

SEATON DELAVAL PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Parishes of
St. Wilfrid St. Cuthbert Our Lady and St. Joseph
St. John St. Paul Sacred Heart

Minutes of the meeting held at St. Paul's, Cramlington on 04.10.17

Present : Anne Hardy, Fr. Philip Quinn, Paula Battersby, Ken Little, Fr. Jim Dunne, Jo Shepherd, John Hawthorne, Paul Marley (apologies given for having to leave during the course of the meeting), Kathryn Maggs (representing St. John's in the absence of Gerry Killen), Fr. Lee Barrett

1. Opening prayer

Led by Fr. Lee

2. Apologies for absence

Fr. Harriott, Gerry Killen, David Brown, Deacon Rob Wareing, Deacon Tony Turner, Angela Gray

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Communications.

Paula Battersby reported on progress so far. Thanks for all her hard work were recorded.

- Copies of the draft Partnership bulletin were distributed and discussed. Fr. Jim suggested that a photograph of Seaton Delaval Hall would make an appropriate logo. Paula will take a photograph so that copyright laws are not infringed. Fr. Jim suggested that profiles of the four Partnership priests would be a useful inclusion in the bulletin.
- An introductory bulletin will be produced for publication on the First Sunday of Advent. This will include the clergy profiles and details of Advent and Christmas services across the Partnership. Paula will send out a draft with a deadline for amendments/replies.
- The format of future bulletins will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The email list is still a 'work in progress'. Ged Downey should be contacted with any queries.
- The establishment of a PDG website will be discussed when paper bulletins have been established.
- Fr. Lee will set up a Facebook page.
- Information regarding the Council of Laity was shared. However, clarification of the final membership has yet to be confirmed.

4. Spiritual activities/Formation/Outreach

- The minutes of the Spirituality Group's meeting were distributed. Kathryn Maggs, the secretary of this group, was thanked for her work. She then summarised the main points.
 - Children attending non-Catholic schools are invited to attend Sacred Heart for 'top up' sessions prior to First Communion.
 - Fr. Jim is waiting to hear from the Bishop regarding a date for Confirmations at Sacred Heart. Young people from the Partnership are welcome to attend the programme.
 - Kathryn Maggs has visited all Partnership Primary Schools to establish contacts.
 - Youth meeting for the Partnership will be held on 11 October at St. Paul's at 6.00pm. Open to adults and young people.
- Information about proposed Partnership holiday/pilgrimage to Malta will be publicised across the Partnership to establish the level of interest. Deacon Rob Wareing is the contact.
- The Partnership has been allocated places at the Eucharistic Congress to be held in Liverpool in September 2018.
- Pastoral days with Bill Huebsch - for clergy and laity - were flagged.
- Bereavement Service at Sacred Heart on 20 November at 7.00pm. All welcome.
- Evangelisation/outreach for parishes - Kathryn Maggs distributed information from the Diocese. This was followed by brief discussion.

5. Finance

- There was considerable discussion concerning the relationship of the Finance Group with the PDG. Fr. Lee suggested that the relationship should mirror parishes in terms of relationships between Finance Groups and Parish Councils. Fr. Jim felt that the Partnership Finance Group should have a degree of autonomy and should not be micromanaged by the PDG. Fr. Philip felt that the PDG should have ultimate control over the other Partnership committees, the Finance group should be independent of the Diocese and that to avoid future problems the PDG needs to be clear about the parameters within which the Partnership committees operate.
- The following suggestion was proposed by Fr. Lee and accepted by the group : Ken Little (PDG Chair) will attend meetings of the Finance Group (ex officio). Issues which need to be discussed at the PDG could therefore be identified by the Chair of the PDG and the clergy. In the absence of a secretary for the Finance Group, Ken Little will produce minutes for those meetings.
- Funding for Diocesan courses was discussed. It was felt that more information was needed concerning the courses and their target groups. Jo Shepherd was asked to write a letter to the Diocese outlining the concerns of the group.

6. Social activities.

- 04.11.17 : Poppy wreath making session at St. John's at 11.00am
- 08.12.17 : Social evening at the Benedictine Club - 7.00pm-11.00pm. Children welcome from 7.00pm-9.00pm.
- 13.12.17 : Annual Senior Citizens' party at St. Benet Biscop High School.

7. Property and facilities.

- The roof at St. Paul's has been fixed. No further work required.
- The roof at New Hartley requires attention. The parish will apply to the Diocese for permission to spend the £40,000 which will be required.

8. Planning.

- The Spirituality Group will work on a Vision/Mission Statement. This will inform planning for the spiritual development of the Partnership. The ultimate aim is to prepare for lay leadership in the light of the Gospel.
- Fr. Lee reminded the group that there will also be other areas of planning to be addressed in the future.

9. Matters arising (not covered above)

- Sub groups will be asked to send minutes of their meetings to the secretary of the PDG so that they can be distributed to the PDG.
- The clergy of the Partnership will ensure that there will be a vigil Mass celebrated at St. John's on Holy Days of Obligation.

10. Any other business.

Quorum for meetings was decided - a minimum of 7 to include representation from each parish.

11. Date of next meeting

24 January 2018 at St. John's

12. Closing prayer.

Led by Fr. Lee