

## St. Osmund's and Holy Redeemer Parish Council Meeting

### Minutes of meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**PRESENT:** Andrew Tucker, Alex John, Anita Pheby, Obiajulu Okosun, Helen Burnell, Mike Watson, Kevin Lynn, Dave Blake (Chair) Marilise Smurthwaite, John Proctor, Fr. Anthony Paris (Joined the meeting later)

**Apologies:** Caroline Williams, John Lester, Nick Cusack.

**Prayer:** The meeting started with 15 minutes prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

#### Reports from working Groups:

**Young People:** John Proctor and Fr. Anthony had met with the directors of The Bridge Project to explore the possibility of working together to appoint a fulltime Catholic worker who would work in schools for The Bridge and in the Parish for the Church. Both parties are keen to explore this and the council gave its support. It was felt it would be easier to recruit a full time person as opposed to part time and the worker would have greater support from the team working for the Bridge. The Bridge are keen to have a Catholic worker and to work within St. Osmund's, Christ The King and St. Joseph's schools. This would be a joint interview and we are exploring with the diocese how the contract(s) of employment would work. The cost to the Church would be around £12,500 pa. We would not expect this to be up and running before September.

Alex John suggested in the meantime we should establish some Team sports events for primary children to start with which would also contain some catechesis. This would give children small tasks to achieve or information to discover between meetings. It would be important to involve parents in this and this should be a condition of attendance. From this there could be the opportunity to host a men's breakfast or other such activities. Deacon John offered the facility of a 16 seater mini bus at weekends and St. Edward's Melchet Court near Romsey has offered access to their many facilities. Kevin Lynn and David Blake offered themselves as drivers. Alex John and Andrew Tucker will meet to move this forward.

When work begins with older young people we should consider the environment as part of their activity as it is the young who are pressing forward on this.

[More volunteers are needed to join this workstream.](#)

**Mental Health:** The first step will be to provide mental health awareness training to help parishoners, particularly catechists and those involved in pastoral ministry, to become more aware of mental health issues within the Church context. Andrew Tucker has a Trainer in mind who is a Catholic and has already conducted some training in the Parish. He will engage with the trainer and report back.

John Proctor mentioned Alabaré's Riverside project which supports people with mental health issues and suggested its lead officer, Jason as a potential speaker on mental health in the Community.

Ian Matthews has offered to help with this work stream.

**Supporting Refugees:** The parish has registered with the government as an organisation willing to house Ukranian refugees. The parish office is collating details of those who have offered to help. There has been a meeting of all people in Salisbury interested in supporting Homes for the Ukraine and a Friday hub has been setup in the Methodist Church between 10-12 each week to exchange ideas and offer support. Some refugees have started arriving in Salisbury but we have not matched

up with any families at this stage. We are going to become more active on the Salisbury / Ukraine Facebook page to try and reach those wanting assistance from the UK. We have established a ring-fenced appeal fund through SCORE to support those families that come to Salisbury.

There is a particular need for someone to offer to engage with the Salisbury Ukrainian Facebook Group.

Wessex Community Action have also issued much useful information.

**Outreach to Lonely and Bereaved:** We were reminded that these could of course be two distinct groups of people. The Parishes in Salisbury already offer some activities such as My Generation which is very popular and meets during the day. It is a social group open to anyone of any age but tends to be retired; they meet at St. Gregory's Church Hall and if many more wish to become involved it may need a second day or an additional venue. Prior to lockdown we also had a bereavement group to support anyone who had lost a loved one. Deacon John Detain also does home visiting which is an opportunity to introduce people to these support groups.

There are many other groups in the parish eg. Bridge, Nicodemus etc. It was felt we need to have explanatory leaflets as well as links to the web site that explain a little more about who they are aimed at and what they entail. David Blake will discuss this with the Outreach team.

Another parishioner has offered to help administer introductions to others who are experiencing loneliness and may be housebound.

**One Parish:** The consultation on this is complete. From the questionnaire's (127) and the consultation meetings there was overwhelming support. The low turnout reflected that many commented that they already thought we were one and that we should just get on with the legal aspects of it. A full report will be submitted to the bishop in the week ending 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and we will then await his decision. There is a process he has to follow so we do not have a timescale for this.

**Primary School Federation:** The meeting was informed that the formal federation between St. Osmund's and Christ The King Primary schools would come to an end in September this year. Christ The King has come out of Special Measures as a result of this collaboration and is in the process of building its own senior management team. The two schools will continue an informal collaboration going forward.

**SYNOD Meetings:** These were well attended and our report has gone to the Bishop and is on our website. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June the Bishop has having a Mass in the Cathedral where he will present copies of his summary to the Bishops Conference to representatives from every parish.

**RCIA:** Meetings will commence this Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**AOB:** Council members are to be asked if they are happy to share e mail and telephone numbers with each other to aid communication and to join a Whats App group.

**Date of next meeting:** Yet to be agreed.