St Columba’s and St Theresa’s Pastoral Council Meeting

held at 7.00 p.m. Wednesday 25th October 2023

St Columba’s Newman Room

PRESENT: Fr Desmond Wilson, Deacon Lawrence Hordley, Pauline Rourke

Ann McCarthy, Sue McCarthy, Amy O’Donnell, Eileen Irwin, Matthew Petts and

Carol Galvin

1. Opening Prayer led by Fr Desmond
2. APOLOGIES: Fr William, Helen Connor, Lynsey Weightman, Tim Moore

Anne Mosquera and Sue Carr

1. TO RECEIVE, AMEND AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF 11TH SEPTEMBER 2023.

The minutes were proposed by Amy O’Donnell and seconded by Ann McCarthy

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :

Pauline asked Eileen to update members present on the financeappeal from St Theresa’s. Two or three parishioners had taken forms which had been handed to Stephen Parry who was processing them. Colin had reported that 8-9 people had taken forms from St. Columba’s Church. It needs to be seen whether the donations increase as a result of the appeal. The finance group will report back on the outcome. It was suggested that another appeal be held in the future and that a thank you should be put in the newsletter.Re the use of card readers for donating - Pauline reported that she had had several conversations with parishioners who had attended other churches that used card readers for donating at the Offertory collection. Apparently it is far cheaper now to process donations than it used to be. This to be considered in the future. 1. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS:

Reports had been sent out to PC members prior to the meeting. See attached sheets for the full content. The following comments were made in response to the reports:-1. Safeguarding team:

In view of the intention to recruit new volunteers in theParish and the likelihood that our safeguarding proceduresand practices will be audited soon, Safeguarding Reps.Susan Hutcheson and Jane Walsh had submitted an updateregarding our safeguarding procedures, via Lawrence. The reportpointed out that new volunteers would have to have a DBS checkcompleted before starting their role, which would be carried outby Sue and Jane prior to their commencing. DBS checks onvolunteers already recruited were now complete. There was aquery as to whether Eucharistic Ministers who were church basedonly would need to be DBS checked.Sue has compiled a safeguarding folder for St Columba’s which has to be kept in a locked drawer and Jane would be carrying outthe same for St Theresa’s.“Safe Spaces” document. – Diocese of ShrewsburyThe Diocesan Safeguarding Office had produced posters givingInformation and contact details. Matthew had been asked to Produce a “Safe Spaces” link to the website.Lawrence reported that Parish Priests and all Clergy had receiveda document from the Diocese giving details/information aboutthe LOUDfence initiative. It is a community activity of solidarity and support with abuse victims and survivors. Parishiners to be invited to submit prayers or reflections on dove images provided in both churches by 7th November which in turn will be offered up in Mass on Tuesday 14th November at Holy Apostles and Martyrs Church, Wallasey. The prayers/reflections will be offered up anonymously.A meeting to update both Fr William and Fr Desmond on safeguarding matters will hopefully be arranged when Fr Williamgets back from holiday.1. Social Committee:

Eileen pointed out that the Christmas party was down for the 8th December on the report– this should have read 9th December. Ann reported that a Sinfonia Concert was being held on the 8th December at St Columba’s Church Hall. Sinfonia rehearse in St C’s hall on a Friday evening. Ann pointed out that a similar one had been held in July which had been very successful. Donations had been given to Dee Banks School. Matthew will also set something up on the website, showing some pictures and a short passage.1. Youth Group:

Amy reported that the youngsters had made a display of the life of St Therese of Lisieux in recognition of the 100th anniversary of her birth. Also to report that one new volunteer had offered to help out with the Youth Group.1. Liturgy Group:

There is nothing to report.1. Communications:

Matthew reported that a volunteer had offered to help put things on the website and a further volunteer from St Theresa’s had also offered help. 1. SVP:

Sue reported that a sponsored walk had taken place in October for the holiday home at Talacre. Also the Foodbank was flourishing and the warehouse was full.1. Churches Together in Upton:

Nothing to report.1. Buildings:

Pauline reported that the resurfacing of car park had beenpostponed until the new year.Pauline thanked everyone for sending in the reports and reminded members that if reports were not received on the deadline date that they be emailed to PC members directly and not send them via the Office. Pauline also mentioned that the September minutes plus reports can now go on the notice board and on the website1. REPORT ON RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEERS:

Ann reported that she was very disappointed with the response from St T’s - only 6 responses and 2 of those were from parishioners who were already volunteering for a number of roles. Lawrence questioned why there hadn’t been a second talk the week after. Pauline felt that she didn’t want to appear to be badgering parishioners. There had been fifteen responses covering all areas on the list at St. C’s and that the next step was to speak to individuals. Pauline will put a thank you in the newsletter. Ann and Pauline will start work now on the next “phase” of recruiting volunteers for the more spiritual side of church life.Matthew suggested that individual approaches would be a good idea particularly in regard to Children’s Liturgy. Maybe some older students from the CHS could be persuaded to help. Amy agreed to speak to the Director of the Sixth Form at CHS.Lawrence had sent Pauline a very useful article re welcoming .**It related to the outcomes of the Synodal journey from one suburban London parish in the Archdiocese of Southwark. In the article were some excellent ideas for a way forward for our parish. In particular it references the need to celebrate and thank our volunteers. (Note the insert in the newsletter re Ken Kilcoyne).** **Welcomers in our parish fulfil a very important role in getting to recognise new members in our church community. The suggestion was put forward that Stephen Parry from St T’s, Sue McCarthy from St C’s meet together with Ann and Pauline to discuss extending this role.**Pauline would photo-copy article that Lawrence had produced.Eileen thanked both Ann and Pauline for all the hard work that had gone into the recruitment campaign. Fr Desmond, on a positive note, said that, even if there had not been a great response to the appeal, we had “sown the seed”. 1. CONFIRMATION OF DATE AND FORM OF PASTORAL

COUNCIL AGM. Pauline and Ann confirmed the date for the Annual General Meeting as Monday 14th March 2024 in St Theresa’s8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Amy wondered whether some form of plaque in remembrance of Jessica Baker would be a good idea – possibly in Peace Garden. Jessica had been a committed member of the Youth Group for many years.9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: a) Monday November 27 at 7pm at St Theresa’s - Reports to be in the Office by 17th November. If not, members to email directly. **(Please note the change of date)**b) Monday 22nd January at 7.00 p.m. at St Columba’s – Reports to be in the Office by 12th January. If not members to email directly.10. CLOSING PRAYERThe meeting ended with a closing prayer by Fr Desmond. | ActionMatthewPetts MatthewPettsMatthew, Carol and Eileen AmyO’DonnellPauline Rourke Ann McCarthy |