



Jesmond St Mary Partnership Development Group Minutes

10 April 2019

1 Opening Prayer led by Fr Michael

2 Attendance, Apologies, Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising

In attendance: Julia Firbank (Chair), Fr David (Dean), Rachael Blackburn (Vice Chair), Andrew Brookes, Bill Brown, Alice Dack, Christine Dixon, Fr Michael, Fr Colin, Fr Sean, Mark Hayes (Chair Finance), Laurie McLeman, Dave McGee, Jennifer Richardson, Jane Riley, Fr Bill, Barbara Cooper (minutes).

Apologies: Catherine Hearne, Mike Potts, Fr John, Fr Mariadass, Fr John Patrick,

JF welcomed Mark to his first meeting and Jennifer Richardson who will replace Christine as rep for St Anthony.

Description	Action
Minutes and Matters Arising	<p>Accepted as a true record.</p> <p>RB and MP had met to discuss the programme aimed at bridging the gap between First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Two sessions had been booked to take place at St Mary's School on 8 and 15 June from 10:30 to 12:30. RB issued a programme and explained it was open to all young people in the partnership who had made their First Holy Communion but had not yet been Confirmed. She will contact all eligible pupils in year 7 upwards to invite them to book a place by 15 May.</p> <p>(At this point, Sarah Bell and Pat Henzell from St Teresa's arrived and were welcomed to the meeting. See below for contribution)</p> <p>SH said a few people from across JSM partnership had attended the Call to Holiness Sessions at St Mary's Church.</p>
Bridging the gap between First Holy Communion and Confirmation	<p>Additional Item Not on Agenda</p> <p>Sarah Bell and Pat Henzell from St Teresa's had been invited to attend the meeting by RB. They outlined the Confirmation Programme linked to the Diocesan Programme Guidelines of 2014 and issued a paper which mapped what was happening across other partnerships and within our own. They offered to facilitate the programme if we wished. Clergy and lay people could be invited to lead a session. The programme could include visits to places of interest and take place at any venue in our partnership. There was widespread support for the programme. All parishes to promote the programme and let RB know by 15 May of anyone wishing to book a place.</p> <p>JF thanked them both for their contribution, after which they left the meeting.</p>



3 Walking Pilgrimage

Description	Action
Walking Pilgrimage organised by LMCL for 30/03/2019	LMCL thanked all the clergy and lay people who received the visitors during the walk and said that everyone had enjoyed it. The only disappointment was that only nine people attempted the whole walk with two others joining part of the walk.

4 Liturgy of Mercy

Description	Action
Liturgy of Mercy at St Teresa's on 17/03/2019	JF reported that the service had been prepared by lay representatives from most parishes. All parishes were represented at the service and the feedback was good. JF had used a Diocesan service and the prayer stations, which were well used. Confessions were offered and appreciated. A report has been published on the Diocesan web site. DS commented that a lot of hard work had gone into the event. He suggested that in future we should have any similar service outside Lent and Advent when there are likely to be partnership penitential services.

5 Diocesan Documents

Description	Action
Partnership "Must Haves"	JF had circulated a DHN paper "Must Haves" and working her way down the list was confident that we had most elements in place. One gap was that we don't have a "Voice of the young person" on the PDG. Following discussion it was agreed that we would welcome young people who had the confidence to input at the meetings. CC asked if we had a development plan.
Partnership Developments	<p>JF invited the group to reflect prayerfully on the membership and structure of the PDG as we approach the two year mark. There was some discussion about membership as it is not always possible for the chair of the parish/pastoral council to be the PDG rep. DS commented that the parish priest was the best person to determine who their rep was. It was suggested that a deputy member be appointed to ensure that every parish was represented at every meeting. SH suggested that eventually we may need to have a cross section of reps so that we covered all the key areas we wanted to develop e.g. Youth, Justice and Peace. Length of service was discussed and whilst annual appointment is one option, DS pointed out that we should expect something from the Diocese soon on this issue. Amy Cameron will have set patterns for length of service.</p> <p>As for the structure of the partnership, the number of parishes and which ones formed JSM was discussed. DS recommended we wait while the Diocese communicates with us before we do anything. This sparked further discussion as there is an argument for us to pass on our views to the Bishop before he makes any decisions and we had been asked to reflect on the membership and structure at this two year stage.</p>



Partnership Developments cont:	MC pointed out that, if St Dominic's were to become part of a City Centre cluster, then JSM Partnership would not be viable. In that eventuality it would make sense for the remaining JSM parishes to join Tynemouth Priory, particularly in light of DS having two parishes, each in a different partnership. AB (St D) had not heard of any plans. BR felt that smaller partnerships work better. JF referred to problems of size experienced by larger partnerships. DS shared an idea to retain the current partnership but with clergy from Tynemouth Priory and JSM working together. JR asked if the other partnership actually wanted us to merge with them.
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6 Celebration of St Mary at St Mary's School

Description	Action
Service on 21/05/2019	RB described the celebration of St Mary at St Mary's School, Benton Park Road, planned for 21 May, in the month of Mary. A range of school departments are to be involved in the preparation. Parishes are invited to share some of their special interests, opportunities etc. Contributions are invited for display in the atrium of the school of the school. Mass is to be held in the main hall. BR felt that his parishes would not be supporting the celebration. He questioned how this event would help parishes grow and/or support each other. Most of his parishioners did not feel touched by the partnership. DS asked RB for posters and information so that parishes could start to promote it. BB raised the issue of the service being a Mass as the minutes from the last meeting recorded a view that it should NOT be a Mass. This should have been pointed out in matters arising from the minutes.

