All agreed we need a parish census, but for the moment we will work on the census form as there are important discussions around confidentiality/data protection.

ACTION: All to send amends on census form to Annette who is to update the word document for the next meeting.

At our next meeting parish communications need to be fully discussed. Facebook and twitter discussed too. Needs careful consideration.

AOB

None pre-notified.

Mass streaming for those who can't get to mass was raised.

The following proposals have been sent to the PC for discussion at later meetings:

- Adult faith development/ prayer groups
- Links with Salesian parish in Africa (maybe Liberia)
- Visiting the sick/ lifts to Mass
- 200 club - social club
- Council get together- lunch/dinner
- Parish library/ pulpit/ organ
- Communication presentation (website)
- Church Christmas card

Date confirmed for next meeting

Tuesday 22 November 7pm in the house meeting room.