

**Minutes from the St Gregory's Parish Meeting
Held on Sunday 15th March 2009 At 3pm.**

The meeting was chaired by Canon Michael Fitzpatrick,(CMF) supported by Deacon Steve Godwin (DSG). Minutes recorded by Helen Burnell.
Approximately 35 people attended the meeting.

Introduction

The meeting was opened by CMF explaining the reason for the meeting which was recorded as follows:

To look at the general running of the church and how everyone can help to maintain an active parish with everyone involved in some way. Each parish in Salisbury will be holding a meeting to discuss this and an over arching group will be established to help run the Salisbury City parish as a whole.

Items to be addressed are the spiritual, social and liturgical aspects of the parish. The spiritual life of the parish must be kept going and will centre on the church services such as masses, penitential services, healing services, bible study, prayer groups and holy hours. Coming together as a community to these events will maintain the strength of the parish. Social/fund raising events need to continue and the liturgical committee needs to continue to plan the liturgy for the parish.

The buildings and grounds also need to be maintained in good condition and we as parishioners need to remain vigilant and help to maintain the security of the buildings. Damage to one of the windows and to the sign has already been sustained. Just walking round the premises when you're in the vicinity will make people think twice about causing damage.

Ways in which people can help support and sustain parish life have been identified through a number of lists which people must take ownership of at the end of the meeting and carry forward.

Fr Tom and Canon Michael will provide daily mass throughout Lent with the exception of Mondays (their day off) and possibly Tuesday if a diocese or deanery meeting has been called. This arrangement will be reassessed after Lent. What else would the parish like from them?

Meeting opened up to those in attendance for questions

Q1. Weekday masses used to be at 9:30 allowing those doing school runs etc to attend can this time be reinstated?

A1. Moving the mass time from 9am to 9:30 would mean the two priests would not be able to get round all three parishes to say morning mass therefore 9am will remain the time of daily mass.

Q2. Why is the presbytery house empty?

A2. The Bishop has requested that newly ordained priests be put into a shared residence with another established parish priest therefore both priests will reside at St Osmund's Presbytery.

Q3. Will the house be let out to tenants?

A3. This option is currently under consideration, the presbytery at St Osmund's requires a lot of work and when this goes ahead the two priests will have to move out and will live in St Gregory's presbytery. It is not yet known when this work will start. Once this becomes known it will be possible to say whether the house can be leased in the short term or whether it needs to be kept empty in the short term so it is available for when the work at St Osmund's starts.

Q4. Has the community police officer been informed that the house is now empty as this would allow them to keep a closer eye on the property.

A4 No but this is a good idea **Sharon Cousins to contact and make aware.**

Q5. Can we have an occasional evening mass to accommodate those that can't get to morning mass?

A5 This will be looked in to.

Q6. What will happen in terms of developing the properties e.g. hall kitchen, toilets etc improvements have been put on hold due to uncertain future..

A6. Improvement work should still go ahead otherwise the buildings will run into a state of disrepair rapidly. Works under £5000 can be authorized by CMF, works over this amount need diocese approval. Currently the rear garden of the house is in a poor condition having not received any attention for several years. A contractor will probably be needed to bring things back to a manageable state, this should be done as a matter of urgency. The front of the premises is maintained by a contractor who cuts the grass, this will continue.

Q7 Wardrobe doors in sacristy need sitting back on runners can this be looked at as it is now not possible to close them and vestments are suffering.

A7 This will be looked at after meeting. **C. Burnell M.D'Apice** Action completed.

Q8 Church needs cleaning as it hasn't been done for a while can this be arranged?

A8 List available for people to sign up to a church cleaning rota.

Q9. How will the outcome of this meeting and the roles people can fulfill be communicated to the rest of the parish, people need to know they are not treading on anyone's toes by offering their services?

A9. A newsletter detailing all the jobs that need volunteers could be put together and distributed with contact names of people coordinating the activity. **Christine Muggleton volunteered to do this with support of those already involved.**

Q10. We are very reliant on one person for several key elements including an organist what can be done about this and when can we have a new organ.

A10. Volunteers need to be found for many aspects of ministry the parish need to encourage people to come forward. Joseph volunteered his services on the violin and hoped other younger members of the parish would do the same. With regards to a new organ some funds from the parish have been ring fenced along with some funding from the diocese released against the sale of St Edith's, the project was being looked after by Fr Andrew. This needs to be taken forward by someone else now if we are to achieve this goal. In the short term the piano is due to be retuned, this is in hand.

Q11 As an action from the parochial parish council Mike D'Apice has put together a welcome pack with many details about the parish activities and points of contact. This has not been released due to continual changes can this now be released.

A11 Do not hold up activities because you think you need parish priest approval, as long as CMF is kept informed he is happy for us to take things forward. He wants a parish that can run itself and leave him time to do the priestly work. Welcome pack should be released and also incorporated into new website. Draw up a list of contacts for each of the rotas and put it on a notice board.

Q12. Is it worth conducting a survey to see who can help with what?

A12. This has been done previously but no action was taken on the returns. If information like this is collected it needs to be acted on.

Q13. Pauline requested help with keeping the front of the premises tidy, currently she does this but would like some help.

Q14. Volunteers to make themselves known.

Q15. A concern about communicating information such as illness and the death of a parishioner has not been done well in the past can this be improved?

A15 Efforts are being made to improve this, a list of all people in the nursing homes is being compiled across the Salisbury parish and with more Eucharistic ministers it may be possible to increase the number of visits and more people receiving communion.

Q16 Does anyone have any other concerns they would like addressing.

A16. No concerns were raised but Tim Varney said he was very optimistic about the future as with no new parish priest trying to make their mark on the parish things would continue on a strong footing. There will always be a core that help in many areas but once one person puts themselves forward others will always follow.

Fr Tom informed the meeting about the new website he has designed for the Salisbury parish with each church having its own micro site. He would like to get a group of people who will keep the site updated.

The meeting was closed with a request that someone takes ownership for each of the 8 lists available and takes it away to add further volunteers. The meeting was followed by a hive of activity with people signing up to the lists and taking responsibility to take the lists away and add further volunteers.

The lists covered the following areas:

Altar servers

Welcomers

Church flowers

Church cleaning

Sacristy and mass preparation

Social and fund raising committee

Readers

Offertory procession

Children's liturgy.