7 Development Plan

Description	Action
JSM Development Plan required to be produced	JF reminded the group that the purpose of the partnership was to prepare for fewer priests and fewer people. She felt that at this time of imminent transition from PDG to PG, we owed it to our parishioners to offer at least some brief outline for a plan which could be developed. This could include what we were already doing together and planned to do e.g. the Confirmation Programme. She invited reminders of and suggestions for shared activities e.g. other sacramental programmes. BR felt this could not be achieved in 20 minutes. Ideas suggested included: setting up a subgroup; carrying out an audit; focussing on 2 specific areas. JF reminded the group that we had started with three groups: Spirituality & Prayer, Formation and Communications; these need reviewing. We had reviewed what was going on already in the partnership concerning Youth and Outreach to People in Need and shared the outcomes. We had already started looking at sharing sacramental programmes and services. SH observed that of themselves these did not constitute a plan. MC suggested an initial statement of intent: <i>Jesmond St Mary Partnership will continue to support each other's local communities and, where possible, share resources and work collaboratively for the benefit of the whole Partnership.</i>



<p>Development Plan cont:</p>	<p>This was agreed. RB asked that we now begin to be more specific; earlier opportunities had not been taken up. As an interim, JF will use the statement and add examples of what we have already achieved. This will be submitted to the Diocese. Our next PDG meeting will have a short agenda to allow us more time to concentrate on developing our plan. BR suggested we needed a facilitator to help us do this. DS asks us to wait until after the Bishop's visit before deciding on facilitation.</p> <p>BR suggested we have a look at other partnership development plans as there are a number already in place.</p> <p>AB thinks that we should not be too ambitious at this stage and should lay out principles, share resources and look a year ahead.</p>
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8 Finance

Description	Action
<p>Update on current finances and signing off of 2018/2019 annual accounts</p>	<p>BC had circulated the annual accounts and appendices prior to the meeting. She issued a simple explanation of income and expenditure and asked for agreement that this could be signed off by members of the finance committee that were present at the PDG. During the explanation, LMCL queried how the £8.5k income from parishes was decided as he believed that the PDG should decide on the budget. The budget consists of secretarial support, Vicariate meetings, Flame sponsorship and the development plan. MC said that the Finance Committee don't decide what the money is spent on; it just makes sure the funds are there for what the PDG decides. MH said that the areas covered by the budget had been decided by PDG even if the actual amount had not. BC explained that the affordability calculator had been updated by the Diocese and used to invoice the parishes for their contribution. LMCL objected to St Dominic's having contributed money which has not been used and currently seems unnecessary. BC reminded him that St Dominic's had been represented at the Finance Meeting where the £8.5k contribution was agreed.</p> <p>DS summarised the situation of the Finance Committee. At previous meetings he had raised the idea of having only one meeting combining the agendas of both PDG and Finance. Other partnerships already worked well this way with finance members hearing first-hand what expenditure was needed. The Chief Operating Officer and other Deans were also supportive of the move to one meeting. SH felt that it would have been better to have discussed this at the Finance meeting first. The Finance meeting had been cancelled as DS would not have been able to attend.</p> <p>MH pointed out that on the "Must Haves" page partnerships were required to have separate finance meetings, 13 being established after one year. DS replied that the situation had changed in the 2 years since the paper was written. Basics had been decided by the initial Finance Group. JF agreed and drew attention to the great number of meetings DS was called upon to attend.</p> <p>MH believes that we do not need a Finance Committee to manage a small budget of £8.5k.</p> <p>MC asked if the Finance Committee would meet at all. DS explained that finance would become an agenda item on the PDG, BC would provide up to date information & task and finish groups may be formed to address specific issues.</p>



9 Any Other Business

Description	Action
From AB	AB promoted a "Who is Jesus" course at St Dominic's and handed out a number of posters.
From MC	MC reported that the Partnership <i>Journey in Faith</i> Programme at St Teresa's had been well received.
From RB	RB thanked everyone for the Flame sponsorship.

10 Date and Time of Next Meeting – BC to issue a Doodle Poll

Venue St Mary's Catholic School, Benton Park Rd, Longbenton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7PE



Interim Plan for the Partnership of Jesmond St Mary

Jesmond St Mary Partnership will continue to support each other's local communities and where possible, share resources and work collaboratively for the benefit of the whole Partnership.

To that end and in the Spirit of our Vision, we will continue such successful activities or events such as:

- The Away Day
- Initial Spirituality, Formation and Communications Working Groups
- *Come to the Well & Drink* Course
- Review of Outreach to People in Need
- Review of Activities for Young People
- Supporting *Flame*
- Liturgy of Mercy
- Walking Pilgrimage
- Partnership Service of Reconciliation
- Call to Holiness Sessions
- Journey in Faith
- Confirmation Programme
- The Forthcoming Celebration of St Mary at St Mary's School, Benton Park Road.

Our Vision is to be:

- A community of communities consisting of members whose discipleship has its source in the joy of the gospel and who:
 - share the peace and joy of Christ;
 - encourage others to a personal encounter with Him;
 - centre their lives in the spirituality, prayer and liturgy of the Church;
 - work together as equal partners in the mission to promote the Kingdom of God, responding positively to all who are in need and being ready to reach out to other communities of all faiths and none;
 - are welcoming and life giving to all;
 - respond to opportunities for personal and group formation.
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