OUR LADY OF LOURDES

HARPENDEN

MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2025

7.30pm

In the Upper Room

MINUTES

PRESENT: Canon Anthony, Eddie, Jon, Lucy, Jane, Dennis, Mark, Liz, Katie, Caroline, Dominic.

1. Opening Prayer – said by Canon.
2. Welcome & Apologies – Fernanda assisting with Sycamore.
3. Minutes of last meeting – accepted.
4. Matters Arising – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 3 Saturdays of Advent (AM) during Confession. About 20 people each time. Deciding on what time to hold it from now on is a dilemma for Canon. Canon will explain what Exposition is at Mass.
5. Christmas Celebrations – There was general agreement that these had been a great success. Attendances were excellent. Carols on the Common was attended by some 3,000 people and will be repeated next year. It was suggested that a number of the initiatives could be continued in an appropriate form throughout the year. It was recommended that there should be a couple of younger members on the PPC to help drive some of this work. Thanks were expressed to Katie and Caroline for their work over Christmas.
6. Jubilee Year – How to make people aware of and take interest in the Jubilee Year? Can be engaged with locally (Designated Church in WGC and Cathedral and churches in London.) Jubilee Prayer is available. Possibility of pilgrimage to e.g., Lourdes, in the autumn. Theme – Jubilee of Hope. Suggestion of decorating church (Canon will look out for a banner.) AGENDA ITEM – Parish Picnic for the Jubilee Year.
7. First Terms of Office – The original 8 people are retiring from the PPC at the end of February at the expiration of their terms. A fresh election will take place for the 4 elected places (4 more will be appointed by Canon.) Katie, Jane, Dom and Caroline will continue. 26th January – call for nominations. For 3 weeks afterwards (February 2nd, 9th, 16th) nominations will be accepted (need - photo, short 'election address', 2 other parishioners to support them.) Election if more than 4 nominations. Sunday March 9th – announcement of election result if necessary (March 2nd if no election.) One more meeting of existing group at end of February. File needed for documents for future use. Canon will speak to Alison Fox about this. We will also produce a document outlining what has happened in the Parish in the last 3 years, for the benefit of new members and parishioners (latter to go in newsletter.) A small group will put their heads together to write this (Eddie, Jon, Lucy, Mark, Liz.)
8. Links with Parish Groups – Jon will republish list of who is responsible for what. Alison Fox would like some steer on how to take this forward (e.g., 'Focus On' agenda.) Angel and Lucy are working with potential young readers. Wednesday Walks Group (Mark liaison) – no longer taking place. Could perhaps be resumed with the approach of warmer weather. Welcomers – need to do more than 'handing out hymnbooks' for those who can (Dennis will arrange to talk to Canon about how to expand this ministry.) Confirmation candidates ran a charity stall at the Christmas Bazaar and brought a freshness and liveliness to the event.
9. Any other business – We need to find a way of communicating the numerous successes of the parish. We agreed that we would say a few words to promote the PPC at the end of Mass - Eddie 6.00, Liz 8.30, Lucy 9.45 and Mark 11.30. Date to be arranged.
10. Date of Next Meeting – Monday February 24th at 7.30 p.m.