

Minutes of Zoom Room Meeting of the Parish Management Group held on 7th January 2021.

Present: Dave Evans (Chairman) Fr. Jeff Cridland, Fr. Leo, Paul Smye-Rumsby, Theresa Gordon, Deacon Barry Barton, Marita Gomes, Mary Smye-Rumsby, Bernard Doolin, Keith Wells, Malcom Fisher and Jane Francis.

Apologies: None received.

Fr. J. opened the meeting with prayers.

1. Reports

Fr. J.- Priest: reported that due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19 there has obviously been a slow down on the building project, but there was nothing of note to report. DE mentioned that several stewards had dropped out which meant that on Wednesday KW would be working alone and this was not realistic in terms of security. One answer was to ask other stewards to change their days due to stewards dropping out. The problem is that we do not have enough volunteers to cover. The Thursday and Friday Masses could be covered, and we do have live streaming of all the weekday Masses. Fr. J. said that 1 or 2 people came everyday as they do not have live streaming. DE stated that there are not enough stewards to cover for Tuesday and Wednesday Masses. Fr. L said that on the last lockdown the Churches were closed and that the Church is a place of healing, but we do want to avoid extremes and find a balance with people who are not so careful. He also said that we must do what we can and work together to keep the Church open. KW supported Fr. Leo's thoughts on the matter. MF stated that cleaning and fogging after each service is especially important.

DE was concerned that due to problems with certain people who refuse to adhere to the ruling of wearing face masks and sanitising their hands, there should be two stewards in attendance. Fr. J mentioned that the Archbishop had said that anyone who did not wear masks in the Church should be allowed to attend the services, but the final choice was down to the Parish Priest. DE reiterated that there should be two stewards on duty. The stewards have experienced several incidents concerning problems with some people refusing to adhere to the ruling or have caused disturbances and there is one person who refuses to complete the Track and Trace form even now. Fr. J. offered the option to open the Church for Mass on Thursday and Friday. MF suggested that if people wanted to come to Church on Tuesday and Wednesday, then they should volunteer and find others to assist. There will be further discussions concerning this matter.

DE mentioned that we need a replacement member to represent the portfolio for Education and the Youth of the Parish.

BB – CTID: stated that he had contacted TW regarding the organising of a list for the Telephone Befriending Scheme and she had done excellent work on this. TW joined the zoom meeting and gave the following update. TW said that she now had 11 volunteers and 7 of them had been allocated 1 person. She had contacted a lot of people to see if they

would like someone to contact them regularly, but in most cases already had family and friends to talk to. She said things were going well, but it would be nice for some male volunteers as at the present time as all the volunteers were female. Would it be possible to put a note in the newsletter for any male volunteers?

KW – Safeguarding: At the present time Safeguarding issues were on hold as the Diocesan office was working from home. As mentioned at the previous meeting he was asked by the Diocesan Safeguarding for a list of all volunteers who help in the Parish, this turned out to be a list of 240 people. Fr J. said that this was a living document and would need to be kept up to date.

PSR - H&S: reported that the old door of the Outreach Centre had now been repaired. The Parish had also received a large water bill, this was due to a bad water leak. He hoped that the Parish would be compensated. TG advised that it would be worth pursuing the Water Board for compensation.

TG – SVP: stated that they had been making a lot of phone calls. Obviously due to COVID19 no visits had been made. She also mentioned one of the ladies was seriously ill with COVID. Financially things were very low, but they have had donations of furniture and they will try and sell these on Facebook and also that Aylesham has some crockery to pass on.

2. Main Lines of Development for 2021 – Post Pandemic.

DE asked as to where we are at for development for 2021. PSR enquired if the priest had any ideas for when we are free again. It was suggested that we could put on a decent dance at St Richards with entertainment, possibly have evening talks with a view to the future and what issues we could look at. We need a level of togetherness relating to people as Christians and relating to people in our streets. PSR also mentioned that the age of the Church is not an inducement for young people. Fr. L suggested when meeting people in befriending ask them if they want to speak to a priest, we can always find a way to reach out to them. We could even congregate online perhaps create a Zoom Room for the Parish. Fr.J and Fr.L to explore avenues for support for people who are working. To be discussed further at next meeting.

3. Future Meetings

DE said that future meetings would go back to being on a Wednesday, this meeting being the exception due to yesterday being a Holy Day of Obligation.

Dates of 2021 meetings- last Wednesday in the month as follows: -

27 th January	24 th February	31 st March	28 th April
26 th May	30 th June	28 th July	25 th August
29 th September	27 th October	24 th November	Wednesday 5 th Jan. 2022

4. A.O.B.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th January at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 2030hrs.