OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH SHERINGHAM AND CROMER

Parish Pastoral Council 17th March 2022

1. **Opening Prayer for our Parish**

God, the creator and giver of all good things, bless our Parish in this united endeavour. Strengthen our faith and grant us the spirit of sacrifice that, with your help, we may provide for the needs of our Parish, give glory to you and sanctify ourselves. We ask this through Christ our Lord Amen.

Present: Father James Fyfe, Darryl Smith (Chair), Anne Buxton, Mary Mustoe-Arthur, Mavis Sturgis, Bill Horner, Breeda and Peter Godfrey, Anne and Michael Trott, David Burns, Sean and Edna White, Simon Mustoe-Arthur, Colin Fisher. **Apologies** Veronica Marett

2. **Update from the Task and Finish Group**

In September the Task and Finish group met made up of 6 parishioners – the work carried out was:

a. Urgent building review including health and safety – Michael and Peter had inspected OLR and Simon MA and Andrew Bullock had inspected St. Joseph's. Their reports have informed some maintenance tasks and form a basis for more regular reviews.

b. After review of jobs left uncovered by Keith's departure recommendation made for Administrator support for Parish and Priest – the Finance Committee did not approve given the parish finances. Michael Trott had taken this forward on a voluntary basis and began this in February.

c. Time Talents and Treasures comes under the consideration of the Finance Committee
Information about the scheme here https://www.rcdea.org.uk/sandra-to-help-parishes-with-stewardship-and-finance/
update on pilot project
https://www.rcdea.org.uk/an-invitation-to-share-your-time-talents-and-treasure/

d. Parish meetings - in order to move things forward until more parishioners feel able to commit Father James is happy for the PPC to continue as before although more active members are needed.
Thanks were given to all who took part

3. **Update from Finance Committee and response to recent letter to Parish**

Michael reported as Chair of the Finance Committee

Book keeper: Caroline O'Grady is now the book keeper for the Parish. Her role involves banking and supervising counting of weekly collection; bank reconciliation and drawing up the parish budgets for the Diocese arising from Parish Priest and Finance Committee.

Action for Parishioners - Volunteers needed for counting the collection which takes place at the Presbytery at St. Joseph's on a Tuesday afternoon.

Treasurer Role – this is now vacant as Peter Molyneux has resigned. Father James has written to Peter thanking him for his contribution. This role operates between the book keeper and finance committee and the parish

Action for Parishioners if anyone would like to take on this role please speak with Father James or Michael Trott

Further information about the finance requirements for the Parish can be found here.
https://www.rcdea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Parish-Handbook-and-Appendices-April-2021.pdf

A few weeks ago the letter was given out by Father James to parishioners as they left mass. Feedback was given that if parishioners were not at Mass that weekend, they would not know the position – **Action** Michael Trott to consider how this can be addressed e.g., copies available at churches or on Parish website.

There was a discussion about the contents of the letter, feedback and questions from parishioners which had been received and some suggestions about how to move forward. Finance Committee will review in more depth.

The pressures on parishioners and in particular those on fixed incomes were noted in this time of increasing costs of everyday living. The parish has also faced this cost in terms of heating and maintenance.

Some practical steps mentioned were to change Gas and Electricity suppliers to Diocesan negotiated suppliers, to increase participation in Gift Aid bringing in an extra .25p per £1 donated by parishioners who are tax payers. Parishioners were asked to consider in prayer their financial and practical support to the parish.

Parishioners to be asked to join the 100 club, make regular online payments and to consider leaving legacies

Giving to the Parish needs to be simple and easy. There will soon be regular reporting in the bulletin of weekly income and quarterly there will be income and expenditure to monitor any deficit. The Diocesan statement re:

our investments and any restrictions will be clarified ASAP. Capital and Revenue expenditure was discussed.

Specific questions were raised about the Parish resources including lettings of property, halls and car park at OLR. The meeting was informed by Father James that Savills as agents of the Diocese are dealing with all these matters.

Now that the Covid restrictions are easing the social committee is due to meet next week to re-energise and begin Parish social events which were a valuable source of both income and enabling parishioners to get to know each other better – all welcome, Father will publicise this in bulletin. Previous activities included coffee mornings, concerts, raffles, meals etc.

4. **Future Direction of PPC and Topics to be covered**

There was a full discussion about this and it was agreed that a way forward would be for a "*Parish Visioning*" meeting, which would take place probably on a weekend afternoon at both churches to enable fuller participation including those parishioners who work and might not be able to attend weekday meetings.
The purpose would be to explore what parishioners would like to see happening in the Parish at a Pastoral **and** practical level and this could then inform the direction of the Parish. This would be another way of trying to engage more parishioners in helping to actively support our Parish; have any questions answered and to build recovery after Covid and the loss of many prior activities and parishioners.
David Burns is going to prepare something to be included in the bulletin and to fix dates and check hall availability. Simon MA offered to assist in planning.
Following this meeting plans can be made about what effective structures would help support the vision and meet any requirements for communication and support for Parish Priest and Parish.
Action – David to move forward on this, drawing on offers of support from others present.
Suggestion box to be placed at both churches to gain input from parishioners who may not be able to attend
Darryl encouraged all present to make sure that having agreed this would be a good way forward, each person present should bring along another parishioner to increase participation.

5. **Any Other Business**

a. Ukraine

There will be no collection of materials or goods as money donated to established charities enables those charities used to working in emergency and conflict situations to buy what is actually needed on the ground and get it quickly to those most in need. There are boxes in each church clearly labelled for Ukraine donations.
CAFOD is part of the Disasters Emergency Committee and links are here if anyone wants to donate immediately or online – remembering to Gift Aid if eligible
https://www.dec.org.uk/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw29CRBhCUARIsAOboZbIYNlJeDvodV3Xk3xrJLKi7MsEQBArO5eZnllAI4Enpi305aoXXosMaAlPaEALw_wcB
Sponsorship and Accommodation for refugees
https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/
Caritas East Anglia information https://www.rcdea.org.uk/caritas-east-anglia/
Caritas Ukraine https://www.caritas.org/where-caritas-work/europe/ukraine/
There may be specific needs spiritual and practical which emerge as refugees start to arrive in the local area. Our prayers and thoughts are with all those affected and helping.

b. Cleaning at Hall at OLR - Anne Buxton queried this – Coastal cleaning have not been restarted given budget restraints although there is a regular weekly paid hire booking. Anne will draw up a rota **Action Anne and volunteers**

6. **Date and Time of Meetings for 2022**

Given agreement to have "Parish Visioning" sessions it was agreed not to fix dates at this time. However, once the outcome from that activity is clear dates for Parish meetings should be fixed, and, in line with previous good practice, take place a few weeks after the Finance Committee meetings to enable Finance reports, parish responses and questions for Finance Committee so improving Parish communication and feedback.