**Minutes of Parish Advisory Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 17th March 2015**

**Present:** Fr. J Barnes, W. Ablard, (Chairman) D. Richardson, (Treasurer) T. Whitley, (Minutes) T. Doran, J. Birchall, D. Birchall, M. Macdonald, B. Macdonald, E. Utting, K. Pinto, B. Pinto, R. Bischoff, A. Brazier, K. Waring, S. Cox, J. Cox, S. McCallum, B. Lamberton, A. Lamberton, A. Dance, P. Dance, C. Richardson, D. Thomas, H. Dossor, Sr. M. Langmead, A. poole,

**Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Wilf welcomed everyone and Fr. John opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Apologies for Absence**

M. Thomas, F. Badcock

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Minutes were agreed

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Rachel Bischoff asked if there was an update on the side access door to the church being adapted to an easy access disabled entrance. Alan Lamberton answered that such a door would be very expensive and would need to be approved by the finance committee before putting a proposal to the PAC. Rachel also asked had we had any success in involving the Kerelan community in the PAC. Fr. John said he would approach members personally to see if they would be interested in coming along. It was suggested that as well as always inviting the Kerelan community to events we should perhaps share in something religious with them. Fr. answered that two Kerelan priests have been brought into the diocese, one residing at St Mary's Church, Ipswich and another in Peterborough who will be ministering to the Kerelan community across the diocese. A Kerelan Mass will be said at St Felix this Sunday and then once a quarter and will be advertised in the newsletter. A Kerelan Mass will be said once a month at St Mary's Ipswich.

**1. The New Evangelisation**

Fr John spoke about how in this first year of the New Evangelisation we should not necessarily be reaching out rather looking inwards as to how we can evangelise ourselves and deepen our own conversions more completely before we evangelise anyone else. Annette Brazier said that a good start to this would be 'Celebrate East Anglia' a Catholic Charismatic Conference in May which is aimed at all ages to renew faith. Annette will write a notice about it for the newsletter. Annette also introduced the meeting to "The Gift" a dvd based course which is best suited to be run between small groups. Annette said she would try it out first and report back. Members felt "The Gift" would encourage small groups to form and would be a good vehicle for evangelising ourselves. The Monday night Journey in Faith Group, the food bank and generally helping those in need all help with our evengelisation. David Richardson spoke about the Harvester's annual Men's Weekend, another vehicle for evangelising. David will write a notice for the newsletter with information about the weekend.

Father said that he is keen on groups meeting in houses as long as they were focussed and clear what they were going to discuss. Fr. will speak to Phil Dance to progress this further. Catherine Richardson spoke about the CAFE dvd course which is very structured where groups watch a dvd, and then eat together and discuss the content. Fr. agreed that he would like to run a CAFE course in the parish either in the autumn or next lent. The idea of having a Mission in the Parish was suggested either having a Mission week or weekend. The last time there was a Mission in the parish was 1994.

**2. How can we increase awareness of St Felix**

There was some discussion about a sign being placed by Underwoods on Hamilton Road directing people to the Church. Some parishioners felt that people did know where the church was but others felt a sign for be beneficial. Alan Lamberton has contacted the council on numerous occasions without success, Fr. John agreed that he would write to the council.

Sally Cox commented on the lack of an up to date website. Wilf has been unsuccessful in obtaining the administrator details and therefore can not update it or make changes to it. Phil Dance suggested that a note be put in the newsletter requesting help and that the new website has a new domain name which is registered and owned by the parish.

Sally Cox noted that you can not see the telephone number of the Church on the new notice board. Wilf said he would speak to the person who arranged the wording for the board to see if it could be changed to fit better into the frame. Doug Birchall noted that the previous parish priests' board on the side front wall needs updating.

Phil Dance spoke about the new welcomers at Mass and how this is working very well thanks to Brian Macdonald. He felt however that in the parish generally more needed to be done for young families and this in turn would be a good way to reach out to people, perhaps using the hall as a gathering place for people just to come together. Fr. agreed and said he intended to hold a picnic tea for young families in the presbytery garden in the summer. Ann Dance asked about reintroducing the folk mass Fr. answered that the idea should be discussed at the next liturgical meeting.

**3. Any Matters concerning Holy Week, Easter and Eastertide**

Haley Dossor asked if the Holy Week services and Masses would be published in the local press. There will be a Holy week Services sheet included in the newsletter next week, they will be publicised by Churches Together in Felixstowe and Fr. said he would arrange for them to be put in the East Anglian Daily Times.

Kathleen Waring asked about transport to the Chrism Mass. Fr. answered that the Parish would share a coach with Woodbridge church. Information will be published in the newsletter. Thanks was expressed to Fr. John for the lenten services which have been very enriching.

**4. Any Other Business**

Alan Lamberton spoke about gift aid and how this year the parish has gained about £6000 from gift aid. He will be writing an insert for the newsletter to try and get more parishioners to sign up and update records if parishioners have moved house or ceased bein taxpayers.

Fr. John spoke about the support for the new tabernacle. He has been working with an architect and having proper measured drawings made up that a stone mason can work from. The support will match the rest of the church and harmonise with the altar and mouldings of the church. The design will be sent to three stonemasons for quotes. The four evangelist carvings from the memorial garden will now not be used for the support but will be used for a new lectern for the altar. Two new supports for the mensa on the altar will be made of Lincolnshire Limestone, currently the supports are gravel set in concrete. Both the lectern and the new altar supports will be costed before a final decision is made but Fr. felt that the Church was worthy of these improvements.

Wilf thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He said he thought the first meeting with this format had gone very well and asked if anyone wished to add items to the next agenda that they get in touch with him.

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 19th May at 7.30 pm

Fr. John ended the meeting with a prayer.