**Asking God for Fresh Vision**

Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts

with wisdom, love and courage.

Make us more like Christ in our words and actions.

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Bless the work of your Church.

Renew us all in the desire to make

Christ known and loved in the world today.

Bless the work of our parish.

Guide all that we do so that our church

is a place of mercy and service for all

who are seeking you.

Deepen our love for the Presence of Christ

in the Eucharist and guide us in prayer and action as we journey towards Synod 2020

to become the Church you are calling us to be.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

**HeartStone: the paired Parish of**

**Sacred Heart & St John Stone**

Our Parish Vision Statement

Jesus Christ is uniting our community of HeartStone in its Vision and Mission

so that all might find a place of welcome, prayer

and loving outreach when in need.

30 people including PP and Dennis Jones, the new Chaplain for Christ the King School (CtK), attended, with 14 apologies. Gina Steed chairing. The meeting opened with the Parish prayer for Mission in our Time and Place, and a prayer for the repose of Mike Tully who died on Monday 18th June.

**Item 1: PPs report**

In the Archdiocese:

The new possibility of a Paid Pastoral Associates is a 3-year pilot scheme which will run from 2019 to 2021.

***Since the Forum, Vision Team members have discerned with Fr T and he has decided that we will enter an application for the new post. This will be to help us make more progress in effectively living out Parish Vision priorities. Efforts to make this application a Deanery bid will be pursued but may not be successful.***

SYNOD 2020:

Information evenings to find out more:

Tuesday October 16th at LACE at 7.30pm

Thursday October 18th in Chorley at 7.30pm

And Synod Sunday #1 is October 21st across the whole Archdiocese

**Sunday afternoon February 3rd 2019 in the Cathedral is the launch.**

In the Deanery/Pastoral Area: Fr Mark Moran is still on sick-leave and won’t return to Holy Family. From September Archbishop Malcolm will seek more permanent ministry

In HeartStone:

Should we have more film nights? ...***Fr T has decided yes, dates to follow.***

“*Tell the Priest*”: you are encouraged to tell PP things he may not be aware of: e.g. who is sick, who is better, deaths, significant dates…..

*Summer Mass times* were agreed for August:

Sat 5.30pm at SH/Sun 10.30am at SJS

*“Global Healing”* is a video created by the Bishops Conference as a response to Pope Francis’ call for us to care for the planet. We will use this sometime after 1st September. Request for a key person unsuccessful…..any offers?

*Mass books or mass sheets*? Discussed cost; listening not reading; there would be more rustling as people jump between pages. Otherwise no strong views.

***Fr Tony has decided to stay as we do now, review storage for next year.***

*SJS Un/Locking*: no one will be given SJS church keys, and no one is to phone Frances to open up. The PP alone is responsible for opening the church: he undertakes in future to have SJS church on the code to be available from 8am til 9pm, but may occasionally have to vary.

SH do not want a coded lock.

**Item 2: Parish Chosen Charities**

We are learning as we go on how we share in decision-making……and this year several things have been clarified as best practice:

* nominations for Parish Chosen Charities can include appropriate charitable works, not exclusively registered charities
* so that we don’t have parish decisions made only by those who turn up at the Parish Open Forum (POF), nominations and proposals will be heard at POF, and then discussed in the Parish Vision Team to help the PP make final decision if necessary.
* agenda items can only be included if spoken to by the proposer at the Forum (proxy speaker is ok).
* As this year there was no one to speak to nominated National charities, PP proposed that we support two local charities: the majority agreed.

