**Minutes of Parish Advisory Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 12th April 2016**

**Present:** Fr. J Barnes, D. Richardson, T. Whitley, T. Doran, J. Birchall, M. Macdonald, B. Macdonald, E. Utting, K. Waring, A. Lamberton, M. Bucknall, M. Ashley, Sr. Mavis, Sr. Joan, Sr. Helen, D. Thomas, A. Dance, P. Dance, D. McGeachie, A. Brazier, A. Ashby

**Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Fr. John welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. A particular welcome was made to Sr. Helen, the Provincial of the sisters here in Felixstowe who was on a visit to the town. Fr. John led the opening prayer.

**Election of a New Chairperson**

Fr. said that he had received two nomination for a new chairperson and they were both for Phil Dance so he invited Phil to be the new Chairperson. At the meeting Phil was proposed by D. Thomas and seconded by B. Macdonald. Phil took his place as Chairman thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and introduced himself to those present.

**Apologies for Absence**

Phil said as the PAC is an open meeting apologies for absence are not required and will be taken off future agendas

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Previous minutes were approved

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Website - Wilf and Daniel Mayes have been very busy with the website and it now appears 2nd or 3rd place on Google when you type in St Felix.

Wilf had been asked to speak to Dennis McGeachie about the role of the Congregation group. As Dennis was at the meeting he said that he had been nominated to be the representative of this group which had been put in place to represent the ordinary person in the parish . It was agreed that this group wasn't really necessary and would be scrapped.

Paul McIntee had asked about falling Mass numbers, this will be covered by agenda item 3.

Safeguarding - Phil said that safeguarding will be reviewed with Fr. John before putting it to the Parish.

Trip to Walsingham - to be covered by agenda item 4

Saint Vincent de Paul - Fr. John has contacted the SVP contact in the Diocesan Year Book and is waiting for a reply. Fr. did wonder if the SVP is what the parish actually wants as opposed to an independent parish group of visitors and helpers to help the sick and housebound. It was agreed that it might still be appropriate to invite a SVP representative to the parish to speak about its work but also to put a note in the newsletter to gauge interest in a parish group. Brian Macdonald said that the Parish used to have a Care Group which did exactly that organised by Meg Deveney. Alan Lamberton said that there is a secular group within Felixstowe doing similar work but Fr. said he would like to do something within the parish for people within the parish. Phil said that a note should be put in the newsletter proposing the group and perhaps Meg should be asked for her past experience of the Care group.

**1. Update on the Present Works in the Sanctuary**

Work is now well underway again, the electrics needed to be sorted out and this caused a slight delay, the floor tiles have now started to be lifted. Fr. thanked Alan Lamberton for his help and planning with the project.

**2. The New Evangelisation**

Wilf Ablard is the Parish representative on the New Evangelisation Committee. The New Evangelisation is facing up to the fact that there are huge numbers of lapsed Catholics. On Wednesday 20th April there will be a meeting in Woodbridge with representatives from each parish in the deanery to plan an event which will take place here at St Felix on Saturday 21st May. On this date it is hoped that there will be discussions between about 10 to 20 people from each parish to plan events and strategies for the next year. The day will run from 10am to 2pm with a shared picnic lunch.

**3. Declining Numbers at Mass**

Monica said that this was a very big discussion point and that instead of covering it here that perhaps the small house groups which came together before Christmas should meet to discuss this very issue and then come together and have a meeting specifically for this topic. The house groups would have structured questions to help them. Anne Dance suggested a short questionnaire to be given out at Mass with the following questions: Are you getting enough out of Church? Are you enjoying it? and what can we do about it? If parishioners had a chance of filling it in during Mass the response would be better.

Dennis McGeachie said we should look at the things we do well in the Parish such as work with the children such as Saturday classes and Children's Liturgy and build on this. Dennis said he and his son would be happy to run basketball lessons for children from the parish and suggested other initiatives to attract youngsters back such as a youth club. Jenny said that there are still a number of items in the hall for a youth club. Dennis said that he was willing to tell the parish what he and his son could offer.

Brian Macdonald said he will give Phil the website addresses of various surveys undertaken in Australia on declining Mass numbers.

**4. Our Summer Programme**

Parish pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 6th August.

Mass to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Diocese with Cardinal Vincent Nichols on Friday 3rd June at 6.30 pm. Each parish will be allocated 20 tickets.

Teddy Bear's Picnic, this popular event last year will hopefully take place again this summer.

Lunch Party and live entertainment to celebrate the Queen's Birthday on Sunday 12th June

Other Suggestions: Parish BBQ reintroduced, this used to be a very popular annual event. Teresa Doran said that she will ask people if they would be willing to do the cooking at a bbq and suggest a date in late summer.

Monica suggested that the children's end of year Mass could be on a Friday evening instead of a Saturday morning ending with a bbq.

**5. Any Other Business**

Elizabeth Utting asked if the Priest's notice board could be updated. Dave Richardson said he would organise having it updated.

Phil said that he was keen that the PAC should advise generously and encourage people to come along to the meetings and get people involved in doing things within the parish

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 12th July at 7.30 pm

Phil thanked everyone for coming and Fr. John ended the meeting with a prayer.