

Churches of Forest of Dean

Our Lady of Victories (OLV), Cinderford, St Margaret Mary (SMM), Coleford,
St Joseph (SJ) Lydney, Sacred Heart (SH) Sedbury

Minutes of Meeting of Pastoral Council Monday 27th June 2022

5.00pm SMM Church Hall

OPENING PRAYER : Prayer for the Synod, Pope Francis 9/10/21

1. Attendance: Pip Deave (Chair), Richard Coward, Brian and Dot Lord, Peter Chisholm, Barnabas Page, Sarah Perkins, Fiona Mills, Dorota Rapacz, Helen Molyneux (on Zoom)

Apologies : Paul Dekkers, Noel Riossi

2. Minutes last meeting and matters arising

Item 6 – food bank – minutes say Saturday for food bank but no day was mentioned

3. Current Situation

An observation was made that OLV was very full this weekend with lots of new people and families with children - 70-80 people. There was a large group of visitors this Sunday. There have been several Filipinos recently – men working at Foyle Food Group in Cinderford which is a meat processing factory. A discussion took place regarding the necessity to be aware of their needs and to monitor them with regard to their welfare. There are some Filipino regulars who may act as a link and it was suggested that perhaps they could be offered use of the kitchen after Mass if they wished to have a get-together. If there are concerns raised, Helen offered to investigate at district council level.

4. Spiritual Updates

P & S sub-committee Fiona reported on the first meeting of the Pastoral and Spiritual group. The minutes had been circulated. The results of recent questionnaires were discussed and tasks identified. The next meeting is tomorrow. They have enough people at the moment and are taking stock to start with, then the group will probably grow.

5. Financial Update Nil

6. Buildings updates

One Church terms of reference has been circulated to the PPC by Noel and the One Church Sub-committee will meet soon in order to move forward

Food bank at SJ update. Pip has spoken to Walter from the Kings Arms Church in Lydney to feedback from our last meeting. She has contacted him again but has not had a reply regarding an update on the food bank.

Fabric Issues Asbestos below OLV has been inspected and confirmed safe if doors remain locked and inaccessible.
New quote being sought to inspect suspended statue in SJ after very high quote being received.

8. Volunteers updates

SVP. It was explained that the SVP Forest of Dean Conference is still in existence but does not have enough people to be active. Pip is nominal president but unable to take a lead on this, Tessa Ward is treasurer and Bev Chisholm is continuing to be active with the SVP. We need more people to come forward. Sarah volunteered to do some visiting. It was suggested that perhaps Eucharistic Ministers could be encouraged to join. There is a shortage of these and Fr Barnabas has invited some people to come forward to train to be new Eucharistic Ministers. OLV, in particular have a shortage. It was agreed that Eucharistic Ministers should be encouraged to work across the whole parish and not just their own church.

Musicians. There is an organist for Coleford and Lydney, but Cinderford does not have a musician to lead the service – using recorded music from an iPad. Peter to place a request for any musicians of any sort in newsletter. He will provide music.

The organ from the church in Sedbury is surplus to requirements and will be advertised in the church news in case anyone is interested in having it. If no interest, Pip will advertise on Freecycle.

9. Social updates.

Registration form. Fiona and Sam have updated these forms. They were circulated at the meeting and no further comments. To supply some to each of the churches and also send to Peter to put onto website so that people can download from there also.

Summer picnic This is planned for this coming Saturday in Clearwell. PPC members encouraged to attend.

Fete Sept 10th. No-one has come forward as a lead for this event. We believe the community hall has been booked in case of bad weather

Newsletter. A discussion about people not seeing things in newsletter – not reading it. Suggestion to read a summary at mass. However, Fr Barnabas emphasized that people need to “own” their faith – search out information that is freely available and read the newsletter.

Further discussion about content of newsletter and resolution made to increase information on births, baptisms, marriage and funerals, and to name people requiring our prayers. Helen volunteered to provide this information in written form to be copied and pasted into the newsletter weekly. Church representatives to let Helen know – she will email requesting info. Also Sam will be asked to provide info to Helen.

10 Safeguarding Update

All volunteers should have DBS checks.

11. Any other business

A meeting has taken place between Pip, Fr Barnabas and Sarah Bick who is the vicar of Mid-Wyedean Anglican Churches to open discussion on their position with regard to replacing St John's Church in Coleford, and whether, should we decide to have our one church in Coleford, some sharing arrangement could be considered. To meet again.

12. Date of next meeting: 8th August 5pm Coleford.

CLOSING PRAYER