

St BRENDAN'S & St JOHN'S PARISH FORUM MEETING No 1.

16th July 2012 held at St Brendan's

PRESENT: - Please see attendance list on the last page.

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1.	<u>Introduction</u> FrMC opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He reflected that the first joint parish meeting was held in February 2008 with an extensive agenda. It was a credit to everyone that most of the key goals identified at that time had been achieved. There had been a combined total of twenty four parish forum meetings. At SB some fourteen Premises Project Board meetings, along with a multitude of side meetings, had also been needed to conclude the refurbishment of the church and construction of the Harbour Room. All parishioners could be proud of the way people have co-operated and given freely of their time and talents to build up our parish communities. However, our 'Faith in the Future' discussion outcomes; our experience as "two parishes sharing one priest"; and Father Cooke's recent formal appointment as parish priest for SB and SJ provided an opportunity to take stock. Most importantly, we need to actively reflect on how we want to go forward, by considering how we operate as a community of faith, not only within and between our parishes, but also how we best fulfil our mission of reaching out to others in our wider community. FrMC concluded that our parish community faced a number of challenges. It would be key to success that all parishioners embraced the opportunities for growth and engaged fully.	All to actively consider.
2.	<u>Minutes of Meetings</u> The minutes of the last meetings of SB and SJ parish forums were not considered as considerable time had elapsed since they were held. Relevant items had been captured and included in the Action Summary which accompanies these minutes.	All to note
3.	<u>Sharing the Load</u> FrMc explained to those present that his workload was very significant and whilst he had relinquished some national responsibilities, these had been quickly replaced by others at diocesan and deanery levels. However, whilst he is understandably very busy, this is not the sole reason for seeking a wider engagement of the laity.	All to note

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	<p>Vatican II had emphasised that the laity be encouraged and empowered to exercise their right and responsibility to play a more active part in the mission of the Church. This would also include taking on more of the day to day running of the parish and combatting the overly clerical focus of previous generations (which is still often present today).</p> <p>FrMC recognised and thanked those parishioners who already make a significant contribution to the running of the parishes. However, it ought not to take '<i>a crisis of a shortage of clergy</i>' to get other parishioners engaged. More parishioners would need to be willing to take ownership of, and responsibility for, appropriate activities, both spiritual and material, if our parishes were to thrive and fulfil the Church's mission.</p> <p>A key outcome of the 2011 Deanery meeting about 'Faith in the Future' going forward was the pressing need to promote better collaboration within and between our parishes. Continuity of mission would be a key theme as we move forward.</p> <p>Specific tasks and opportunities where the laity were invited to be actively involved included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacristans • Caretakers • Secretarial • Catechetical – children & adults • Eucharistic Ministers • Readers • Altar Servers <p>The next step would be to open a consultation exercise whereby parishioners could offer their ideas & talents as to how best to move progress and hopefully volunteer to undertake some of the required tasks.</p>	<p>All to note and reflect</p>
4.	<p><u>Reverence and Respect</u></p> <p>There was unanimous concern and disquiet about the growing trend of a lack of reverence and respect in our churches. Some parishioners made unnecessary noise by talking and the inappropriate use of mobile technology also detracted from a prayerful and respectful atmosphere.</p> <p>The forum discussed a number of possible remedies and subject to the outcome of a consultation exercise; all felt that this matter ought to be addressed promptly in the short term.</p>	<p>All to actively consider.</p> <p>All to actively consider.</p>

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5.	<p data-bbox="239 257 670 302"><u>Future Of the Presbytery (SB)</u></p> <p data-bbox="239 336 1181 560">FrMC and TP updated the meeting about the various discussions and options which had been considered locally and with the Diocese as to how best to utilise the presbytery. It had now been empty for over 4 years and was in a poor and deteriorating condition. The meeting was apprised of the costs associated with repairs and the limited finance available in the parish funds.</p> <p data-bbox="239 593 1181 672">The meeting was of the view that it was a potentially valuable resource and demolition was not the preferred option.</p> <p data-bbox="239 705 1181 784">FrMC asked for any viable options to be put to him as soon as possible.</p>	All
6.	<p data-bbox="239 817 798 862"><u>Development of the Patmos Room (SJ)</u></p> <p data-bbox="239 884 1181 1008">FrMC explained that whilst there was a clear need to provide additional parish community space at SJ, the extension of the Patmos Room was not straightforward.</p> <p data-bbox="239 1041 1181 1265">Whilst options had been drawn up by the diocesan-appointed building surveyors, SJ Parish Forum and FrMC had identified a number of practical concerns. These included disruption of existing building services, access to the church and adversely changing the proportions and layout of the building. A possible option included a separate, inter connected room.</p> <p data-bbox="239 1299 1181 1366">Architects had been invited to offer alternative options and these would be considered in due course.</p>	All to note
7.	<p data-bbox="239 1400 446 1444"><u>Social Update</u></p> <p data-bbox="239 1478 1181 1556">BC and PC gave a verbal update on planned social activities, including a quiz planned for 5th October 2012.</p> <p data-bbox="239 1590 1181 1668">BC undertook to arrange with PC a Joint Social Committee meeting so that the parishes could move forward together.</p>	BC / PC
8.	<p data-bbox="239 1702 558 1747"><u>Consultation Exercise</u></p> <p data-bbox="239 1780 1181 1960">FrMC concluded the meeting by inviting everyone to actively consider how they might help the parishes meet the challenges and opportunities discussed. All matters could be discussed online in discussion forums on the parish website www.sbsj.org.uk Written submissions would also be welcomed.</p>	All to consider response

No Item ACTION

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Whilst no date was set for the next meeting, it was agreed that the Forum would meet three times per annum, in Spring (March), Summer (July) and Autumn (October).

PRESENT

Father M Cooke (Chair) [FrMC]

Tony Proctor (Secretary) [TP]

Catherine Bridge [CB]

Kath Brown [KB]

Bill Callaghan [BC]

Peter Carolan [PC]

Frank Evans [FE]

Margaret Fazackerley [MF]

Terry Gillett [TG]

Alyson Grundy [AG]

Catherine Grundy [CG]

Janet Hill [JH]

Stan Horrocks [SH]

Marie Kwiatkowski [MK]

Michael Latham [MiL]

Win Latham [WL]

Julie McLoughlin [JM]

Marie Meagher [MM]

Margaret O'Brien [MO'B]

Rita O'Toole [RO'T]

Chris Owen [CO]

Barbara Pearl [BP]

Les Pearl [LP]

Ann Scott [AS]

Frances Smith [FS]

Ivor Smith [IS]

Terry Smith [TS]

Teresa Taylor [TT]

Jan Thomason [JT]

Frank Vickers [FV]

Kathryn Wilkinson [KW]

Dated: - 31 July 2012 (TP)