Future nominations should include good information: eg what the charity has to raise annually; name a contact person between Parish and Charity; the Charity to agree to give reports on how our donations are used, send a rep to the annual presentation evening and agree to hosting an info session at SH or SJS at the beginning of the term

**Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD)**: proposer Brain Cooney.

We are pivotal for the West Coast work, we will host 3 meetings a year (next in Sept), and there will be news about our CAFOD efforts. CAFOD are both child-friendly in its communications and good at spirituality, however the charity is supported by several second Collections and people in the parish already give personally

**Aid to the Church in Need (ACN):** proposer Harold Glover – Gina Steed

There is still a great need for ACN’s work with people worldwide who struggle to live their faith under violent oppression. ACN have been part of our efforts in the last 2 years. Several want it to continue; others wish to support a fresh charity

**Southport Offshore Rescue Trust (Southport Lifeboats):** proposer Kathi McCully

This local lifeboat charity, run by locals who have to crew lifeboats, fundraise, and maintain the boathouse and lifeboats must raise £60,000 per year. They get no grant aid, and are not funded by RNLI who think there is no need for it (the nearest RNLI is Morecombe or Anglesey).

**NW Air Ambulance**:proposer Annette Wilkinson. Serving Cumbria to Cheshire 365 days a year, via 3 helicopters based at Barton & Blackpool, crewed by a pilot, paramedic and doctor giving medical aid and airlifting to hospital. Getting no government funds, they rely on local fundraising.

**Asylum Link Merseyside (ALM):** proposer Monica Gannon. Assists asylum seekers and refugees in Liverpool, giving help, friendship and advice, plus signposting to English as a Second Language (ESOL) classes. They arrange social activities available each day and trips at intervals. It depends on grants, lottery funding and donations, needing £350,000 a year. We support ALM through donating clothes, shoes, and occasional day trips to Southport.

**Merseyside Centre for Therapy and Counselling (MCTC):** proposer Gina Steed. A unique service offering as many counselling sessions as a person needs rather than being limited to 6 as with most service providers. It offers a 24/7 phone contact for clients at risk from suicide. MCTC have to do their own fundraising, as only a proportion of sessions are NHS funded.

**Christ the King Chaplaincy.** Dennis Jones, lay Chaplain, has been in post 5 weeks. Chapel has no vestments, it is just a room with a couch and chairs, no altar. He has to beg or borrow everything, and aims to make it a living, breathing sacred space in daily use. His budget is £50! He is using SJS for a school retreat in September. Gina supported the Chaplaincy as one of our local charities, because in every Listening exercise we said “where are the young people”: this presents an opportunity. Donations will be restricted funds i.e. only for Chaplaincy purposes. AW to ask the Dean that Southport churches have monthly collections to support CtK chaplaincy

After all the cases had been made, Fr Tony asked attendees to indicate their two preferred local charities on a list to help in the final deciding.

***Since the Forum, after consulting with Vision Team members, Fr Tony has confirmed the declared preferences of those gathered at the Forum.***

***From the First Sunday of Advent 2018 for 2 years, our Parish Chosen Charities will be:***

***Aid to the Church in Need***

***Christ the King High School Chaplaincy***

***Southport Lifeboats***

**Item 3: Learning the Faith** After a brief introduction of events so far in this aspect of parish life by John Sullivan, parishioners discussed **"**What do you want to learn more about".

Topics raised included

* Why faith is dwindling, leading to fewer priests; parents not bringing children to church, and a chronic lack of young and non-retirement age people attending church. What future is there for the church?
* Sharing what has spiritually helped in our lives (e.g. Richard Rohr)
* Information about Marian shrines
* Different types of prayers/ways of praying
* What does Synod 2020 mean
* Looking at Pope Francis’ book on holiness
* Ecumenical dimensions – our own understanding and how to have a dialogue with others e.g.
  + How to explain Communion to non-Catholics
  + What are the differences between various Christian denominations

Comments included

* thanks to Fr Tony for opportunities to get involved
* that the question about lack of faith should be directed to the young people (perhaps through Dennis Jones)
* that there will be a Synod on young people in Rome in October 2018
* that St Helen’s Crosby have done a questionnaire (we should ask if they would share the results, and whether we could use their questionnaire).

John Sullivan advised that two learning sessions will be coming soon :

* Liturgy and Life – how does the liturgy connect with our lives?
* What is the connection between the Sacraments and our parish life and work?

**Alice Reston’s Item –** proxy by John – was discussed: the suggestion of a “Parish Question Time” with a panel to answer questions on a whole range of things. Yes!

