Finchale Partnership PDG:

Minutes of the meeting 17/01/19

***Present:*** Fr. Andrew Downie, Graham Donachie, Margaret Doyle, Pauline Burnside, Fr. David Coxon, Jill Cox, Bill Donnelly, Fr. Colm Hayden, Angela McKenna, Fr. Robert Riedling, Patrick Rutherford, Justine Smith, Fr. Shaun Swales

***Apologies:*** Halina Holman

1. **Welcome and introductions**
2. **Review of Action Points**

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|  | ***Action point*** | ***Update*** |  |
| **July (Ushaw) meeting** | | | |
| 9 | Fr. Colm to contact Rob Wareing to discuss the possibility of a marriage preparation session on the Diocesan approach for the Partnership. | Rob Wareing has recently taken this on. Fr. Colm has contacted him and he is happy to come. Date still to be arranged. | **Open** |
| 10 | Outreach: Fr. Robert to contact the group over the summer to progress plans for the open meeting on Justice & Peace planned for September. | Agenda item 7 | **Closed** |
| **September meeting** | | | |
| 2 | Margaret to discuss the possibility of a Facebook page further, with the Communications sub-group. | Agenda item 9 | **Closed** |
| 6 | Prayer and Spirituality sub-group to discuss any further follow up to Adoremus, including the response to the Holy Hour services. | Agenda item 10 | **Open** |
| 7 | Prayer and Spirituality Group to lead on preparation of the Advent service. |  | **Closed** |
| 11 | Margaret to contact all sub-groups for details of the information they are currently trying to collect. | Communications Group to co-ordinate activity | **Open** |
| **November meeting** | | | |
| 1 | Everyone to review the draft template for sub-groups to provide feedback to the PDG and provide any feedback or suggestions to Margaret. |  | **Closed** |
| 2 | Margaret to provide a summary of the discussion at the event, to assist all parishes in the follow-up discussions at PPC meetings. |  | **Closed** |
| 3 | All parishes to come back to the next PDG meeting with feedback on   * any ideas from the day now being taken forward in their parish, * anything their parish would like help / support with and * any specific actions they would like the PDG to take forward. | Agenda item 11 | **Closed** |
| 4 | Graham, Margaret and Fr. Andrew to develop a proposal for PDG members to visit other parishes. |  | **Open** |
| 5 | PDG dates for 2019 to be published early in the new year, to allow parishes to plan in their PPC meetings. | Agenda item 15 | **Closed** |
| 6 | Margaret to pass the resources on to the Prayer & Spirituality sub-group | Margaret apologised that the pack has been lost. New resources from the Diocese have, however, just been published, with material for use during Lent | **Closed** |
| 7 | Young People sub-group to consider how the programme can be made available in parishes across the Partnership. | Agenda item 8 | **Closed** |
| 8 | Margaret to consider an article on Finances for the next newsletter |  | **Open** |
| 9 | Formation sub-group to discuss how the ‘In Pursuit’ programme could best be used in the Partnership. | Agenda item 6 | **Open** |
| 10 | Graham to produce an outline of what is expected on proposed open afternoons and a calendar for churches to sign up | Agenda item 5 | **Closed** |
| 11 | Prayer & Spirituality group to lead on a service of reconciliation or perhaps talks during Lent. | Agenda item 10 | **Open** |

1. **Update on 2 items the PDG discussed by email**

Durham Winter Night Shelter: This is a new project organised by a group of students offering a night’s shelter to the homeless once the temperature gets down to 1⁰. St. Cuthbert’s have volunteered to take part, hosting the scheme for one week. There have been discussions with the Diocese and insurers, and if these can be concluded satisfactorily, then St. Cuthbert’s will be in a position to go ahead next year. The PDG supported the initiative.

New organ at St. Patrick’s, Langley Moor: A donor has offered to fund the replacement of the organ. Fr. Robert and Fr. Colm met with the donor to discuss and confirm that the gift is an unconditional donation. The full cost is £47k.

1. **Election of a vice-chair.**

We currently have no vice-chair, and Graham asked for any interest in standing for the post. There were no immediate nominations.

**AP1:** Everyone to consider whether they could take on the role of vice-chair.

1. **Building our Community sub-group**

Open afternoons: The Group proposed a series of informal ‘drop in’ afternoons between May and October 2019 when each of the 5 parishes (or groups) will host an open afternoon at one of their churches. Visitors from across the partnership will be welcomed, look around, chat over refreshments, learn a little about the parish and experience the spirituality of the church through shared prayer or a simple liturgy.

**AP2:** All parishes to select the church which they will open, confirm the suggested weekend and decide the format of the afternoon.

