OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH SHERINGHAM AND CROMER

Parish Pastoral Council 1st November 2022

1. **Welcome**
   Darryl welcomed all to the meeting and in particular the number of parishioners who had come (22) which was very positive. A formal welcome was given to Father Peter

2. **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.*

3. **Present:** Father Peter Wygnanski, Darryl Smith (Chair), Anne Buxton, Mary Mustoe-Arthur
4. **Apologies** Veronica Marett
5. **Minutes of the last meeting 17th March – agreed**
6. **Matters Arising –** none - all covered in Agenda items.
7. **Treasurer's Report -** Peter Godfrey reported to his first meeting as Parish Treasurer. He is working through the spreadsheets and shortly hopes to prepare the figures for year end and a budget for 2023. Bank Balance is sound at £18,000 and income per month is currently exceeding expenditure by around £1,500. There will be feedback on the Diocesan figures for our Parish Savings at the next PPC. Rationalisation of utilities: gas and electric are now done through the Diocese (thanks to Michael Trott for work on this). Good news that Cromer Golf Club have repaired the car park at OLR preventing expensive repairs, the condition will be monitored over the winter. Working parties at OLR made up of parishioners volunteering their time and skills have enabled minor repairs and maintenance to take place. It is hoped to replicate this model at St. Joseph's. On 5th November, Father Peter, Michael Trott and Peter Godfrey will be attending a Diocesan Financial Briefing – careful management of expenditure will be even more crucial in these difficult times and Peter is looking to monitor parish costs to identify possible savings.
   Darryl thanked Peter for all the work which he and Caroline have done and also to welcome this more detailed financial reporting.
8. **Social Committee Report**
   Michael Trott reported as Chair of the Social Committee. In March this year events restarted and a programme has been delivered and well received. There was a Curry evening in March; A BBQ in August; September Fish and Chips and Quiz and tomorrow the Harvest Supper. Michael expressed thanks for all the hard work and commitment and reminded the Parish that **all** are welcome to join the Committee or make suggestions as to social activities. There will be a Christmas celebration, probably early in the New Year but rising costs means a change of venue. The Links at West Runton is being considered and sample menus are available- any different suggestions would be welcomed. **Reminder** that the aim is for friendship and fellowship across the Parish. There were a number of cake stalls held over the summer which were very successful and visitors in particular commented how nice this was. Total funds raised by all activities was £1,600
   Breeda asked if details of members of the Social Committee could be made available and Michael said he would put this up at the back of both churches.
   Maureen Sibellas will produce her Christmas Cake for a raffle and Breeda Godfrey will be taking orders for her Christmas cakes.
   Darryl thanked all involved for this valuable work for the Parish.
9. **Way Forward Update**
   David Burns reported on the Synodal Way and the meetings over held over the summer. Post Covid there was a good time to reflect and review. The meetings were held at both churches and themes were explored. Participants shared views and opinions and enabled a consensus to be reached for 4 main areas of work
   a. **Faith and Teaching** – confidence in our Catholic Faith and Teaching – achievable by talks and reflection
   b. **Outreach** – to our local Faith and Town communities
   c. **Working with Other churches** – Father Peter has already begun re-establishing these links
   d. **Communication inside and outside the Parish –** What is working well? Do parishioners know the range of provision, do they know who may be the contact point etc. This could be addressed by the publication of a Parish magazine, probably quarterly – someone has volunteered to edit. Content would enable us as a Parish to review our current activities.
   The next step, now Father Peter has approved the overall priorities, will be to request individuals who are willing to become involved and lead on specific areas to come forward. The reporting will be back to the PPC

to enable **ALL** parishioners to know what is going on and how they can become involved and help.
Darryl thanked David, Simon and Mary for the work preparing and leading the sessions and giving the Parish such a firm foundation.

10. Parish Priest Update

Father Peter began by thanking everyone for the opportunity and welcome he had been given. His first year of Priesthood in a Parish is unusual and will enable him to live out his priesthood and complete his Studies. Father said the current plan under Bishop Alan would be that he remains for at least a couple of years or until he finishes his study.

Father Peter recognised that he is of another generation to previous clergy and so will be bringing new energy and ways of working. He asked for us all to give "***charity of interpretation***" to actions he might take and decisions he might have to make. His decision making is informed by extensive support from experienced clergy and his Spiritual Director and as a result any changes are made after consultation, prayer and discernment. There will be times he has to say no in order to be able to meet his other responsibilities and demands on his time. Please pray for him in this endeavour.

Father Peter wants parishioners to know that he is happy to talk to parishioners after Mass or by appointment.

Father Peter welcomed the work which had been done on the "Way Forward" and saw it falling under 4 categories:

a. Truth – teaching and talks

b. Goodness – Charity in Community towns and villages

c. Beauty – Exploring the "*Plurality and variety of liturgical expression*". Father Peter is going to discuss with the musicians and others the range of Services which may be offered to enable different expressions of worship.

d. Unity – working across the Parish to enable parishioners to become more involved and supportive of the church and each other.

