**ST ANDREW’S PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING, 28 SEP 20**

**In attendance:** Fr Behruz Rafat (Chairman) Deacon Jolyon Vickers Nuala Smith Lorraine Sharp Pat Sargent Roger Styles

**Apologies:** Sylwia Dorozc

The St Andrew’s Parish Council met at 7.00 pm on Monday 28th September 2020.

| **Serial** | **Agenda Item** | **Action** | **Comment** |
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| 1. | **Introduction:**   * Fr Behr welcomed Parish Council members, particularly Pat Sargent, attending her first meeting. He also asked for prayers for Sylwia’s speeding recovery from a recent illness. |  |  |
| 2. | **Minutes of the last meeting, 8 Nov 19:**   * The minutes of the 8 Nov 19 meeting were accepted as a true record. All actions had been completed or overtaken by events. |  |  |
| 3. | **Tenterden Churches Together:**   * Jolyon, currently chair of the Group, provided a summary of recent activities:   + Reluctantly, the Group it has been necessary to cancel events in Tenterden this year: Remembrance Day parade; Christmas market & the Town carol service.   + Nonetheless, there was a possibility of St Mildred’s hosting a streamed ecumenical service on Remembrance Sunday and for the carol service;   + There were plans for a service in November with all local clergy joining in prayers for sufferers from COVID-19 and to recognise the contributions of NHS and other key workers. * Dr Dodds of Ivy Court Surgery had offered to vaccinate Ivy Court patients (both Under and Over 65) at Mass on Sun 11 Oct 20. Pat agreed to alert parishioners (only Ivy Court patients) to this opportunity through the Newsletter. | **Jolyon**  **Pat** |  |
| 4. | **Sick and Housebound within the Parish:**   * Whilst routine visiting to care homes is not currently permitted, it had been possible for Fr Behr to see two parishioners who were gravely ill. It was unlikely that visits to care homes would not be allowed before the New Year, at best. * Visits have been possible to all parishioners known to be sick at home, but there was a worry that neither Fr Behr nor Deacon Jolyon knew of other parishioners who might be similarly indisposed. * It agreed that parishioners should be encouraged to let the Parish know of sick family members. Pat agreed to publish a notice in the Newsletter to this effect. | **Pat** |  |
| 5. | **Saturday Evening Mass:**   * Fr Behr had received suggestions that he should reinstate the 6.00pm Saturday Mass. He was keen to try and offered the idea to the Council members. Thoughts were:   + The Parish Centre was able to augment attendance at the church and there was currently no problem legitimately accommodating parishioners at Mass;   + The proposal was that the 6.00pm Mass would be in addition to the 10.00am Mass on Saturday; but   + Elderly members of the Parish might not wish to return to a cold church in winter;   + Members were anxious that there would be insufficient demand to justify two masses on Saturday as well the 10.00am Sunday Mass;   + Fr Behr noted that in some [larger] parishes it was seen as a “return to normal” event and therefore welcomed. * It was decided that, for the time being, we should not go ahead with an additional Mass on Saturday evening. But it should be kept open as an option. | **Fr Behr** | **Decision** |
| 6. | **Options for Christmas Services in 2020:**   * On the assumption that the COVID-19 situation would not change, it was assumed that additional masses would be required for Christmas Eve and Day. * It was proposed that there should be:   + Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm;   + Mass in the Night at 9.00pm on Christmas Eve;   + Christmas Day at 10.00pm; and   + Traditional Latin Mass at 12.00 noon. * Lorraine suggested parishioners should have early notice of this plan and should book their preferred service. * Fr Behr agreed to draft something for the Newsletter to cover the plan. This should be published on 22 Nov and allocations made on 29 Nov. | **Fr Behr**  **Pat** |  |
| 7. | **The Our Lady Statue:**   * Despite it being in the process of repositioning in the Church, Fr Behr was convinced that the statue of Our Lady was in the wrong place. He wondered how parishioners might react if it should be moved again. * Following discussion, Jolyon highlighted that the statue was a memorial to Derek Ockenden, one of the first deacons in the Southwark Diocese, when the role was re-established after the 2nd Vatican Council. He is buried in Tenterden Cemetery. * Jolyon suggested that the statue and shelf had been donated to the Church and should be treated with respect. If it is to be moved it should be placed in the doorway to the Parish Centre, complete with an appropriate description and record of its history. * This view was generally accepted. |  |  |
| 8. | **Communications within the Parish:**   * Fr Behr led a discussion over improving communications within the Parish in order to optimise the longer-term relationship between the Parish and the wider local community. * He highlighted a few areas for examination and development:   + The current diocesan Outlook email group of 55 parishioners dealing with COVID-19 matters should be encouraged and used more broadly;   + The parish database needed improvement. This should entail, inter alia:     - An assessment of best practice in other diocesan parishes;     - Identifying which entries in our database need to be updated or removed;     - Writing to parishioners with whom we do not have current contact for clarification of their position;     - Assessing whether it is possible to modernise our current database or necessary to procure a replacement;     - If necessary, seeking approval for expenditure from Parish Finance Committee;     - Populating the new database;     - Dependant on the capabilities of new database; developing a plan to improve communications across the Parish. * This approach would be led by Fr Behr including investigating best practice in the Diocese and drafting a letter to “lost” parishioners. * Fr Behr would also get together a team to identify and write to the “lost” parishioners, to populate the new database and to develop a communication plan for the Parish’s future. | **Fr Behr**  **Fr Behr** |  |
| 6. | **AOB:**   * Fr Behr announced that Roger will retire from the post of secretary and asked if there was a volunteer to replace him. Pat Sargent kindly offered to take on the role. * Fr Behr offered thanks to Pat’s husband, John, for making up and posting QR cards on the church doors. * **The next scheduled meeting was agreed to be on Thu 14 Jan 2121 at 7.00pm.** | **Pat**  **All** |  |

**Fr Behruz Rafat (Parish Priest)**

**11 Oct Sep 20**