

## Meeting of the Working Party 14/9/23 at St Teresa's Parish Hall

Attendees: Canon Stanley, Deacon Anthony, Richard Dinsdale, Breege Chapman, Chidi Onyeaghala, Peter Pullen, Angela Pullen, James Rowe, Doreen Brooks, Bernadette Allinson

Apologies: Michael Bennett, Mary Howson.

Not in attendance: Jose Gomez

Opening Prayer – Canon Stanley

The minutes of the last meeting were read and recorded as an accurate record of what was discussed.

Matters arising: The merger proposal was submitted to the Deanery and to the Council of Priests who accepted the proposal, and it was forwarded to Bishop Patrick for his consideration.

On going dealings with P Bodenham re outreach and mission using the site at St Hugh's continues.

Further work to be done on the appointment of caretaker for the Hall at the three Churches to be passed on to the new PPC.

### **Matters discussed:**

Record of thanks to all the members of the WP for their hard work and support through out the duration of the Parish consultation.

Bishop Patrick signed decree creating one new Parish of All Saints, West Nottingham to replace the three parishes of ST, STM and SH as of the 8 September 2023.

A short discussion was held reflecting on the journey over the past 4 years and the time taken to arrive at where we are now. The new Parish merger has still not clarified the ongoing situation regarding the future of St Hugh's, and this remains a matter of concern. Canon Stanley stated that this question is now a matter for Bishop Patrick, and we should move forwards without any further discussion of closure and leave it to the Bishop.

Our task is now to move towards the goal of creating and setting up the structures in the new parish which will help and ensure that our focus is on becoming missionary in our outreach and approach to our faith. This will require a lot of practical renewal within the new parish that recognises as we proceed, the needs and the views of all our parishioners. Some will commit and some will not but there needs to be a drive to ensure that we don't lapse into a sense of inertia.

### Points of Action

- The formation of a new parish pastoral council to take the place of the Working Party- Deacon Anthony to begin this process by seeking nominations from across the three pastoral areas.
- The move towards a single new current bank account. Breege and the Financial Committee to continue to undertake the process of gradually moving towards this goal.
- A Mass of Thanksgiving to be celebrated as a stand-alone Sunday Mass for the new parish on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 the First Sunday of Advent. This will be scheduled as the only mass of the parish that weekend to encourage parishioners from the three pastoral areas to attend. It will be celebrated at the neutral venue of Trinity School with contributions to the liturgy from members of each pastoral area as well as from Trinity and St Teresa's Schools.

James and Richard have agreed to co-ordinate and put together the liturgy along with the Chaplain at Trinity. Light refreshment will be offered after to encourage social interaction between the parishioners. A Health & Safety RA will need to be undertaken.

A further discussion was then begun on the need to recognise the delicate approach to change that is being envisaged. People will move at a varying pace. The process will be lengthy and should be dealt with sympathetically and with understanding. Some people will be afraid to speak up and others will be disinclined to get involved. Others if approached will be generous and willing to be more involved. All response should be embraced and respected.

### **Presbytery at St Hugh's**

This is now ready for letting.

A Priest from the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle who is retiring next Easter is keen to take up occupancy. In the interim it was agreed that Spencer Birch should be instructed to undertake a current valuation and look to finding a suitable tenant on a short term let.

The meeting closed with final prayers.