**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 1st February 2024.

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| ITEM | DISCUSSION | ACTION | By whom | By when |
| 24.01 | Present:  Parish Priest: Canon Paul Townsend  Larry Bartel (Chair); Helen Eales; Steve Berry; David Bates  Apologies received: Phil Rogers; Helen Thomas; John Elliott; Peter Hayton;  Parishes Administrator: Melissa Hildreth joined the meeting to give her report |  |  |  |
| 24.02 | Larry welcomed everyone,  The meeting opened with the Gospel of the day and reflection |  |  |  |
| 24.03 | The minutes of meeting 23rd November 2023 agreed as true record.  Matters arising: None that will not be covered by agenda |  |  |  |
| 24.04 | Administrator’s Report   1. Neighbours have asked for 2 trees to be felled as they rob them of light, etc. They have agreed to pay for the felling and are arranging it themselves. 2. Some roof repairs are imminent although there are no leaks at present. 3. Money for functions in the parish should be collected in a labelled bag and kept in the safe until all income has been received. Only then should it go through the accounts.   PCC noted with gratitude how hard Melissa works – often over her paid hours - and work such as organising the new line painting in the car park has been complex. |  |  |  |
| 24.05 | Parish Priest Report   1. New Forest Pastoral Area (NFPA) update:   There has been a meeting of priests, chaired by Fr David Adams, NFPA Coordinating Pastor, which has identified priorities. These include:   * Maintaining the identity of Parishes – Worshiping Communities. * A centrally organised Catechesis; properly resourced * There should be a NFPA pastoral Committee * There should be a NFPA finance Committee * A high quality, professional and accessible website – sufficiently funded * Use of all social media opportunities (Instagram, Facebook, Tic Toc, etc) should be maximised to engage all sections of the community. * Each Priest will have a steering group in each worshiping community. Canon Paul is happy that the PCC fulfils that role. * Currently there is no ‘slack’ if a priest becomes unable to say Mass through ill health or annual leave and that needs to be built in to any future arrangements for Mass times. * Liturgists need specific training to help in emergencies. * Currently, proceeds from the sale of assets (buildings) has a % passed to the Diocese. In order for the NFPA to develop and grow in its mission, a   change is being proposed that all income should remain in the NFPA.  Canon Paul and PCC want parishioners to be kept abreast of all developments before the website is created. After the report of the scoping meeting is sent to the Diocese at the end of March, details of all meetings will be made available.   1. Criteria to ensure our Worshiping Community is viable in the future.   Following his piece in 40 Days & 40 Nights in December, and in light of the NFPA development, PCC looked at a range of markers to measure our viability. Canon Paul happy to take these points to parishioners at a parish meeting later in the year.   1. Canon Paul celebrates the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on 11th February. There will be a small celebration after Sunday Masses but there will be a barbeque for both parishes to celebrate together on 23rd June which also coincides with Canon Paul’s ordination to the Diaconate. | Minutes will be put on our current website together with other relevant information.  To carry forward to next PCC meeting  To plan for the barbeque together with Ringwood parish | PJT &  MH  HE  PCC | After end March  6 Apr |
| 24.06 | Pastoral Issues.   1. Social events: Parish activity calendar updated. Discussion followed about how to share and invite members of other communities in NFPA and Fordingbridge Churches Together to social and worshiping events. 2. Reaching out: Local residents are invited to Lenten Lunches. Consideration will be given to another Open Day. 3. CAFOD: Family Fast Day in February. Lenten Lunches with Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent. Another Curling event being planned later in the year. 4. Churches Together: Not much to report apart from an initiative to show a series of films called ‘The Chosen’ in Fordingbridge. We are invited to help and contribute to the cost. There is an item in the newsletter. 5. Crib Figures: The current figures are heavy and risky to handle in/out of storage. Our original, smaller figures are still in the cellar and could be restored. The bigger set could be sold. 6. Chairs and pews: We need 20 more chairs for the hall so we don’t have to borrow from the Town Hall in future. Still looking at options and they will be taken to the JPFC   The pews from Whaddon are not suitable and the logistics of carrying this forward mean we will not be having them. | To post calendar of events in porch and in hall.  To carry forward item on sharing across NFPA  To ask Jo Kennedy Wall if she could restore the old set.  To explore openings to sell the larger set  .  To research options with a view to making best value purchase, subject to JPFC approval'. . | HE  HE  PJT  All  MH | 8 Feb  6 Apr  Ongoing  Ongoing |
| 24.07 | Health and Safety:  No current issues. David and Phil are planning another ‘walk round’ in the near future. |  |  |  |
| 24.08 | Financial Report  No detailed report this time. An Information Sheet has been produced for parishioners outlining the situation across Ringwood and Fordingbridge. |  |  |  |
| 24.09 | AOB   1. Following a query about the PCC membership, it was agreed that a set of pictures of the members should be placed on the Parish notice board in the hall. 2. Larry would to attempt to clean up the bell prior to it being restore to the tower. | Pictures will be taken | LB & HE | 1 April |
| 24.10 | Carry Forward Items:  Provision of extra chairs  Photographs  Information sharing  AGM  Barbeque |  |  |  |
| 24.11 | Larry ended the meeting and thanked everyone for their input.  The meeting closed with prayers led by Canon Paul. |  |  |  |

**Meeting Dates for 2024**

**All from 6.45pm (for prompt 7pm start) to 8.30pm)**

**Thursday 11th April**