



## Parish Council Meeting MEETING MINUTES

July 2014

### Meeting Details

Meeting Name:	St Joseph's Parish Council
Chairman:	John Bates
Date:	Tuesday, 8 July 2014
Time:	8:00pm
Location:	St Joseph's Priory

### Invitees/Attendees

Name	Role	Present
John Bates	Chairman Health & Safety and Safeguarding	Yes
Fr John McGowan	Parish Priest	Yes
Fr Bob Davies	Carmelite Community	Yes
John Forte	Finance Committee	Yes
Christine Cornwell	Evangelisation Activity Group	Yes
Ros Burton	Liturgy & Church Activity Group	Yes
Stephen Forster	Outreach Activity Group	Apologies
Kasia Misiewicz	Pastoral Activity Group	Yes
Nan Jacobson	Social Activity Group	Yes
Paul Rayner	Youth Activity Group	Yes
Mike Carney	Mass Representatives	Yes
Joan Barham	Secretary	Yes

## Agenda Items

Item	Subject	Presenter
1.	Opening Remarks	John Bates
2.	Matters Arising from Meeting Minutes of 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	John Bates
3.	Matters Arising from Meeting Minutes of 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	John Bates
4.	2015 Centenary Update	Fr John McGowan
5.	South East Bucks Pastoral Area Update	Fr John McGowan
6.	Car Sharing	Fr John McGowan
7.	Matters Arising from Activity Group/Committee Reports	John Bates/All
8.	Health & Safety Update	John Bates
9.	Planning for AGM	Joan Barham
10.	Set Dates for Parish Council Meetings 2014/2015	John Bates
11.	Review of Action Items	John Bates
12.	Any Other Business	John Bates
13.	Closing Remarks	John Bates

## Meeting Notes

### 1. Opening Remarks - John Forte

- The meeting began with an opening prayer led by Fr John.
- Apologies were received from Stephen Forster.

### 2. Matters Arising from Meeting Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 - John Bates

- There were no matters arising from the Meeting Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

### 3. Matters Arising from Meeting Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014 - John Bates

- There were no matters arising from the Meeting Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

### 4. 2015 Centenary Update - Fr John McGowan

- Please refer to "*Centenary Report Jul14*" which was distributed ahead of the meeting.
- Please refer to [St Joseph's Parish Planner](#) for details of planned events throughout 2015.
- All the centenary committees are doing good, sterling work. Impressed with Spirituality Committee who are creating an inspiring programme for our centenary year.

Fr John outlined the reasoning behind why we are moving the sanctuary, as follows:

- We grew up in a neo-gothic era.
- Churches built after the Catholic Restoration Act of 1850 were built looking back to the gothic model of the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. These buildings reflected a medieval attitude towards God, with emphasis on the power and grandeur of God. Churches of that era were magnificent with long naves, high ceilings and a spire. One could look down the long nave towards the altar and then up to the glory

and majesty of God. The medieval God was an awesome and all powerful judge of humankind. Rood screens and altar rails separated the sacred from the secular – there was a clear division in the medieval mind about the holiness of the sanctuary area.

- One of the basic guiding principles of Vatican II was to go back to the sources of our faith; i.e., Scripture and the early Church. In the early Church people met in people's houses to share the Eucharist. Think of the image of Christ preaching at the lake – people gathered around him. Why? They wanted to be near him. They formed a fan shape around him. With this in mind, modern churches like Liverpool and Clifton Cathedrals and the Holy Redeemer just down the road in Wexham, and many others, were built in a fan shape, creating a sense of gathering around Christ.
- Through our Baptism we are all consecrated to serve the church. We are all called to holiness and share in Christ's own priesthood. One of the greatest insight of Vatican II is that everybody, not just religious, is called to holiness. We are all given the spirit of holiness at our Baptism. No longer is there this division between the sacred and the secular.
- What we are trying to create is a place of worship where people gather together to listen to the Word of God. We believe that these relatively new ideas are not man made by a trendy new priest or bishop. The Second Vatican Council was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Our Church Committee has always prayed before every meeting to be inspired too by the same Spirit. This project is about preparing for the future to create a greater sense of community so we can be what the Church is meant to be: a sign and instrument of God's love in the world.
- The Parish Council agreed that the Consultation will end on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July when the results will be analysed by the Church Committee and discussed with the Architects and Fr John. There will be a need for the project to be overseen and a timetable produced for the next stages and consultation.
- The Council thanked the Church Committee for their efforts thus far.

## **5. South East Bucks Pastoral Area Update - Fr John McGowan**

- Fr Graham Platt at Chesham Bois is retiring early. This is a big disappointment to everyone especially his parishioners. Fr Andy Ollard is coming in his place in September.
- Working in a Pastoral Area is like ecumenism – it is work that doesn't seem to be making any progress. Creating a sense of belonging to something wider than one's immediate church is challenging.
- The future will look very different and there will be lots of changes in the Diocese with diminishing clergy. We could possibly be involved in Little Chalfont. We need to adapt and be flexible.
- Discussing an administrator role for the area. This is someone who would co-ordinate resources and facilities, particularly in areas of sacramental preparation. All this is very much an ongoing process.
- The Pastoral Area Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Great Billing takes place on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

## **6. Car Sharing - Fr John McGowan**

- Although we are encouraging people to walk we still have a lot of cars. Car sharing is something to pursue – what are the logistics? How do we make it work? What do they do at Gold Hill, St James, St Dunstan's? Joan to look into this and report back.

