

# 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. Wilfrid's, Blyth on 31.10.18

**Present :**    K.Little    J.Shepherd    D.Brown    K.Maggs    P.Battersby    Fr. J.Dunne    Deacon J.Hawthorne  
Fr. P.Quinn    A.Hardy

**1.    Opening prayer**

**2.    Apologies for absence**

P.Marley    Deacon R.Wareing    Fr. R.Harriott    Fr. L.Barrett    Deacon T.Turner

**3.    Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by Fr. Jim.  
Seconded by K.Little.

**4.    Communications**

i.    Bulletin

This will be distributed on the First Sunday of Advent. K. Maggs will email G. Shepherd with times of Christmas services at St. John's. Service times for New Hartley will be finalised when Fr. Lee returns to the parish after illness.

Fr. Jim will supply a parish profile of Sacred Heart.

ii.    IT Communications

Further information was shared at a Vicariate Meeting which was held at Sacred Heart on 29 October: North East Solutions are working on the Diocesan website. There will be links to Partnership websites.

iii.    Social Media

Updates will be available from Fr. Lee in due course.

iv.    Diocesan Issues

a.    Joint Councils meeting

It was felt that speakers have been good, workshops less so.

b.    Eucharistic Congress

Those who attended expressed gratitude for the Partnership's support.

c.    The Discipleship Conference for Partnership Development

See point 4 iv a (above)

d.    Council of the Laity

P. Battersby will attend the next meeting.

**5.    Spiritual Activities/Formation**

i.    33rd Sunday of the Year

The focus will be on the Bidding Prayers. These will be composed by the Blyth/New Hartley Justice and Peace group for circulation to all parishes.

ii.    Alpha Courses

These are running in Blyth and North Gosforth. Fr. Jim and Fr. Philip reported that people are finding them helpful. It is felt that the courses are pitched at an appropriate level and are encouraging questions. It was felt that there will be a need to consider the follow up - possibly linked to sacramental preparation.

Other discussions linked to this item were:

- The Partnership's Mission and Vision statements. A draft was distributed. It was felt that it was not really adequate, that an overall framework was required and that

statements should enthuse people and be based on criteria which could be applied to future issues. Fr. Jim also pointed out that the statements should be specific to the Partnership and not generic.

Rather than have a Spirituality Group/PDG 'Awayday', it was suggested that the invitation to pray about and discuss the Vision and Mission statements should be extended to the whole Partnership. Fr. Philip suggested that consideration of the present 'Crisis in the Church' might be a focus for encouraging participation.

J. Hawthorne will collect ideas for a structure for the day. The deadline for submitting ideas is the First Sunday of Advent. The meeting will be held on March 16, 2019. The possibility of using the parish hall at Bedlington will be investigated.

- Fr. Philip and Fr. Jim both expressed concern about declining numbers in attendances in churches. It was felt that there might be a need for a more challenging approach for sacramental preparation, possibly based on Alpha courses. The clergy would need to present their ideas to the new Bishop as soon as possible following his appointment.
- Prayer cards for Youth Sunday were distributed. J. Shepherd pointed out that resources from YMT are available online. Each parish will use the resources to suit local needs while the Prayer Card will provide a unifying factor across the Partnership.
- K. Maggs distributed minutes of the Spirituality Group's last meeting highlighting the following points:
  - The torchlight Procession in Hexham. Friday 7 December. 7.00pm.
  - Faith in Action Awards. These have been running in St. Oswald's School since September. There are also candidates at St. Peter's School.
  - Flame. The Partnership will consider subsidising those who wish to attend. K. Maggs will collect numbers from Benet Biscop, J. Shepherd from Sacred Heart, G. Shepherd from St. Mary's. St. Cuthbert's will also be contacted.

#### **6. Social and Community Activities**

- 10 November - poppy wreath workshop at St. John's
- 1 December - St. John's have organised a party to be held at Seghill Comrades' Club
- 16 December - Blue Christmas Service at St. Paul's
- 17 December - candlelit carol service followed by refreshments at Sacred Heart at 7.00pm

#### **7. Finance Report**

Finances are currently healthy. There is no need to organise a levy at the moment.

#### **8. Property and Facilities**

Plans for a toolkit have been shelved. A pilot scheme regarding property will be launched.

#### **9. Planning**

This will continue following the Vision/Mission Statement meeting on March 16

#### **10. Matters Arising**

Nothing was raised.

#### **11. Any other business**

Nothing was raised.

#### **12. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 30 January, 7.30pm at Our Lady and St. Joseph, New Hartley

#### **13. Closing Prayer**