

## Holy Cross Parish Council Minutes

<b>Meeting of: Parish Council on Tuesday 31st January 2017 @ 8.00pm</b>		
<p><b>Attendance:</b> Fr Doug- Parish Priest; <b>Ossie Folkes</b>-Chair/ Catechesis; <b>Joe Baptiste</b>- Welcome; <b>Rob Dunbar</b>- Family Life &amp; Marriage; <b>Lesley Allen</b>- Pastoral Care; ; <b>Kath O’Sullivan</b>- Justice, Peace and Development; <b>Gwen Williams</b>- Minutes Secretary;.</p>		
<p><b>Apologies:</b> <b>Angela Allen</b>-Hartley Hall; <b>Mary Baldwin</b>- Administration; <b>Vicky D’Mello</b>- Young People 2; <b>Susan Hooper</b>- Finance &amp; Maintenance; <b>Mariam Philomin</b> Liturgy 2</p>		
<p><b>Opening Prayer /Intentions:</b>  <b>Stewardship Prayer</b> introduced by Ossie and read by each member in turn - See attached  <b>Intentions:</b> RIP Cannon Charles Walker who has died after a long illness; He led the Caribbean Chaplaincy and will be missed by all. His funeral will take place at St George’s Cathedral – date (08-02-17) TBC  Mary B- recovering from illness; Philomin- recovering from his recent surgery; Angela A- TG/birthday.</p>		
<b>Agenda item</b> (see attached)	<b>Discussion/ agreement</b>	<b>Action – who / when</b>
Minutes & Matters arising	None	
1. Parish Pilgrimage to Aylesford	<p>Fr Doug explained that having undertaken successful Pilgrimages abroad in recent years, it was time to go on a “home” Pilgrimage that would enable more parishioners to participate. Open to the whole Parish- encourage families and our young people to participate in the day. <b>Aylesford has been booked for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b>. The plan is to travel by coach – leaving Holy Cross @ 10.00am; Liturgy of The Word @ 11.30am; 2 Parish Day sessions –Simon Stock room already booked for these sessions; Liturgy &amp; Mass from 3.00pm. Leave Aylesford @ 4.00pm.  Considerations: Who will lead sessions? Costs- £10.00 per adult /£7.00 per child to cover venue and transport costs; all bring a packed lunch or make their own arrangements</p>	<p><b>Fr. Doug</b> to be in charge of the overall organisation of the day has already made bookings;  <b>Lesley</b> to arrange and book transport.  <b>Kath</b> to organise activities for the young people.  Ask <b>Children’s Liturgy group</b> to organise activities and appropriate supervision for the younger children</p>
2. Finances	<p>The finance Committee of Fr Doug, Ossie, Sue and Andy P-treasurer met recently and have identified a shortfall of £15K in Parish finances. Regular donations from one very generous</p>	

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	<p>benefactor have ceased; the number of Standing Order donors has fallen to 75 people/families- resulting in a reduction of £3K. To revive and encourage regular giving the following strategy was agreed:(see Treasure Timeline attached)</p> <p><b>4-5<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> – Planning</p> <p><b>11/12<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> -compose letter to send to 75 SO donors inviting increase/use of Gift Aid to be sent out by 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>. Also prepare letter/SO information for whole Parish</p> <p><b>18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b> Ossie @ Sue to speak to congregation after Masses. Members of PC to support with handing out information.</p> <p><b>25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>/Feb.</b> Letters given out to all parishioners after Mases</p> <p>From 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> March to 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> March Follow up on SOs at each Mass.</p> <p>Some of the young confirmation candidates to be invited to participate in the weekly distribution and collection of letters &amp; forms</p>	<p>Ossie &amp; Sue</p> <p>Ossie, assisted by Gwen</p> <p>Rob &amp; Lesley @ 6.30 Angela/Pat/Gwen @10.00 Lesley &amp;Mary @ 11.30.</p> <p>Lesley &amp; Kath @ 6.30 Rob &amp; Gwen @ 10.00 11.30 TBC Joe to organise and pair them up with a PC member.</p>
<p>3. Stewardship</p>	<p>Introduced by Ossie: Prayer is at the centre of all we do: Spirituality and Stewardship. Some discussion of what Stewardship means to each member: (see attached aide memoire/ notes)In previous years we have focused on Time &amp; Talent: Our focus this year is on <b>TREASURE</b>.</p> <p>Treasure - “Returning to the Lord with increase”</p> <p>“ an attitude of gratitude” giving. During Lent our focus is on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “First Fruits” – giving back to God</li> <li>2. “Responsible budgeting”</li> <li>3. “Sacrificial giving” what is our comfort zone?</li> </ol> <p>The Lenten Cross this year will be adorned with figures to represent giving; inscription ”I pledge to give more of myself by .....</p>	
<p>4. Updates</p>	<p>Music plan for <b>Easter 2017</b>: In Peter’s absence Ann M &amp; James H</p>	

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	<p>Have agreed to co-ordinate the music for the Easter Triduum. They are in the process of contacting other musicians in order to devise a programme that is as inclusive as possible. PC members are asked to refer any musicians they know of,  <b>For Holy Week and the Easter Vigil</b> the following tasks are to be undertaken: Co-ordinating/ organising Readers &amp; Special Minsters          Fr Doug will coordinate Morning Prayers, Stations of the Cross, Order of Service etc.          The following Parish groups to be asked to lead Stations on Friday evenings.          1.Welcome group, 2.UCM, 3.SVP, 4.Catechests, 5.Readers, 6.Parish Council          Suggestion that a leaflet be designed for parishioners to use for the Easter services</p>	<p>Ossie, Lesley &amp; Rob</p>
<p>5. Dates</p>	<p><b>Parish Feast Day</b> evening celebration on Sat. 16-9-17 following 6.30 Mass.  <b>Parish Fayre:</b> Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> November. Check other events to avoid clashes if possible. Suggestion that a small coordinating group be formed to help manage this. Numbers attending were down last year so need to look at innovative ways to drum up more interest and support in the Parish and beyond.  <b>Weekday Masses:</b> Fr Doug outlined some of the difficulties in securing his regular day off consistently for a suitable length of time. As a result Fr Doug will now celebrate Mass at 8pm on Fridays from the start of Lent, this will offer those who work and cannot get to Mass during the week the opportunity to observe the requirement of Friday Penance.          The Friday morning Masses will continue to be available whilst Fr Regis is in the parish.          Members supported this arrangement.          The church will be open for Exposition – Stations of the Cross during Lent 7.30-8.00.</p>	

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6. AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Vicky D'Mello</b> has stepped down from the PC due to work commitments. Suggested that in the near future we will need to review the composition of the PC and to recruit vacancies.</li><li>• Joe suggested that more use could be made of the Hall in order to raise additional funds: in view of time it was agreed that discussion of this be deferred to the next meeting.</li><li>• A proposal was submitted by a parishioner to form a support club for adults aged 30+. The document was distributed and will be discussed at the next meeting.</li></ul> <p>Meeting closed @ 9.40pm</p>	
7. Date of next meeting	<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017 @8.00pm</b> in the Upper Room	