

St. Teresa's Pastoral Council – 10th January 2018

Present

Fr. Mariadass, President, ex officio (Fr M)	Michael Potts (MP), Chair
Douglas Lamb (DL)	Sarah Bell (SB) for Kathleen Gregor
Janet Wallbank (JW)	Tony Ingoe (TI)
Mark Hayes (MH), Chair of Finance, ex officio	Andrea Hayes (AH)
Vinny Turner (VT), Head Teacher, ex officio	Norma Kennedy (NK)
Rayson Thomas (RT)	In attendance: Anne Grant (Sacristan)

Item		Owner
1	The meeting began with a prayer at 7.05 pm	
2	Apologies – Kelechi Dibie, Sue Clarke. With 10/12 lay members present, there was a quorum.	
3, 4	<p>Meeting calendar and the role of the Pastoral Council</p> <p>It was proposed to return to monthly meetings so that the Council can better do its job of helping Fr M by co-ordinating the activities of the different groups and individuals across the Parish. The difficulty is that in Canon Law the Pastoral Council can only exist in the presence of the President and Fr M will be even busier than his predecessor, who moved us from monthly to quarterly meetings.</p> <p>The proposal was accordingly that members of the Council would meet monthly for informal planning meetings between the formal meetings, which would take place 3 times a year plus one joint meeting with the St Aidan's Council. Where necessary, the planning meetings would make written recommendations for decision by Fr M but any minutes would not be published.</p> <p>It was agreed to meet at 7.30 pm, in principle on the second Tuesday of each month, in the new Parish Room in the Presbytery.</p> <p>Two dates were fixed: 20 February (the third Tuesday because of Ash Wednesday) and 13 March. The March meeting might be a joint meeting with St Aidan's, if they agree. Other formal meetings would take place in June and September.</p> <p>[NB: this means provisional dates (to be confirmed in March) are 10 April, 8 May, 12 June, 10 July and 11 September.]</p> <p>It was also agreed that meetings of the Council should normally be open to other members of the Parish and advertised in the newsletter, including a statement that any items for the agenda should be raised with the Chair in advance. Recent minutes had not been posted on the notice board, this would be rectified. AG pointed out that minutes are distributed with the newsletter at St Aidan's.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>MP/TI</p> <p>MH</p>

5 **Review of Parish Activities**

By way of introduction for Fr M, the meeting reviewed some of the groups and activities that take place in the Parish. Fr M would aim to meet each group individually to get to know them.

These included the Welcomers, SVP, Mini Vinnies, Children's Liturgy, Music Group, the liturgical dances by the School children, Toddler Group, Tuesday Ladies, Exploring the Word of God, and the Rosary Group.

TI explained how he organised the Readers, Lay Ministers, Sidesmen and Newsletter – and Security!

AG explained her role in managing the Hall, which mainly serves the local community and earns income for the Parish, although the Toddler Group remains connected to the Parish and School.

In order to strengthen links with the Primary School parents, Mass would be offered at 9.15 on Wednesdays and Fridays, together with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.45 on Fridays and coffee and biscuits after mass (including school masses), initially on both Wednesday and Friday, commencing 17 January. Donations for coffee could be treated as part of school fundraising.

AH suggested putting up an A-frame noticeboard on Wednesdays and Fridays to advertise. AG pointed out that the bulletins are displayed in the small notice board in the porch as well as the roadside board.

The idea of using catering equipment to provide fresh-brewed coffee was discussed but considered too complicated. There was now a fridge in the kitchenette to store milk. The point of serving coffee was to get people to stay after mass and talk to each other.

AH introduced the work of Heaton Churches Together, including the Week for Christian Unity, the Good Friday Walk of Witness and Easter Sunday Dawn Service in the park, the biennial Heaton Festival in the park which would next take place in June 2019 and the Open Day. There may be an organised Picnic in the park in June 2018.

It was proposed to repeat the joint celebration of the Easter Triduum, with both congregations gathering together for the services on Maundy Thursday and the Vigil at St Teresa's and on Good Friday at St Aidan's.

6 **Deputies and Succession Planning**

MP suggested that the foregoing review showed how dependent these activities are on particular individuals and therefore vulnerable in their absence. SB remarked that outsiders often think we are stronger than we are; e.g. our strong performance in catechesis depended on two people. Things are never so well sorted that there is no room for new helpers.

MP suggested that over the next year we should address the question of succession and inclusion of new people. Hopefully open Pastoral Councils and better links with the School parents would help. We should not exclude parents who come to Mass at St Teresa's only 6 – 8 times a year. TI pointed out that many attend other churches as well. Fr M suggested that activities that involve both young people and their parents would encourage the parents to come.

JW suggested that the question of succession should be broadened and addressed in terms of building teams that cover for each other. She recognised the difficulty of delegation, since new people are often less competent and reliable, but we have to trust each other if we are to grow. Only then can burdens be carried on more than one pair of shoulders.

TI pointed out that someone usually picks up the baton if the normal person is absent. JW and MP suggested that cover needs to be less ad hoc and it would be better if Fr M knew who could step in.

Fr M would like to encourage youth participation, which currently depends for leadership solely on SB. Another individual was awaiting DBS clearance. AH mentioned The Event, a Diocesan initiative aimed at years 6 – 8, in which the School does not currently participate. JW suggested working through the Partnership. The School minibuses might be used if the insurance could be arranged. SB pointed out that we do not follow up the Partnership confirmation groups, which is a lost opportunity to involve motivated young people.

MH suggested developing the relationship with St Aidan's to form teams across the two parishes. Fr M reported on changes there and asked for the March meeting to be joint, as a first step towards possible merger.

MP

SB asked how Fr M would divide his time between the hospitals and the parishes. Fr M expected to work at the hospital Wednesday through Friday after the morning masses, with a day off on Monday and various parish duties on Tuesdays. The weekends were unallocated. Things might change when other priests joined the community.

SB and JW asked whether the Parish office should be re-opened between 1030 and 1200. Fr M was keen to involve St Aidan's volunteers, MP could put this on the **agenda** for the possible March meeting. Fr M did not expect to be doing administration himself.

MP

7	<p>Any other business</p> <p>JW suggested a “bring and share” Sunday Lunch in the Hall, which might especially appeal to people from different cultures and the elderly as well as enriching the life of the Parish. VT mentioned his previous experience, including using the School minibus to take older people, not only to mass, but also out to lunch and into the school for lunch with the Mini-Vinnies. TI mentioned an excellent international lunch prepared by the school parents in the past. Health and Safety issues need consideration but are surmountable. Fr M warmly welcomed this kind of initiative and was willing to support experiments.</p> <p>Fr M confirmed confessions would be on request until there was another priest available. He would like to offer the option of using a confessional.</p> <p>VT confirmed First Communion had been arranged for Sunday 13 May. He and Fr M would prefer Saturday in future years.</p>	VT FrM
8	The meeting concluded with prayer at 8.55 pm	