

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury

Chair: William Scott, Vice Chair: Caroline Kelly, Secretary: Marc Besford
(marcbesford91@gmail.com)

W. Devine, S. Galloway, P. Hewitt, M. Maddren, J. Murray, C. Swainston, S. Weatherhall, P. Wynn, Rev. J. Butters,
Rev. Deacon, D. McKie, C. Welch, A. Caswell, S. Brady, T. Nimmo, S. Sinclair

Pastoral Parish Council Meeting

14 July 2016

7:00pm

The Medway

Minutes

1. Present: M. Besford, P. Hewitt, W. Scott, Fr Butters, J. Murray, S Weatherhall, S Galloway, Rev Deacon Dan McKie, C. Swainston, F. Miller, M. Maddren, T. Nimmo
2. Apologies: C. Kelly, W. Devine, P. Wynn, S. Brady, S. Sinclair, C. Welch, A. Caswell
3. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.
4. The Chair welcomed T. Nimmo to the Council as one of the two youth representatives.
5. M Besford reported that the bus and tickets for Flame 3 has been booked for the event on the 11th March 2017. It was reported that the school are also taking a coach but are separate to the parish. M Besford reported that the advertisement for anyone who wanted to go with the parish will be out in September with an initial number recognised. It was reported at the last Youth Coordinators meeting that Billingham were the first to book tickets and book a coach.
6. Fr Butters mentioned that the parish ceilidh went well and thanked the Friendship Group and the SVP for organising this and for events for the sick and housebound and the senior citizens of our parish. A thank you card was received for the Chair and council from a parishioner thanking them for organising the ceilidh.
7. S. Weatherhall reported that 31 children within our parish received the Sacrament of Holy Communion. She reported that the children had been good within the sessions and that the parents have been supportive.
8. J. Murray reported that 20, Y9, 10 and 11, students are to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, starting in October, within our parish. This Bishop will come for Mass of Confirmation on the 7th December 2016 at St John's Church. There will be six preparation sessions.
9. S. Galloway reported that 95 people are attending the Tyneside Walsingham Pilgrimage, it was also noted that this will be the last pilgrimage. Our parish is looking to set up a branch so we can establish a parish pilgrimage to the National Shrine.

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury

Chair: William Scott, Vice Chair: Caroline Kelly, Secretary: Marc Besford
(marcbesford91@gmail.com)

W. Devine, S. Galloway, P. Hewitt, M. Maddren, J. Murray, C. Swainston, S. Weatherhall, P. Wynn, Rev. J. Butters,
Rev. Deacon, D. McKie, C. Welch, A. Caswell, S. Brady, T. Nimmo, S. Sinclair

10. The council discussed succession planning; this is so that the council can be as fresh with ideas as it can be without too much disturbance to current elected members. Point 5 under Membership states: *Membership should be elected for three years and be available for re-election for a second term but not a third without a break. This should ensure both continuity and turnover of membership, if required.* M. Maddren reported to the council her intention to resign and look for a new member for Readers. The Chair reported that he would step down as Chair if anyone was interested in the post and anyone on the council who would like to fulfil his role bring intentions to the next meeting.
11. Fr Butters read out a brief financial statement on behalf of V. Corcoran. It was reported that C. Kelly will take over V. Corcoran's role as the parish finance secretary for one year. S. Weatherall reported that we should do something for V. Corcoran's retirement. Fr Butters mentioned that he would be invited to the next meeting for a glass of wine to celebrate his tireless work he has done for our parish finance.
12. For the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has asked us all to profess our faith and go through the Door of Mercy therefore Fr Butters reported that on Sunday 17th July, the parish will go to Middlesbrough Cathedral for a Service and Benediction and pass through the Door of Mercy.
13. Fr Butters noted that a gap between Baptism and First Communion and First Communion and Confirmation, the council discussed ideas on how we can bridge this gap. P. Hewitt explained that St Paul's have a Young Thomas Group which invites parents who are applying for their children to go to Nursery a get together to socialise whilst keeping a catholic identity. Fr Butters suggested a chance to invite all the parents of Baptised children of the year to a social get together. T. Nimmo commented that after Confirmation there is the Pilgrimage to Rome. It was discussed the problems and noted that a major problem is that if parents don't come to church then the children won't be there.
14. M Besford gave a report on the activities of the youth, M Besford thanked S. Sinclair and St Paul's for the printing of a booklet for the youth pilgrimage to Rome for the Holy Year. The group fly on the 24th July and come home on the 28th July. M Besford outlined the itinerary with the Holy Door of St Peter's as the main point of the pilgrimage. M Besford also reported that he sent and received two letters from both Pope Francis and the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain and both have assured of prayers for our pilgrimage. M Besford reported that he had met with Fr John Marsland the Chaplin to the Young Christian Workers and that the meeting was inspiring and informative, it was M Besford's intention to set up a YCW group to look at ways we can better the community both at parish and community level, an informal meeting is to be arranged for September. M Besford congratulated Ben Sinclair and Chris Allison who both completed the Papal Cross Award for the John Paul II award. As part of the project both had to organise a parish social and raised £144.60 for CAFOD. M Besford reported that the altar servers used some of the money they raise to have a trip to York, where they venerated the relic of St Margaret Clitherow at the Bar Convent, they also went to pizza hut as well as

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury

Chair: William Scott, Vice Chair: Caroline Kelly, Secretary: Marc Besford
(marcbesford91@gmail.com)

W. Devine, S. Galloway, P. Hewitt, M. Maddren, J. Murray, C. Swainston, S. Weatherhall, P. Wynn, Rev. J. Butters,
Rev. Deacon, D. McKie, C. Welch, A. Caswell, S. Brady, T. Nimmo, S. Sinclair

visiting the Shambles, York Minster and visited the catholic church in York where Benediction was taking place. M Besford also reported that the next Source gathering at the Cathedral in Newcastle will be held on the 5th October 2016 and it was the intention to advertise and take St Michael's mini-bus for this.

15. It was reported that the Diocese is looking to train lay leaders of parish communities; this will identify key people within the parish and train them up to lead the parish in the event of no residential priest. They are also looking to train catechists, ministers and lay leaders of Service of the Word and Communion.
16. It was reported that St Joseph's confessional will be bricked up making the church more secure and protected. T. Nimmo and Fr Butters cleared out the choir loft at St John's and was reported that a new flower bed had been made to make the church more attractive at St John's.
17. Fr Butters briefly reported that the Forward Together in Hope parish questionnaire had come back. It was disappointing to find that the answers were what we sent in. It is of the understanding that the project has lost momentum across the Diocese. It was reported that we need to meet once again and discuss this and also discuss the Deanery boundaries, it was difficult to see who Billingham could link up with.
18. In regards to Education it was reported that the Transport for faith students will cease in September 2017 with the Local Authority axing funds. It was noted that there was a great turn out of parishioners, former and current students, teachers and parents to oppose this.
19. Fr Butters reported that the event for the people who work within our parish on the 1st May went well and Fr Butters appreciates all they do for the community.
20. Fr Butters and the council thanked C. Kelly for the work she did in organising the Parish BBQ at Osmotherly.
21. It was reported that at the back of each church new notice boards have been put up. The council thanked C. Kelly for undertaking this.
22. The next meeting will be 12th October at 7pm in the Medway.