**AP3:** Building our Community Group to agree support to events including transport.

**AP4:** Communications Group to produce poster, flyers and notices for bulletins.

Partnership Day (Ushaw): The Group proposed a Partnership day at Ushaw on Sunday, 30 June. The afternoon will start with Mass at 12 noon, and as the wish is that the people of the Partnership will come together to celebrate Mass, the PDG discussed the cancellation of the usual morning Masses on that day. The PDG acknowledged the importance of developing transport plans to enable as many people as possible to attend. There will be active involvement of the schools including a school choirs festival. Parishes will be expected to have a stall and support the activities.

There is a lot more planning to do, and the Group requested that every parish sends representatives to the next planning meeting, on 14 February at 7pm at St. Joseph’s, Gilesgate.

**AP5:** St. Patrick’s, Langley Moor to provide a representative for the Partnership event planning meeting.

1. **Formation sub-group**

The group will be discussing the ‘In Pursuit’ initiative, aimed at young adults, which has been a success in Blackfriars Partnership, to look at how we can implement something in our Partnership.

1. **Outreach sub-group**

There was an introductory meeting of those involved in Justice & Peace activity across our parishes and there will be a further meeting at the end of February. The intention is to discuss ideas brought from the parishes and decide on a few initiatives to take forward at Partnership level.

1. **Young People sub-group**

Fr. Michael McCoy led an information evening on the Diocesan Confirmation Programme and recommended that the programme was run at Partnership level, with clear links maintained in the parishes. There will be a further meeting on Tuesday 5th February 7.15pm, at St Patrick’s, Langley Moor, for catechists and anyone interested in becoming involved.

There are now 3 Faith in Action groups in the partnership (aimed at Y6 to Y10), and the group will discuss how to extend the programme further.

1. **Communications sub-group**

The Group proposed that we set up a Partnership Facebook page. Following the last discussion at the PDG, the Communications group discussed use of websites and social media. As the Diocese has asked us not to set up a website, the Communications Group recommend a Facebook page – although many young people have now moved on to other social media platforms, the group decided that it would be good to start something and the current group of people who have liked the St. Cuthbert’s and Durham Martyrs Facebook pages (more that 350) would make a good target audience to start. The PDG supported the setting up of a Facebook page. It will be set up / owned by one of the parishes (probably St. Cuthbert’s) and admin access will be provided to someone in each parish.

**AP6:** Margaret to contact the Diocese with an outline of how the Facebook page will be managed, to find out any additional specific requirements to manage the page.

1. **Prayer & Spirituality sub-group**

The group have almost completed their work on a Directory of what happens in our parishes. Frances Simmons has volunteered to represent the Partnership at the Diocesan Spirituality Network.

The PDG discussed the scale of activity required of this group, particularly in leading the preparation of liturgies to support Partnership activities and events. Many other Partnerships have a Liturgy & Music sub-group in addition to Prayer & Spirituality, with the Liturgy & Music group drawing together people and resources from the partnership parishes for specific events, and sharing liturgical resources and practice across the partnership.

**AP7:** Graham to meet with Halina to discuss the Prayer & Spirituality Group’s remit and the proposal for a separate Liturgy & Music group, to ensure we have the best approach to meet the needs of the Partnership.

1. **Event for PPCs**

The PDG discussed the feedback from PPC meetings in each parish. Priorities are identified as:

* a clear calendar of dates so that PPC and PDG meetings can be co-ordinated.
* better links between the PDG and PPCs, possibly by visiting each other’s meetings.
* strong communications from PDG reps to their PPCs and to their parishes.

The new PPC at Bl. Edmund Duke parish has held its first meeting and is discussing guidelines.

1. **Looking ahead**

Graham raised the future of the PDGs at the recent Council of Laity, as the original plan was that PDGs would be in place for 2 years. The Diocese is expecting to issue guidelines on the appropriate Partnership governance for the future, but in the meantime, we expect that the PDG will continue beyond its original 2 year term.  It is, however, a good opportunity for us to review how effective we are as a PDG, and consider any changes we may need. The 2-year term of office of parish representatives expires at Pentecost 2019, though they can be re-appointed.

As the Diocesan Department which led on Forward Together in Hope and Development has now closed down, individual members of the curia have been appointed as the links for each Partnership. Our link is Katherine Nugent.

**AP8:** Margaret to invite Katherine Nugent to a future meeting of the PDG.

1. **Any other business**

Partnership dinner: The PDG supported the idea of a Partnership dinner at Ushaw.

**AP9:** Margaret to suggest dates and details for the Partnership dinner by email.

Partnership bank Account: Fr. Andrew confirmed that the bank account has now been set up, and that contributions from the parishes, as previously agreed will now be transferred into the account.

1. **Dates for future meetings**

All meeting will take place at St. Joseph’s, Gilesgate.

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| 7.00pm | Thursday | 28 February 2019 |
| 7.15pm | Tuesday | 9 April 2019 |
| 7.00pm | Thursday | 6 June 2019 |
| 7.00pm | Thursday | 18 July 2019 |