

The Precious Blood and All Souls Church

Parish Pastoral Council Annual Meeting

General Information:

Council members:

Fr. Michael, Jean Surplice (Secretary) Irene Zipki, John Coroon, Richard Walsh, Paul Reiss, Charlie Mullen, Annie Green, John Duckett, Maura Mulcahy and Caroline Harrison (Chair), Michael Tourville, Tony Thompson

Also in attendance at our Council meetings are:

Catechist: Barbara McGowan

Deacon: Paul Rabvukwa

- The Council have held bi monthly meetings during the last 12 months , plus the AGM
- 7 meetings in total.

Copies of the summaries of the meeting minutes are published and displayed on the notice board in the foyer for all Parishioners.

Report of activities June 2015-June 2016

During the last year the Parish has continued to adapt to the loss of our 5.30 Vigil Mass. The PPC have reflected on this on many occasions during the year. There have been a number of extraordinary Saturday evening masses and Year of Mercy events.

The mass attendance at Sunday 930 and 1115 is increasing, but not just with parishioners from the 530 Saturday – some of them are having to attend mass elsewhere. We will not have an idea on the net effect on mass attendance until the official count in October 2016, but we do know that parish income has declined significantly and need to make an appeal for increasing regular 'giving' particularly via Gift Aid.

We have also taken a more commercial approach to the hire of the parish room

Achievements

Sacramental programme

The catechistic team continued to run a successful sacramental programme during 2015-2016

Journey of Faith

The catechistic team continued to run a successful Journey in Faith programme during 2015-2016

Inter-faith Relations

Developing our inter-faith relationships continues to be a significant objective of Pope Francis and one we as Catholics should become involved in.

- Churches together in Earlsdon and Chapelfields (CTEC)

The Parish continues to support events within CTEC, including monthly prayer breakfasts, services during Advent, Lent and other pivotal times within the year of the Church. Included in this are CTEC committee meetings and social events.

'How Great Thou Art (HGTA)' festival took place in October 2015, and was seen as being successful.

Action for us all: Continued support from Parishioners, if you would like to know more about CTEC, John Shiner is currently our Parish representative. The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) members have agreed to attend the CTEC meetings in turn

Future: Mini HGTA weekend planned for October 2016 with Film Night at St Barbara's – an opportunity to evangelise

Plans to collaborate with other CTEC members wrt setting up a bereavement team and the possibility of appointing a youth worker for all the CTEC members

Also plans to look at possibility of including other CTEC members in Iqra meetings

- **IQRA**

The Parish is continuing to develop its relationship with the local Muslim community by holding alternate meetings at the Iqra learning centre and here at All Souls.

During the last year we met in September 2015 and March 2016, discussing the subjects of Mercy and Jesus and have a scheduled meeting in July 2016,

There is a feeling that suspicions have fallen away between the two groups and that we have more similarities than differences

Barbara McGowan continues in the role of our Parish Interfaith representative and takes the lead in scheduling Iqra meetings.

Action: All Parishioners are welcome to attend these meetings and if you would like to know more about them please ask Barbara or any of the Council members.

- **BEREAVEMENT TEAM AND BEREAVEMENT NOTICEBOARD**

Bereavement team still in being explored. Notice Board put up in church porch for funeral orders of service. Very well received

Events during the last year

In addition to normal services and celebrations we observe during the Church's year, we also held the following events:

- Archbishop attended to bless the new organ on 20th November 2015
- Launch mass for 'Year of Mercy', December 2015, followed by 4 Saturday afternoon services of adoration and benediction for victims of abuse, those with relationships problems, migrants and 'the lapsed'. Attendance has been low at these events, but the atmosphere has been very prayerful.
- Pilgrimage to pass through the 'Door of Mercy' at St Mary's Church, Coventry on 11th June 2016
- Palm Sunday, blessing of palms in combined service with St Mary Magdalene's and Hearsall Baptist churches
- Annual Christmas Party and raffle
- Christmas Eve 430pm mass particularly well attended with about 500 parishioners
- Mulled wine served after Midnight Mass and very well received
- SPRED Masses
- Deanery mass for deceased clergy, Autumn 2015 – member of the PPC attended to read out names

Continued areas of development

- **Liturgical readers**
- Very well resourced now

- **Eucharistic Ministers**
- New Parishioners have joined the existing group of Eucharistic Ministers.

- **Bereavement Team**
- Still being explored – training required – will approach CTEC to explore a joint venture

Other issues the Parish supported during the last year

Christian Aid Week

Parish continues to support this annual event, together with other Christian Aid promotions, plus a cake sale.

CAFOD

Parish donates money from refreshments after Sunday Masses in addition to supporting other CAFOD collections/awareness during the year.

Also appealed for support for a CAFOD water supply project

PARISH HARDSHIP FUND

Fund launched Spring 2016 - ? how much has been donated

Local Food Bank

Parish still supporting a local food bank.

Information and updates on this will continue to be communicated in the weekly bulletin.

Coventry City Council investments in Cluster bombs

Parish council continues to support those involved in campaigning against this important issue (Paul McGowan is our link)

Future Planning

The following are areas the Parish and council will take forward during the next 12 months:

- Strategy for evangelisation. – this is still ongoing and needs more work
- Feeling that we need to be more welcoming to new parishioners, and have more social events
- Follow up of Legion of Mary mission, wrt effect on new mass attendees
- Links with school
- There have been suggestion for an 'In Parish Retreat' – still to be actioned
- Also to have 'Rule of Life' and/or 'Commitment Wall for parishioners to commit to actions to support parish life
- Eucharistic Ministers and Adults Readers Day of reflection 17th September 2016
- Mass for those bereaved in the last year planned for November 2016
- Re-examine the many jobs required to maintain Parish life, identify leads and share these out more effectively – this is still ongoing – a flyer was prepared in 2016 advertising the many roles that need filling to ensure that the parish runs smoothly, but the response was minimal. There is still a need for more participation by more parishioners
- Look at having a feasibility study to consider the appointment of a Parish secretary/administrator – still ongoing, depending on finances and needs
- Parish Day of devotions for vocations planned for 25th June 2016
- Pilgrimage to Rome still up for discussion but need to plan at least 18 months ahead
- 4-6 new PPC members to be elected June 2016

The Parish council works together to represent all its Parishioners so if you have any concerns about our Parish or ideas you would like to discuss with us, please let us know,

Best wishes,
Caroline Harrison (PPC Chair)