

ST ANDREW'S PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, 15th JANUARY 2016

In attendance: Fr John Hine (Chairman)
 Nuala Smith Elena Peck
 Sylwia Dorosz Peter Lonergan
 Deacon Jolyon Vickers Roger Styles

Apologies: Dr James Sharp Andrew Butler

The fourth meeting of the St Andrew's Church Parish Advisory Council took place on Friday 15th January 2016 at 7.30pm.

Serial	Agenda Item	Action	Comment
1.	<p>Fr John's Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies had been received from Dr James Sharp and Andrew Butler. Fr John welcomed council members and observed that being Parish Priest was proving to be a very positive experience for him with so many people working hard in support of the Parish. He felt that the role of the Council was to reflect on what the Parish should be like and hold each other to account. 		
2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting & matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the meeting of 23 Sep 15 were accepted as an accurate record and actions were reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to Parish Register: Jolyon offered a proposal for updating the parish register, including a draft newsletter announcement and an update form for parishioners to complete over the next 3 months. A few comments were offered and Jolyon agreed to revise the template accordingly. It was noted that the greatest challenge would be in the second phase, when the existing database was scrutinised to clarify whether entries were accurate. This would be conducted in the summer. It raised a question about the security of the parish computer, and Jolyon and Fr John suggested seeking technical support to rectify it or thinking about its replacement. Disabled car parking: Action closed. Update on the Repository: Nuala confirmed that the repository was working well although she still needed more volunteers to provide cover during holidays. She proposed drawing up a notice to go into the newsletter. Retired Clergy Fund: In view of the lack of a volunteer to act as the Parish's contact within the Diocese, Fr John suggested that he would contact one of the diocesan officers involved to make a presentation to parishioners, seeking their support for funds. 	<p>Jolyon</p> <p>Jolyon & Fr John</p> <p>Nuala</p> <p>Fr John</p>	
3.	<p>Parish Finances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sylwia distributed her draft annual statement for 2015. It showed a healthier situation than in previous years and a ~£2K 		Attached

	<p>surplus over the year, in addition to current reserves in the bank. The main positive impact had come from sorting out utility bills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The statements did not include a Gift Aid recovery for 2015, although a receipt for the 2014 recovery had been included. • Members enquired about when we might expect Gift Aid recoveries for 2015 and why a new batch of envelopes had recently been placed in the porch. Roger agreed to clarify with John McNally. 	Roger	<i>It has been confirmed that the boxes were those not collected in Jun 15.</i>
4.	<p>Parish Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger outlined the situation for the Parish Centre over 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The draft annual statement showed a small profit; ○ No grants had been received from charitable trusts in 2015 but income from the hall was now excellent, while running costs were reasonable; ○ Income from the hall had paid for new signage and repainting of the front of the church; ○ A visual aids suite had been purchased and fully funded by grants from the Allchurches Trust, the KCC and an anonymous donor; ○ We had met our annual obligation to repay loans in 2015 through the repayment of £20,250. We still owed £93,771, due to be cleared by Sep 2021, though annual payments would now drop to £17,500; ○ We still rely heavily on the support of parishioners who make monthly standing orders to help repayments to be made. • Although generally content, members made a couple of points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Special facilities such as the visual aids suite, kitchen, etc should attract additional donations; ○ The visual-aids suite should widely be advertised as being complementary to the other excellent facilities of the hall. 	Roger Roger	Attached
5.	<p>Improving engagement across the Parish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fr John thanked those who had offered ideas for “Building a Missionary Parish” in Tenterden. He was keen to invite more ideas from council members and from parishioners to help us reflect on the future of the Catholic Church in 2016. • Fr John suggested using the audio-visual facilities in the hall to stimulate discussion in the Parish. For example, he proposed using a DVD to lead discussion for Lenten Courses. These would be staged in the hall at 5.00pm on Saturdays, before the 6.00pm mass, and at 09.30am on Sundays, between the 08.30 and 10.30 masses. This was agreed. • Fr John highlighted the suggestion that we should focus upon “the Poor Church”. Nuala had suggested that this could be through support to the SVP group working in the Parish. • Discussion took place over the possible creation of Family Groups within Tenterden. The issue for us was to identify a new approach, which would resonate with parishioners. A focus upon loneliness and the needs and support of carers 	All	

	<p>was suggested as a possibility. Fr John agreed to consider this as a candidate for one of the mid-Sunday morning discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elena had commented on the engagement of nonchurch-going Catholics. This was deemed to be a symptom of society today and very difficult to influence positively, however efforts should be made to provide a welcoming environment, offering support and friendship to all. Fr John also highlighted the reordering of the parish newsletter to place more news on the front sheet, subordinating administrative information. 	Fr John	
6.	<p>2016 programme for confirmation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fr John said he was still seeking volunteers, and the right confirmation programme to be attractive to a wide range of parishioners. There were two key needs: for candidates to appreciate their relationship with Christ, and for them to feel inspired to get involved within the Parish. He reflected on the recent travellers mass at which two children were spontaneously and successfully encouraged to act as servers. 		
7.	<p>Parish Website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Unfortunately, proposals from Mike Doggwiler to redesign and provide local editorship of the website arrived too late for discussion at the meeting. These suggestions are now being considered by Roger, Deacon Jolyon and Fr John.</i> In order to assess the way forward, it was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Roger would draft an advert for the parish newsletter seeking anyone who might volunteer to help with the maintenance of the website; Sylwia agreed to clarify whether and on what basis Mike Doggwiler is already paid to support the website. 	<p>Roger, Jolyon & Fr John</p> <p>Roger</p> <p>Sylwia</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter offered three additional points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He suggested a social to thank all those in the Parish who helped make it work. He suggested holding the event in April, after mass on a Saturday evening. This was welcomed and Peter agreed to take a lead and suggest a date. Peter further suggested that the new audio-visual system should be used in such a social event, or even during a mass. Finally, Peter suggested a sale of pictures, perhaps in May. Fr John commented that Dr James Sharp felt that he needed to take a break from the Council because of his work commitments. Fr John thought he might be able to encourage Lorraine Sharp to take James' place on the Council. 	<p>Peter</p> <p>Peter</p> <p>Fr John</p>	<p>23 Apr 16 now announced</p>
9.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 11th April at 7.30pm. 	All	

Fr John Hine
Parish Priest

5 Feb 16.