Father Peter has already begun to form links with leaders of other churches locally, holding on to our Catholic Faith but also co-operating and working together to give witness to our shared Christian belief. Our new Bishop, Peter, has already indicated that the Church is beginning a new Chapter and we need to be engaged with that. Father Peter is looking forward to getting to know the Parish and working with us.

11. Membership of PPC – Darryl appealed for Parishioners who were interested to step forward so that they could be co-opted on to the PPC. There are quarterly meetings and the process of reporting back on work from the Way Forward groups and other activities in the Parish the meetings can form the bridge between parish and PPC and keep all informed and encourage new ideas. Anyone interested or with any questions can speak to either Darryl or Mary.

12. Parish Structure, Maintenance and Website.

The Task and Finish group had recommended a Parish Administrator to assist with day to day running of the Parish and take some burdens from the Parish Priest. This had not been agreed by the Finance Committee earlier this year as the financial situation was uncertain. Work had been done by Michael Trott to rationalise expenditure and make savings and this might need exploring again. Father Peter is going to find out what other Parishes do and what model they use. **Maintenance** – covered by the Treasurers Report above,
Website – this is in need of systematic update and Father Peter said that he was able to action this – this returns to the Way Forward work about communicating what we are doing. By the next PPC in 3 months the decision will be made re administration support and completion of tasks.

13. SVP Project – Anne Buxton reported on this – article in Our Diocesan Family discussed. Father Peter had publicised via the bulletin ways in which to support the soup run with food preparation after Wednesday morning mass at OLR or to SVP on Tuesday mornings. There are many agencies working to provide support in Norwich and the SVP work closely with them to ensure that services are provided where there are gaps working closely with other organisations. Practical support of warm clothing/sleeping bags etc are given. Local Homeless projects continue and the SVP supports 4 families and 6 individuals.

Foodbank – operated through Trussell Trust and working well including help with fuel costs – please support
Stable Door – Darryl, David Burns and Sean White – are actively involved in this.

Parish Financial Project – one of the requests from the Way Forward was for there to be a Parish project which could enable a working relationship and involvement in specific actions Father Peter is following up some leads.

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14. Any Other Business.

Boxes were placed at both churches for the last 3 weekends to enable parishioners to have input to the meeting. The following is a summary of the themes

Prayer and Fellowship Groups	This will be explored as part of the Way Forward process. If anyone wants to volunteer to take this forward then please let us know ASAP
Use of Hall at OLR	Social Committee are planning some events there in 2023
Engagement with Civic Events in Cromer and Sheringham	Father Peter building links – and will explore how parishioners can represent the Parish if necessary
Missio	Linda McNulty is Parish Co-ordinator and would like this to become a more ongoing activity with bring and buy and opportunities to support and learn about the work.
Sharing of ideas and talents	Via groups covered above
Mass in English	Covered by Father Peter's comments above re liturgy
November Dead list	Father Peter's request for "*Charity of interpretation"* as some routines may be different – attempts will be made to engage all.
Maintenance Person at St. Joseph	Covered above in Treasurer's Report – anyone with skills in this area please let us know.
Timings of Masses Sheringham and Holt	Father Peter plans to keep the Mass times for now and to review in the Spring
PPC meeting attendance – driving in dark	Meetings will be arranged for different times next year to see if participation can be increased! Volunteers may be able to help with transport but will need to have DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks and check their insurance covers them.
Timings of Mass on Holy Days of Obligation	Father Peter wishes to ensure that there is opportunity for those who work to attend masses as well as those available during the day.

Thanks were given to those who put items in for consideration and as we meet as a PPC more regularly there will be further opportunities to give feedback.

a. World Day of Prayer - Cromer Churches are at OLR 2023, 3rd March – all welcome details to follow. Breeda Godfrey is co-ordinating.

b 100 Club Report – Peter Godfrey will begin the renewal process in November for 2023. Based on current membership the income will be £1788 of which £900 will be paid in prizes.

c. Caritas East Anglia – Peter Godfrey reported back - Raising awareness of current financial pressures on individuals and families - St. Edmunds Fund for financial assistance is available via Forms with the Parish Priest – a panel makes the decision and applications should be made and not prejudged at Parish level. SVP Housing Project (reported above) is seen as so successful Bishop Alan has asked for it to be rolled out in Cambridge and Peterborough. Catholic Social Action is asking those involved in any social action to provide them with examples through the Diocesan newspaper to promote and publicise initiatives.

15. Dates Times and Venues of Next meetings

As noted above, some consideration will be given to the timings of the PPC meetings particularly in winter when many find driving challenging. The Finance Committee and PPC will co-ordinate their meetings for 2023 to enable discussion and feedback. Dates will be circulated in the New Year.