



Meeting 121

November 27th, 2017

Notes

Those present were: Jenny Armstrong, Brian Austin, Christa-Maria Cross, Anne Elson, Wilf Feely, Jonathan Holden, Diana O'Reilly (for item 1) and Alan Pratten.

Apologies: Ann Allison, Janice Austin, Anna Godwin, Lynda Gould.

The meeting opened with the SPAN prayer and a reflection on the gospel for the First Sunday of Advent (Year B), Mark 13: 33-37.

1. Greeting Cards for Prisoners of Conscience

- Diana reported that they had posted 75 Christmas cards (fewer than in the last two years) and there had been a small deficit on the operation. Although the cards had been cheaper (because they had been made by the Confirmation group with help from Diana and Jenny), donations had been lower and postage rates had risen. It was suggested that the recommended donation of £1.50 per card should be raised to £2 next year. Diana had extracted just 3 individuals and about 6 organizations from the ACAT list who could receive Christian cards. There was discussion whether the lack of choice had put people off, and the suggestion was made that next year we should try to compile a longer list of individuals drawn from ACAT, Amnesty and other sources. Unfortunately, Aid for the Church in Need do not run a similar greetings card scheme. Another suggestion was that congestion in the church porch might be reduced by enclosing with each card a short biography of the recipient which the sender could keep.
- Diana left some spare cards and address labels for any present who might like to send them out.

2. Matters arising from the October 27th meeting

- Brian confirmed that he had added Erin Doughy and Sean Gough to the email circulation.

3. Rosary intention for December

- 'Let us pray that the people of Zimbabwe can now look forward to a future of peace and stability.'

Lynda or Anna to put on the J&P noticeboard in the church; Jonathan to enter in the Newsletter.

4. Poverty and Homelessness

- Brian reported on behalf of Janice that the **Saturday Friendship Group** planning group was due to meet in January but that the church appeal would now be deferred until May. Alan mentioned that the proceeds of the SPAN Quiz Night on February 9th would go to the SFG.
- The Way Ahead Project is completely refurbishing the washing unit from the proceeds of the Mayor's collection, and volunteers are currently repainting the lounge area. Janice is preparing three new volunteers for work with the SFG.
- Alan reported that in Christmas week the Leamington Night Shelter will be using the premises in Clemens Street of the Warwick Uni Medical Students' night shelter and bringing their own volunteers and materials there. He noted that the District Council had promised to provide basic bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless people whenever the temperature fell below zero between now and March, though some (especially drug users) might still choose to sleep rough.

5. **LiveSimply and CAFOD**

- Jenny reported that the LiveSimply Team had met and planned a 'live simply week' from April 22nd to 29th for the parish of Our Lady and St Peter's. Brian added that the 'living simply' leaflet with suggestions for parishioners to adopt should be issued on the first weekend of January.
- Alan said that the CAFOD team would announce on February 17th/18th the Lenten Fast Day on Friday 23rd, with the church collection the following weekend.

6. **Pax Christi Peace Sunday (January 14th 2018)**

- Brian aimed to provide prayer sheets for private use during the usual Sunday Holy Hour (with Exposition and Rosary), but would welcome any help with researching their content (such as advance notice of the Pope's New Year message).

Any offers of help to be addressed to Brian.

7. **Justice & Peace in Catholic Leamington**

- Alan reported on a conversation with Fr Andrew Franklin at St Joseph's: With Sr Angela McCormack's retirement to Selly Park convent at the beginning of December, the St Joseph's Justice & Peace group would struggle to continue, and Fr Andy would welcome our holding our meetings occasionally at St Joseph's to try to reawaken interest in Justice & Peace issues there.

Alan to continue discussions with Fr Andy with a view to our holding our February meeting as a joint meeting with St Joseph's J&P members in Whitnash.

8. **Any Other Business**

- Those present thanked Brian for circulating his latest '**Draft Justice & Peace programme for 2018 and beyond**'. Jonathan made a number of suggestions for improvement. In particular, Brian agreed to reorder it to run from January through to December.
- Brian invited all interested in updating the Lent Stations of the Cross to a meeting chaired by Janice at **7.30 pm on Wednesday January 10th** (venue to be confirmed).

All those able to contribute please come.

9. **Future Meetings**

- The next monthly meeting will be on Monday 29 January 2018 at 7.30 in the **Parish Hall Coffee Lounge**, when the reflection will be on the gospel for the 5th Sunday of the Year (B), Mark 1: 29-39.
- Subsequent meetings in 2018 will be at 7.30pm (in the Flint Room except as shown) on: February 26th (possibly in Whitnash otherwise the Davenport Room), March 26th (Davenport Room); April 30th; May 21st; June 25th, July 23rd, September 4th (Davenport Room at 2 pm - review of the year), September 24th, October 29th, and November 26th.

The meeting closed with the Pax Christi prayer.