



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday 23 October 2022 7.00 pm - 8.30pm

Approximately 43 parishioners attended the meeting.

Apologies For Absence: Lesley Squibb

1 Fr Graham Introductory Prayer.

2 Father Graham Update:

Fr Graham thanked the community for its ongoing support and provided an update in the event of a priest being incapacitated or unavailable.

Upon watching the live streamed services last weekend, Fr Graham was very encouraged by the support provided by various volunteers (up to 10) in order to proceed with services in his absence. He went on to thank those who had been providing meals and shopping for him and to all those who were helping him with his present mobility issues.

Fr Graham will be 75 in 2023 and in accordance with Canon Law he will discuss with Bishop Richard his retirement plans which could be for a further 2 or 3 years subject to his continuing good health and agreement with The Bishop.

Fr Graham went on to explain the need for the Parish to plan for future changes in the event of there not being a priest available at St Clement's. He is aware of one Priest who covers 2 or 3 parishes.

Fr Graham has been advised by the Dean Fr Stephen Hardacker of a temporary group of priests within the deanery in respect of Ewell, Epsom, Leatherhead, Ashted and Effingham.

The Pastoral Plan: *The Word Who is Life* (available on the Diocesan website). The Bishop outlines the arrangements for formation of the laity for the Minor Orders of Lector (Readers) and Acolyte (Assisting the priest/ Eucharistic Ministry).

- Training of Eucharistic ministers to be done in the new year.
- Training of readers / Proclaimers
- Create 'Core' teams in each parish made up of approx 6 parishioners to support the Parish Priest for the future planning of the Parish.

Office Administration:

Fr Graham advised that a 2022 Quinquennial report had been completed by David Rayleigh providing a comprehensive 140- page report on the status of The Church properties with associated categories of costs for work to be addressed:

- A within 1 year
- B within 1-5 years and
- H&S (Health & Safety works)

Needless to say, money will be involved with the total estimates amounting to approx. £340,000. Completion of a Health & Safety Audit is due to take place shortly as well as a boiler inspection.

3 May Open Parish Meeting Update:

The PA System has been checked and is working well. It is the manner in which the microphones are used that affects the quality of sound reproduction. This ties in with training for proclaimers of the word in order to make the best use of the system.

As agreed at the last Parish meeting a card in recognition of Mary Schneider's long and loyal service to St Clements was signed by approximately 200 parishioners and presented by Fr Graham, much to Mary's delight and gratitude.

4 The Synodal Church:

Andrew Perks updated the attendees as to what is to be addressed following The Open Parish Meeting in May with reference to:

(1) The Pope's request

(2) **Phase 1** — The foundation/information gathering -Timing, three months. A post COVID 19 Parish information (who we are) and capability (gifts and willingness to participate) update

(3) **Phase 2** — Becoming Synodal - Timing, six months (gets a Parish proposal in place before the Rome synod in October 2023). How do we address the synodal requirements within the context of St Clements.

- Where are we?
- Where do we want to get to?
- How do we bridge the gap?

(4) Synodal Action Group.

10/12 volunteers to do the work

(5) Feedback.

Progress reports and proposals to be fed back to the Parish at regular intervals. Monthly and at the end of each phase.

With the Synodal proposal in mind Fr Graham wanted to emphasise the existence of the **Ongoing volunteer work and established support groups**, the many volunteers that provide the Spiritual / Liturgical aspects of the parish along with the administration and maintenance volunteers that form many groups already operating in the Parish. These volunteers represent almost 100 parishioners involved in some way or another BUT many are long serving volunteers that could do with the assistance from the broader Parish attendees.

Sources Of Information:

Several attendees expressed interest in knowing more about the activities and support groups within the parish. This information can be found on:

- The Mass Newsletter
- Website
- Church notice board
- Previous Open Parish Meeting minutes (can be available upon request. linked with the website)
- Attending parish meetings or through open communication with fellow parishioners.
- The Diocesan website
- The Diocesan Directory

All the above represent recommended reference points for anyone who wishes to obtain more information.

Issues Raised by attendees / parishioners:

- The need for new additional Proclaimers Of The Word (Readers at Mass). for which a training is being planned.
- More Extraordinary Ministers to support services.
- Concerns about the ages at which the various Sacramental programmes are offered.

John Farrell and Peace questioned what might happen in the future and reinforced the belief that we must find ways to encourage the younger people in the Parish to continue to come to church after First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

5 Next Steps I Actions:

Pauline Groves said she would be willing **to train a few groups to support services in Fr Graham's absence**. Familiarity / knowledge of The Liturgy will assist potential volunteers for this process.

Fr Graham is supportive of the future planning for the Parish in keeping with the wishes of The Bishop and The Diocese which could in turn be reflected in the synodal approach detailed by Andrew Perks.

Phase 1 to proceed but the timing is important. Andrew will arrange for a call for volunteers who may wish to support the Synodal group of 10/12 parishioners.