**Our Lady of Sorrows and St Philip Benizi, Fordingbridge**

**Parish Coordinating Committee (PCC)**

**"To love and serve God, and God's people, by enabling His gifts to bear good fruit in all."**

Minutes of meeting held 16th November 2023.

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| ITEM | DISCUSSION | ACTION | By whom | By when |
| 23.33 | Present: Phil Rogers (Chair); Helen Eales; Larry Bartel; Helen Thomas; David Bates  Apologies received: Parish Priest: Canon Paul Townsend; John Elliott; Steve Berry; Peter Hayton; Parishes Administrator: Melissa Hildreth |  |  |  |
| 23.34 | Phil welcomed everyone,  The meeting opened with the gospel of the day and reflection |  |  |  |
| 23.35 | The minutes of meeting agreed as true record.  Matters arising:  Item 23.24 Larry explained that his commitments at Southampton Hospital school was being extended and it was agreed that Phil would continue to cover for him into 2024.  Phil himself is planning an extended trip next year so a temporary chair will be needed for 1 or 2 meetings.  Item 23.27 (1) The presbytery front door is in a shabby state as are the presbytery windows. There is a need to repaint them and to arrange repairs where necessary.  Item 23.27 (2) There are fewer concerns raised about the youth in the grounds. There is a bin for the cans and litter which is being used. Canon Townsend reported that there is no need for installing a gate.  Item 23.28 (1) Canon Townsend is keen for the bell to be reinstated. We need a new quote and to go ahead with the work before John Elliott’s talk and demonstration of church bells at St Mary’s Church, Fordingbridge  Item 23.28 (2) The invitation to come to the church has been delivered and posters distributed and social media used to promote the invitation. It has engaged many parishioners who will be at the church on 18th November to support the occasion. The church and hall will be prepared for people to look around and see what we do.  If it is a success then we could look at repeating it next year. | To arrange painting and repairs  To arrange quotations and arrange commencement of the work. | MH  LB |  |
| 23.36 | Administrator’s Issues  No pressing issues at present. |  |  |  |
| 23.37 | Parish Priest Issues.   1. Canon Townsend was unable to attend tonight as he was at a New Forest Pastoral Area meeting in Brockenhurst, discussing financial issues.      1. We have been offered first refusal on some church benches at Whaddon.  More discussion will take place between Father and, John Elliott, PCC and the JFPC. 2. The possibility of buying some extra chairs for the Fordingbridge Church hall will be discussed at the next PCC before being considered by the JFPC.   . | To measure the current seating to assess the requirements of the new pews.  Father will consider this matter further and ask the PCC for help when appropriate | HT  PJT |  |
| 23.38 | Pastoral Issues.  Social events:  There were some final arrangements for the Musical Evening on 18th.  One Voice Choir would like to perform for a Joint Parishes evening. The date of Friday 26th April was suggested  CAFOD News: The ‘Indoor Kurling’ was a success with calls to do it again next year. There will be a Winter Warmer on 2nd December after 6pm Mass which is a non-profit event.  Churches Together. Very little to report although other churches are made aware of all our events. | To confirm with Canon Townsend that he is happy for this to go ahead.  Arrange publicity, tickets and refreshments nearer the time. | PCC members |  |
| 23.39 | Health and Safety:  The statutory training for SEMs, Liturgists, etc. is difficult to access. We could request it takes place in our hall and open it for Ringwood or other churches. | To inquire about hosting the Statutory training | HT |  |
| 23.40 | Financial Issues   1. JOINT Parishes Finance Committee. No current report was made available. 2. Parish Income report incl. Gift aid was shared but there were some errors and omissions regarding transfers to JPF account 3. The Fact Sheet of the financial situation may be due shortly. 4. Larry read out the response to our questions about Closer to Christ (see Item 23.30 (4) and it was felt that it didn’t really address our exact concerns. | To contact Donna Kerrigan to clarify the transfer situation.  To contact Donna Kerrigan re Fact sheet | PR  PR |  |
| 23.41 | AOB:   1. There has been a car parked in the car park for weeks. Canon Townsend may be aware. 2. There was a question about DBS needs for the Nativity play rehearsals etc 3. The porch is still a bit muddly and not as welcoming as it could be. As it is the first thing visitors see it is an important place. | 1.To investigate ownership and take forward.  2.To check requirements with the diocese  3. to form a working party to smarten porch up and de-clutter. | PR  HT  HE & LB |  |
| 23.42 | Larry led prayers and Phil ended the meeting. He thanked everyone for their input. |  |  |  |

**Next meeting 1st Feb 2024**