

WGC Catholic Churches' Advisory Council Meeting Minutes



St Bonaventure's



Our Lady's,
Queen of Apostles



Holy Family

Date:	Tuesday 20 th March 2018	Venue: Our Lady's Sacristy
Chaired by:	Father Norbert	
Present:	Fr. Tom, Anna Grogan, Kathryn Hubbard, Steve Allardice, Ann Chappell, Peter Vincent, Bill Hayes, Ernest Owusu-Afriyie, Ellen Allardice (Minutes)	
Apologies:	Alan van Hek, Paul Chappell, Jason Loh, Antonio Monteiro	

1. Fr. Tom opened the meeting at 7.50pm with a prayer.
2. Fr. Norbert welcomed all attending.
3. Fr. Norbert said that the Open Meeting held on 18th September 2017 was very informative with the sharing of parish groups. The minutes of the Open Meeting were agreed.

Fr. Norbert said that he had been informed at a recent Council of Deans meeting that there is a new Data Protection law (GDPR) coming into force which will mean examining how personal information is stored and kept. The Diocese have already advised parishes to remove the planned giving boxes from public places as the name and address are printed on the label. Also no contact information will be included on the printed copy of the Minister Rotas. Two parishes have been selected as pilots in determining what data is being held and how it is stored. Fr. Norbert said that it would be prudent to wait for further guidelines from the Diocese so that one approach could be taken for all three parishes.

Health and Safety concerns were also discussed at the Council of Deans meeting, issues include working at heights, regular cleaning of gutters to prevent leaks (insurance requirement), and an awareness of votive candles and candle stands.

4. Parish Centre

Fr. Norbert recapped the information provided by the architects at the recent Centre Meeting held on 6th March 2018 which was open to all parishioners to attend. A pre-planning document has been submitted to the Welwyn Hatfield Council for a new build with a smaller footprint than the current hall.

The position financially is that £300,000 will be available from the Growing in Faith fund, so a loan will be arranged from the Diocese for the remainder. This was agreed at a meeting with the Diocesan Financial Secretary and the chairs of the three parish finance committees at the beginning of the Growing in Faith initiative. Fundraising will be needed to repay the loan. The 5 year term of the Growing in Faith Initiative is soon approaching, so one idea is to invite current contributors to continue with their payments directly to the Centre project. Fr. Norbert emphasised that it will be important that fundraising is carried out without losing a sense of parish life. The recent St. Patrick's Day gathering highlighted that the Centre is now very much part of the life of the three parishes with many Holy Family Parishioners attending to support the evening with their children participating in the Irish Dancing entertainment.

As the Parish Centre will be opened close to the centenary of Welwyn Garden City, Fr. Norbert suggested that the name of the centre could incorporate this in conjunction with a catholic reference.

It was suggested that a logo could be developed that could encompass the three parishes and be used on the signage.

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5. 'Adoremus' – National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress

The Bishops of England and Wales are holding a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool on 7th-9th September 2018. Eucharistic Congresses are gatherings of clergy, religious and laity which promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church. Participants will engage in a series of sessions focusing on different dimensions of the Eucharist and the daily celebration and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Twelve places have been allocated for the three parishes. The three Parish Finance Committees have agreed that transport and accommodation will be covered by the parishes. Fr. Tom has arranged a coach and accommodation close to the centre. Fr. Norbert said that this will be an investment in the life of the parishes, and will help to spread a deeper understanding of the Blessed Sacrament. It is hoped that attendees will come back empowered to act on what they have experienced. Fr. Norbert is approaching parishioners particularly those who have a role closely involving the Eucharist to ask if they would like to attend. He asked if any Council member would like to go. So far four parishioners have said they would like to attend. The Cardinal would like names as soon as possible. It has been suggested that attendees could be presented at the feast of Corpus Christi (3rd June).

6. AOB

Fr. Norbert asked if any members had any further items to mention. Ann Chappell advised that Kay Mason is now the lead for the Transport to Mass group. Anna Grogan said that the Bereavement Group are arranging a service on 21st April with a Resurrection Theme. Personal invitations will be sent to those who have been bereaved in recent months.

Fr. Norbert said that Jason Loh has asked to step down from the Council due to work commitments. Ellen Allardice has also asked to step down, she has served as Minute Secretary on the Joint Parishes Council since it was instituted. Fr. Norbert reminded the group that a renewal of the Council members had been previously discussed, the latest renewal being when some parishioners involved in Growing in Faith were invited to join the Council in 2015. Anna Grogan also asked to step down as she has served since the Joint Parishes Council was instituted.

It was suggested that parents of young people could be invited to join as they would have an insight from that perspective. It was also noted that it would be good if different age groups and nationalities could be represented. Fr. Norbert emphasised that the Council is a group that aims to serve the parishes, rather than just being a 'talking shop'.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed to be held on **Wednesday 27th June 2018 at 7.30pm.**

The date of the Open Parish meeting was also agreed: **Tuesday 18th September at 7.45pm** which would provide an opportunity to report back from the Eucharistic Congress. Also to be considered would be provision for parish events for the year whilst the new hall is being built.

8. Closing Prayer

Fr. Norbert thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 8.50pm with a prayer.

