



Minutes of Partnership Development Group Meeting

3rd October 2018

Sacred Heart, Boldon

In attendance: Fr John Gibbons, Dean, Deacon Kevin Atkinson, Fr Adrian Dixon, Jarrow, Fr Saji Thottathil, Jarrow, Sr Mary Lees, Fr Michael Weymes, South Shields, Patricia Alexander, (minute taker & St Oswald's), Catherine Elliott, St Bede's (South Shields), Fr Robert Kinlen, South Shields, Terry Fitzpatrick, St Oswald's, Fr David Nixon, Hebburn, Claire Hyslop, St Peter & St Paul, Judith Bell, St Mary's, John Hardy, Sacred Heart (Chair), Moira Smith, St Joseph's, Roy Smith, St Bede's (Jarrow).

Apologies: Angela Boyle, St Matthews, Mary Quinn, St Matthews, Michael Wiblin, St Bede's (Jarrow), Tricia Fenwick, St Gregory's

There is currently no rep for St Aloysius and St James.

The meeting was opened with a Gospel reading read by Deacon Kevin Atkinson.

Minutes of Meeting 5th September 2018 – were circulated and matters arising discussed

It was noted that the patronal feast at St Matthews had been very well attended.

In relation to the Bede Partnership Development Day not all parishes had responded

Action: Patricia will chase up responses

Please note the Northern Saints event taking place on 16th November is not at St Josephs as stated in the minutes but will take place at St Aloysius.

The minutes were approved.

Chairs Briefing – was circulated

Dates for the next four meetings were agreed.

The partnership development proposal for 10th November was discussed.

It was agreed to have some external input to start the conversation.

There was concern that there was a lot to cover in one day. It was decided to have a longer morning session combining Formation and Community and a shorter afternoon session on Change.

Spirituality is intended to thread through the entire day.

Lunch will be provided.

Feedback on Partnership Conference

All agreed David Wells input was excellent and inspirational.

The whole day felt somewhat unbalanced.

Spirituality was alright but those who attended this session felt they had not learnt anything new.

Development of Partnerships was just reports from some PDG's without any dialogue.

Youth was mainly about what YMT offers

How Partnerships are moving was an interview with two PDG's

There is a general feeling that these initial PDG's are too big and it would have been better, as we had suggested, to start smaller and then expand.

Some parishes have started the conversation with parishioners about what partnership means for them and their community.

Communication

There was a very productive meeting about production of church bulletins. It had been agreed to share information about events well in advance and that information would also be sent to the Diocesan website.

Moya had not been able to attend so the action regarding Facebook will be carried forward.

Action carried forward from 5th Sept.: Moya to liaise with Catherine re the possibility of expanding the South Shields Facebook Page.

There was a request for a statement to be prepared about the contribution request from the FPG.

The way parishes feedback the minutes of the PDG meetings varies. Some use the notice board, some bulletin and some publish on their website.

It was agreed that the meeting would prepare 3-4 bullet points from their meeting which might be digestible for more parishioners. The points were discussed and agreed at the close of the meeting.

Action: John to prepare the bullet points to be distributed with the minutes

Finance

No meeting has taken place since the last PDG meeting. Next meeting 30th October.

Contributions have been requested from all parishes to the partnership bank account based on levies.

Patronal Feasts

There are no more patronal feasts this year and the next one is in May 2019.

There was some concern about when and how these should be celebrated as in 2019 some fall on Saturday, some clash with Holy Days and a question as to whether 10 is too many.

Some churches are more difficult to reach due to public transport links. We need to be better at organising transport.

It was agreed that they could be planned and advertised at the beginning of the year.

Action: Clergy will agree the dates and times of masses for all the Patronal Feasts for 2019 and provide them at the next meeting on 5th December so they can be published in all the parishes in the New Year.

Advent

All parishes will provide prayer candles to parishioners for Advent and consider battery powered ones for the housebound. We will use the same prayer as 2017.

Candy stick prayer was useful for children

The Grace for Christmas Dinner, was also well received by parishioners and can be distributed again this year.

Action: Parishes to distribute candles, prayer cards for Advent and Grace for Christmas Dinner

Reconciliation services will be organised amongst the clergy for either the second or third week of Advent.

Action: Clergy to organise dates and times of reconciliation services

Some discussion around partnership Advent services which were not well attended last year.

It was agreed to publish any services taking place during Advent to all parishes but particularly promote the Advent Family Creative Prayer 10am to 12 noon and the Family Service of Light and Hope 5.30pm to 6.30pm both on Saturday 8th December at St Josephs.

Action: Everyone to share Advent service information and promote the events on 8th December at St Joseph's

Property and Community Review

Standing item no further information at this point

AOB.

It was raised how disappointing it was that De la Salle is closing

The following was provided to parishes by De la Salle

The intention of the De la Salle Management Committee is to draw to a close all activities as from March 31st 2019 which will mark 50 years of our continuous commitment to the young people of the partnership parishes.

If anyone feels they may wish to fill the gap we are leaving in the work of the young people of the partnership we are willing to offer practical assistance and support during the coming six months.

Andrew Wade/ Dave Hudson

Bullet Points from meeting

- Parish Meetings
- Formation and Development Day
- Finance Group
- Advent

Next meeting

Wednesday 5th December at 7pm at Sacred Heart