

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 on 02.10.19

Present: J. Hawthorne, P. Battersby, R. Wareing, K. Maggs, J. Dunne, K. Little, J. Shepherd,
P. Marley, P. Jenkins, R. Harriott

1. Opening prayer

Partnership Prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

T. Turner, P. Quinn, A. Hardy, D. Brown

3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting.

Proposed by P. Battersby. Seconded by K. Little.

4. Spiritual Activities/Formation/Outreach

i. Alpha Courses

These will not take place in the Partnership this year.

ii. RCIA/Journey in Faith

- A Diocesan initiative is suggesting a standardised approach to such courses. Fr. Jim has informed the Diocese of the current situation within the Partnership: there are adult formation groups led by a mixture of clerical and lay members, but there is not a formal RCIA group. There will be a meeting on 15 October at St. Hilda's Diocesan resource Centre to discuss the way forward.
- John Hawthorne gave information from the Diocese about Bible Society materials.
- Paul Inwood will be leading a course at Minsteracres in November to support 'The God Who Speaks - the Year of the Word'.

iii. Partnership Spirituality Group

- K. Little updated the PDG on work done so far by the Spirituality Group (see previous minutes).
- Fr. Paul suggested that there be discussions to establish the exact remit of the group.
- In the absence of a permanent group J. Hawthorne and S. Hartas attended a Diocesan meeting. They will distribute resources.
- It is hoped that by the time of the next PDG Meeting, the Partnership priests will have had the opportunity to consider lay membership of the Spirituality Group.

5. Communications

i. Bulletin.

Information regarding Advent and Christmas services should be sent to G. Shepherd by the end of October. In order to highlight the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of St. Paul's Parish the bulletin will also contain profiles of Fr. Paul and St. Paul's Parish. The profile of St. John the Baptist Parish will be published in the following edition.

ii. IT/Communication developments.

Catherine Joyce will visit Sacred Heart Parish on October 9. It is hoped that this will also provide information which might be of use at a Partnership level. Fr. Jim and J. Shepherd will be able to report back at the next PDG Meeting.

iii. Social Media.

P. Battersby suggested that links between parish websites and the Facebook page might well be useful.

iv. Diocesan issues

a. Data Protection Issues

See point 5ii (above)

6. Planning

i. Mass Times

K. Little outlined the present situation.

Fr. Paul has initiated a conversation with the community at St. Paul's regarding provision of a Sunday morning Mass in the parish. Discussions will need to address a range of issues

- The need for evangelisation in order to build up a Christian community.
- The issues involved in providing an additional weekend Mass.
- 100-120 people attend Mass on Saturday evening - it would not be a good idea to split the Mass attendance between evening and morning celebrations.
- Saturday evening is not always a good time for young families to attend Mass.

7. Social activities.

Thursday 28 November had been proposed as a date for the next Partnership Mass to be held in Blyth. However, it was pointed out that this would be one week after the Mass to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of St. Paul's parish (Friday 22 November). It was suggested that the Blue Christmas Liturgy could be celebrated in Blyth. K. Little agreed to contact Fr. Quinn regarding this suggestion.

8. Finance report.

Balance is £335.57. More funds will now be required. The following arrangement using the previously agreed formula was accepted

- Annitsford : £380
- Blyth and Cowpen : £620
- Cramlington : £320
- New Hartley : £140
- North Gosforth : £540

9. Property and facilities.

Jeremy Brock (Diocesan officer in charge of property held by Partnerships) is now working with the Partnership regarding long term planning. He will meet initially with the priests of the partnership with the hope of encouraging lay participation.

10. Matters arising (not covered above)

None

11. Any Other Business

- Confirmations will be held on February 25 at Sacred Heart. Details regarding dates of preparation sessions will be distributed. Fr. Paul will liaise with Brigid Duffy, chaplain at Benet Biscop.
- Information about the Diocesan Youth Conference was shared. Details are on the Diocesan website.
- Visit of the Walsingham statue was noted. Further detailed information is not yet available.

12. Date of next meeting.

Thursday 30 January 2020 at 7.00pm at Sacred Heart, North Gosforth.

12. Closing prayer.