

## St Gregory's Parish Pastoral Council – Notes of a meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1010

Present: Richard Verrian (Chair), Canon Michael, Bernie Dench, Peter Pelly, Alan Trowbridge, Mike d'Apice, Ann Burke, John Proctor, Steve Godwin

Apologies Helen Burnell, Fr Tom

Rather than formal minutes the following comprises a series of notes on the matters discussed and any decisions reached.

Canon Michael opened the meeting with a reading and prayer. As there were no outstanding actions from the last meeting and in the absence of an agenda the open items discussed at the last meeting (8<sup>th</sup> July) were used as a starting point for this meeting, with other matters discussed as they arose.

The ongoing issue of there not being any volunteers from St Gregory's to help at the Marriage and Baptismal courses was discussed. No obvious way forward was identified, but it was agreed that when there were candidates from St Gregory's for a baptism a greater effort should be made to support the parents. It was felt that this could help make St Gregory's be seen as a welcoming Parish and perhaps encourage parents to continue to attend after the Baptism. This led to a general discussion on Volunteers and the need to further develop the social side of the Parish in an effort to get more Parishioners involved in Parish activities and volunteering.

The Hall kitchen refurbishment was then discussed. It was confirmed that all the plans were complete, three estimates had been obtained and the Fund Raising Group had raised over half of the envisaged £12,000 cost. It was agreed that Canon Michael would start the process of obtaining Diocese approval (required for all capital expenditure over £5,000) and that the refurbishment should be put before the Finance Committee at the next meeting due 29<sup>th</sup> September. It was agreed by all that the refurbishment should start as soon as was practicable.

At the last meeting the need to set up a "city wide" group of the three Parish Pastoral Councils was discussed. It was proposed that three members from each Parish council should form the basis of the group to which the clergy would attend in lieu of the individual Parish Meetings which would still go ahead feeding any issues to the city group. This would, make more effective use of the clergy's time (currently they attend between 20 & 25 Parish/Deanery Pastoral meetings per year plus the various Finance committees and School Governor meetings etc). Representatives were still required from St Gregory's and Bernie Dench and Alan Trowbridge volunteered to represent St Gregory's.

A proposal for a link-way between the church and the hall was discussed and a draft plan reviewed which included refurbished toilets and to include disabled facilities. It was also suggested that the ceiling panels could be replaced (keeping original grid support) and new light units recessed in the new panels; heating pipes could be boxed in at the same time. A rough order cost of £50,000 had been suggested for the work. It was agreed that it would be a worthwhile project to pursue following the new kitchen for the hall. Canon Michael agreed to approach the Diocese for their view prior to progressing further; subject to their agreement detail plans could then be drawn up and costed and planning permission sought (cost around £1,000). A fund raising programme would be set up if the proposal was accepted.

## AOB

- Canon Michael is keen to form a youth musical group across the Deanery. It was announced that there would be a new Liturgy from Advent 2011 (a re-interpretation of the Latin). It was proposed that the revised version should be introduced in parts (music, Creed, Gloria etc.) between Easter & Advent,
- “Called to be a People of Hope” & “Parishes in Communion for Mission” are useful to keep us all on track, but we should not become too fixated on them,
- What is the Pastoral need of the Parish, who is our Parish; those who attended Mass at St Gregory’s, those Catholics who lived within the Parish boundary regardless of which Mass they attended, or the general populace within the vicinity of St Gregory’s Church; need to evangelise, outreach projects with other churches,
- Need for railings for the steps leading up to the hall,
- Vestments need replacing,
- New arrivals pack needs updating, suggested a Deanery folder with loose sheets may be way forward (comprising who’s who, what goes on, details of fund raising and social groups), all should feel free to add what they could,
- Next Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> November 7:30pm in the Hall (Steve to book).