## **7. Matters Arising from Activity Group Reports - John Bates/All**

- Refer to the following reports received for information about each Activity Group:
  - "Evangelisation Report Jul14"
  - "Outreach Report Jul14"
  - "Liturgy & Church Report Jul14"
  - "Pastoral Report Jul14"

- "Social Report Jul1414"
  - "Youth Report Jul1414"
  - "2nd Draft Half Year Statement to the Parish Jul14"
- Thanks to everyone for all their efforts within each group. Everyone seems to be working very hard.
  - It was noted that the SVP is struggling for new officers and drivers.
  - Discussed having "Sign-Up Sunday" again. The last one was well received and brought in some new volunteers. There are opportunities to have one either in the Autumn or at New Year and it will also be good as we have a new Parish Priest. Ros to progress.

## 8. Health & Safety Update - John Bates

- The flagstones at the front of the church have now been repaired. We have been assured that the keystone over the side door is not unsafe and just needs re-pointing.
- John Bates, John Forte and David Bentley review our risk assessments twice a year. Such a review is due in the near future and any issues/matters arising will be reported back to the Finance Committee.

## 9. Planning for the AGM - John Barham

- The AGM will take place on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm in the Parish Centre. Following the established timescales, parishioners are invited to submit topics for Any Other Business in writing by Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> September. The AGM agenda and meeting papers will be available on the website and church notice boards on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> September. Parishioners wishing to table questions must do so in writing no later than Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September. As well as a poster, there will be an article in the Newsletter in the four weeks leading up to the AGM and it will also be included in the Notices.
- Ahead of the meeting we will produce a Parish Annual Report which will be made available both electronically via the website and in paper format by means of an A5 booklet. The overall content will be the same as last year; incorporating feedback to include the financial statement within the booklet, an overview of the structure of the parish council and the parish prayer.
- In order to achieve this, all reports need to be submitted to Joan by Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September (nine weeks from this meeting). Reports should broadly cover highlights of what has been achieved this past year as well as plans for the next 12 months (particularly important as it is our centenary year).
- Joan to organise production of the Annual Report and make the necessary AGM preparations. It was suggested that we have a Calendar of Events for the Centenary available at the AGM.

## 10. Set Dates for Parish Council Meetings 2014/2015

- Future dates for meetings cannot be decided until Fr Michael arrives. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council will have a "meet and greet" session with Fr Michael on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> August at 8pm in the Priory, at which time future meeting dates will be discussed.

## 11. Review of Action Items - John Bates

- **Action Items** – Reviewed and updated action list – see "Parish Council Action Items (as at 08Jul14)".
- **A140 re: Reading Ministry** – Fr John will not be here now for Reader's Day arranged for September. Fr Bob can lead a day for readers before he leaves but date yet to be agreed and communicated.
- **A163 re: Chalfont St Peter Feast Day** – Thanks to Maureen Burrows for all her efforts in organising and running our parish stall at feast day. Proposal for next year is that all the local churches work together and have one large tent/stall.

## 12. Any Other Business - John Bates

- **Ros** – Liz & Patrick Howe have stepped down as Eucharistic Ministers after 25 years of service.
- **Paul** – Thanks to Celia Tobin and Nan Jacobson for all their hard work in preparing children for Parish and School First Holy Communions.
- **Christine** – NORES is running a three day Summer School from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July, exploring mission themes that Pope Francis has given the Church in "*The Joy of the Gospel*".
- **Kasia** – The Healing Service planned for Lent was postponed until June and has not yet happened. Agreed this would be discussed with Fr Michael and if necessary put on the next agenda.
- **Fr Bob** – Thank you to Fr John for all the energy and ideas he has put into this parish over the past three years. Hope that some of that energy continues into the next Community. It has been a lively and busy time, with a lot of good coming from it. Fr John has got behind all sorts of parish groups, energising them and giving them the initiative to move things forward. A particular highlight is "*Team Baptism*" and our new Baptismal Preparation Programme.
- **John Forte** – On behalf of the Finance Committee thanks to Fr Bob who has been a godsend in helping us to get our finances straightened out.
- **John Bates** – Thanks to both Fr John and Fr Bob for all they have done. It has been an enjoyable three years and we are sorry to see them go. We wish them well in their new roles.
- **Mike Carney** – Thank you to Fr John for enlarging the Newsletter. The new, larger format is much easier to read, has more space for information and has been very well received.
- **Fr John** – Thanks to Fr Bob who has always been very helpful and supportive. In working together, it has been a good balancing act. Thanks also to the Parish Council for their support, ideas and creativity as well as their energy and commitment.
- **Fr John** – Louise Langley from the Orpheus Male Voice Choir has met with Fr John and Mary Keenan with a view to becoming our Parish Music Director. Louise's own parish church in the High Wycombe area was closed down as part of Pastoral Area re-structuring. She is going to come to the 11am Mass on Sunday. Plan is to offer her employment for three months on an experimental basis.
- **Nan** – Parish Day takes place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September from noon to 4pm. We need enthusiasm and support for this parish event.
- **Joan** – Reminder that Summer Mass Schedule takes effect from 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> August through to 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> August inclusive. No Mass at Chalfont St Giles and no 9am or 5:30pm Mass in Chalfont St Peter.

## 13. Closing Remarks - John Bates

- The meeting concluded with a prayer.
- Next meeting is Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014.