



Good Shepherd Parish Think Tank Meeting- 26th March 2022

Attendees: Pat Faulconbridge, Caroline Ford, Theresa Joseph, Philip Martin, Fraser Saunders, Caroline Smith, Adrian Staiano and Fr Philipp Ziomek.

In the absence of Reg Carter, Fraser chaired the meeting.

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Fraser.

2. Notes of the previous meeting held on 15th January 2022

The notes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

ACTION- Philip to post the notes on the think tank's page on the parish website and on the notice board in the narthex.

3. Deanery Roadshow -7th March 2022

Philip and Fr Philipp provided feedback on the deanery roadshow which had been held at the Cathedral Hall on 7th March. The minutes of the meeting had been circulated to the think tank on 8th March. Reg and Philip had represented the parish laity at the meeting and there had also been two representatives from St Anthony's at Calverton. The Bishop had attended and had addressed the meeting about the challenges facing the diocese in terms of the reducing number of priests and declining Mass attendance and the need to reconfigure parishes in the deanery to address these issues. As part of this, the proposal for amalgamating the Good Shepherd and St Anthony's parishes was reiterated and came as no surprise given the consultations in both parishes that have already been carried out by Fr Philipp. A formal decision from the Bishop is still however awaited. This delay is serving to complicate the management of the two parishes and Fr Philipp will raise this at the next meeting of the Council of Priests. Meanwhile it was agreed that Fr Philipp would invite a couple of parishioners from St Anthony's to join the think tank and thereafter provide Philip with their contact details (email addresses). **ACTION- Fr Philipp** to action accordingly.

The reduced number of people (maximum of 15 but often less) now regularly attending the think tank's meetings was noted during the discussion. In this context, the need to have staff representation from each of the parish's schools on the think tank was agreed.

ACTION- Fraser to speak with Celine Toner at the Good Shepherd Academy; **Reg** to be asked to seek a representative from Christ the King Academy.

It was noted that a new chaplain had been appointed for the schools and it was agreed that they too should be invited to meetings of the think tank. **ACTION- Fraser** to action accordingly.

Adrian has already identified two altar servers who would be prepared to attend the think tank meetings as and when they can. **ACTION- Adrian** to provide Philip with their contact details in due course so they can be invited to the group's future meetings.

It was also agreed that all the major parish ministries would helpfully be represented on the think tank. **ACTION- Philip** to identify which ministries aren't currently represented and seek nominations.

It was also suggested that as a possible option for the future we could perhaps arrange for some people to attend the meetings online, via Zoom, if personal attendance was a difficulty.

4. HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022

Consideration was given to how the parish should celebrate the Platinum Jubilee either on the national bank holidays agreed for that purpose (Thursday, 2nd and Friday 3rd June 2022) or at another time.

It was noted that the parish friendship group is already well advanced in planning a "street party" on Thursday, 2nd June- to be held either in the parish hall or the church car park area, depending on the weather. Polly has been heavily involved to date in the organisation of the event, with bunting and long tables having been sourced.

It was suggested that a wider parish event could possibly be held on the following day (Friday, 3rd June), utilising the same bunting and tables etc. **ACTION- Fraser** to see whether the Good Shepherd PTA would be prepared to organise something along those lines.

More generally, it was suggested that the parish needed to be more proactive in drawing up an annual programme/diary of parish social events. To that end, it was agreed that Fraser would approach the relevant members of the new parish leadership team to see if they could reestablish a parish social committee. **ACTION- Fraser** to action accordingly.

5. Parish website- update

Philip and Fraser provided an update regarding the proposed development of a new, improved parish website. A small project team, led by Phil Bray, the chair of the parish finance committee, who has personal expertise in this area, is taking this work forward. All being well it was hoped that a new website would be launched by Easter 2023, subject to approval by Fr Philipp and the diocese.

The group suggested that parishioners with the necessary expertise and experience should be invited to bid to develop the website when the project brief has been produced. It was also agreed that mobile phone access to the new website would be important.

ACTION- Philip to feed this advice into the deliberations of the project team.

6. Concrete issues affecting the church building

Philip and Fr Philipp provided feedback on the meeting held in the parish centre on 17th March 2022. The meeting had been attended by Fr Philipp, Reg Carter, David Lawes (Chief Operating Officer for the diocese), Rachael Oxspring (the diocese property manager), Julie

Rawding (parish pastoral team) and Jane Hellings (a fundraising and communications consultant). Various technical reports have identified the work needed to remedy the current concrete problems besetting the church buildings. A ball park figure of c£450,000 has been suggested as the possible cost for planning purposes/fund raising. This excludes VAT which should be reclaimable under the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme. Approvals will have to be sought from the diocesan building and sites committee/board of trustees as well as the diocesan Historic Churches Committee and statutory consultation bodies (Historic England, the 20th Century Society and Gedling BC). The next steps are for Fr Philipp to draw together a parish appeal committee comprising 4-5 people. Meanwhile, preliminary discussions will be held with the National Lottery Heritage Fund regarding the possibility of grant aid. Other funding sources will likewise need to be explored including a possible diocesan loan, use of the parish's own funds, fundraising events and seeking funding from other grant making trusts. Jane Hellings has expertise in this area but her daily consultancy fee of £500 would limit the extent to which the parish would be able to engage her services.

7. Any other business

- a) Future of the think tank-** Fr Philipp suggested that in addition to refreshing its membership as discussed earlier, there was a need for the think tank to reevaluate its vision and redefine its role.

Fraser advised that the parish pastoral team would be inviting parish ministry representatives to a meeting within the next month or so with a view to clarifying parish roles and responsibilities.

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the think tank was scheduled for Saturday, 21st May 2022. Ahead of that, it was agreed that a special meeting of the think tank should be held on Saturday, 23rd April 2022 to review such things as:

- the group's vision and role
- its current membership
- the arrangements for chairing and secretarial support, with the possibility of rotating these roles on a periodic (annual?) basis
- how the group is publicised within the parish
- how the group can be more forward thinking to help inform planning in the parish.

8. Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer led by Fraser.