

SEATON DELAVAL PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Parishes of

Our Lady and St. Joseph Sacred Heart St. Cuthbert St. John The Baptist St. Paul St. Wilfrid

Minutes of the meeting held at St. John The Baptist, Annitsford on 24.01.18

Present : Fr. Richard Harriott, Anne Hardy, Fr. Philip Quinn, Paula Battersby, Ken Little, Fr. Jim Dunne, Jo Shepherd, John Hawthorne, Paul Marley, Kathryn Maggs (representing parish of St. John the Baptist in the absence of Gerry Killen), David Brown

1. Opening prayer

Led by Fr. Harriott

2. Apologies for absence

Gerry Killen, Deacon Tony Turner, Fr. L. Barrett

3. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by Ken Little.

Seconded by Fr. Jim

4. Communications.

i. Bulletin

Thanks were offered to Paula for her work in ensuring that the first bulletin was published at the beginning of Advent. Paula will produce the next bulletin but it was suggested that a small group would take responsibility for subsequent production. Fr. Jim volunteered to be part of this group. It was suggested that practical help could be sought from those people who work on Parish bulletins. Ken distributed information concerning Mass times for inclusion in the bulletin, noting that parish names would be recorded in alphabetical order.

Advent, Easter and summer were identified as publication dates for future bulletins. The next publication date is the weekend of 17 March so that Holy Week and Easter information can be shared. There will be some input from the Spirituality Group. Sacred Heart Parish will send a brief piece to focus on the spiritual aspect of the Holy Week services. Paul Marley will send some information concerning activities at St. Oswald's School.

ii. IT Communications

North East Solutions have visited Fr. Jim. Ged Downey (Sacred Heart parish) attended the meeting. The Diocese is willing to offer training to aid electronic communication. The idea of a Partnership website was discussed. Paul Marley will investigate whether a system such as Parentmail would be a viable option for communication across the Partnership.

iii. Social Media

Ken Little asked Kathryn Maggs to supply brief information regarding the Partnership's Facebook Page.

iv. Diocesan Issues

Jo Shepherd gave an outline of the following points:

- feedback from the Diocese regarding the Partnership's request for clarification concerning courses being offered - a range of courses will be offered some of which will be short, practical courses.
- Meeting of Chairs/representatives of the Partnerships - chairs will form the Council of the Laity together with Religious and Youth representatives, areas of concern were identified, Partnerships are encouraged to share examples of good practice on the Partnership Matters section of the website. NB articles for inclusion on the website should be submitted via Ken Little rather than direct to the Diocese.
- There had been a positive response to the Youth Sunday appeal. Bookmarks were distributed and an appeal was made for food for the Refugee Service.
- The Partnership has one successful candidate for the John Paul II Awards. The presentation ceremony will be held in February.

v. Partnership Procedures

Concern was expressed that we have not distinguished between Partnership and parish events. It was decided that Partnership events are those which have been agreed by the PDG in principle and organised by a Partnership group. Parish events are those which have been organised by individual parishes and are offered to other parishes within the Partnership.

It was agreed that there would be two Partnership Masses, followed by socials, each year. They would move around the Partnership, be planned by the Spirituality Group and paid for by the Finance Group. The next Mass will be on April 20th at St. Paul's, Cramlington.

- 5. Spiritual Activities/Formation**
 - Kathryn Maggs gave an outline of the matters discussed at the last Spirituality Group Meeting. Further details can be found in the minutes of that meeting.
 - Confirmations will take place in the south of the Partnership on an annual basis - one year at Sacred Heart, one year at St. Paul's/St John the Baptist. Confirmations for the school year 2018/2019 will take place in Cramlington/Annitsford.
 - A Day of Reflection for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers will take place at the end of June.
 - The Spirituality Group is working on a Partnership Vision and Mission statement. They will need to be ratified by the PDG.
 - Fr. Quinn emphasised the importance of being rooted in prayer and open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Prayer in each parish with a focus on identifying strengths and building up the church in each area was suggested.
 - The question of a logo for the Partnership was raised. A design based on Celtic letters was suggested.
 - There will be a mission in Blyth starting on 19 February and led by Fr. Michael Hickey. Monday - Friday at 7.00pm
 - Minutes of the Youth Group (sub group of the Spirituality Group) were distributed. Some factual amendments to the November meeting will need to be made.

- 6. Social Activities**

Passover Meal at Sacred Heart - March 27th
Wine Tasting evening to raise money for various charities – at Sacred Heart in April. Date tbc
Partnership Masses - April 20, Cramlington and 28 September at Blyth - possibly with a joint music group.

- 7. Property and Facilities**

A Toolkit will be provided by the Diocese. A sub- group consisting of Fr. Quinn, Fr. Jim and Ken Little plus co-opted members was agreed upon.

- 8. Planning**

Planning stems from the Vision/Mission statements. A group made up of Ken Little, Jo Shepherd, Paula Battersby will work on this. In his absence Fr. Lee was also invited to join the group.

- 9. Matters Arising**
 - Mass times will need to be discussed. Sacred Heart needs to reduce Masses from 3 to 2.
 - The Partnership can send 17 people to the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool. 3 people have expressed an interest. The Partnership will cover the costs. The event will be publicised further and Fr. Jim will be the contact person.

- 10. Any Other Business**

Nothing was raised.

- 11. Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 12 April, 7.30 pm at New Hartley

- 12. Closing Prayer**

Led by Fr. Harriott