**Do give suggestions to the Parish Office about who should be on the panel, and also submit questions that you would like to see discussed.**

**Item 4: Parish Accounts**

A summary was given, with bank balances, and was available at weekend masses

Questions: what was the SH “Fundraising”?

***Since the Forum we have established it is Bingo and some Room Hire income; “Legacies” are “in perpetuity” masses that have been bequeathed (via the Archdiocese) This fundraising is separate from the Parish Chosen Charities which is separate and restricted***

Replying to Gerard Lavin’s question by email, Fr Tony informed all that the accounts are audited by Pisces, and still transparent as they have been with the Augustinians.

It was asked how many parishioners there are in SH & SJS? About 240 regular mass-goers. Number of Catholic non-mass-goers is not known.

**Item 5: Parish Centre Fundraising:**

proposer Dennis Quinn – proxy Annette Wilkinson

* How do we raise funds to refurbish? The chairs in particular are dangerous.
* Without the Club how would we raise money for Parish Chosen Charities?
* We should ask how much could we borrow from the Archdiocese
* The Social team has worked incredibly hard to arrange many events that benefit the Parish Chosen Charities. If any changes to this team it was said that in future the ticket money will go into the Club, no longer into the Parish Chosen Charities as we always have done up to now.
* A parishioner was shocked that a decision such as this can be taken without the Parish Priest’s input or knowledge.
* The Parish Priest was unaware of that statement and ***wants to assure all***

***that such things cannot happen until proper procedures include him. Since the POF Fr Tony has reflected on a very good and helpful debate and has decided money in the bank would be well used to upgrade the Parish Centre. In principle it is a go – including fundraising as well – and a meeting will be arranged before end-July to investigate costing and timeline. NB Money is already allocated for repairs to roof, so a development plan must face realities.***

**Item 6: Defibrillators**

Proposer Anne Bradshaw.

We must fundraise if we wish to install defibrillators. This item to go on Church Team agendas. The majority were in favour. Declan Barry can train in their use. Gina S will give defibrillator info to Anne B for SH Church Team’s discussion.

**Item 7: Information sharing:**

Several valuable items for the agenda did not have the proposer present. Because of the policy being new, Fr Tony included the issues submitted in a separate sheet to inform people:

* **Declan Barry:** alerting us to a decision made through the Dementia Friendly Parish meetings, Chairs in Churches (to make Church space more accessible to those with mobility issues) will be carried through on the Church Team Agendas
* **Andrew Curtis:** How can HeartStone celebrate the canonisation of Oscar Romero on 14th October this Year? ***Fr Tony has decided yes we will and liaise with Andrew about how.***
* **Gerard Lavin:** asking about having Baptisms during mass**:** ***Fr Tony will stay with our current practice of Christening Welcome only during mass at present. Review may be possible if catechists come forward for the Christening ministry.***

asking about any literature if there is aparish development process system: ***our development comes from discernment of the Vision and Priorities committed to by the parish listening process in 2015 and not any published book.***

asking will the Vison Team share where they expect us to be in 2013: ***not really a good idea, too fluid and far and we are committed to following where the Spirit leads us in HeartStone’s Vison, to be reviewed in 2020 as part of the Archdiocesan Synod 2020***

asking are we sharing faith conversations to know Jesus, share the life of the Trinity and know what serving God today means: ***YES, more and more, and in organised ways as well in the teams, Living Christ Retreat, Scripture, GIFT, Faith for Life……***

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

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| August: | Masses at SH on Saturday 5.30pm and SJS on Sunday 10.30am |
| The Eye-Opener Sessions of Finding out more about Catholic Faith:  Thursdays 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th August  at St John Stone |
| September | Christ the King High School Retreat Days for Year 7 at St John Stone:  Friday 7th and Monday 10th |
| Adoremus National Eucharistic Congress:  Fri 7th–Sunday 9th in Liverpool |
| Sunday 16th: Home Mission Sunday – start of Come and See |
| Wednesday 19th: Start of With You Always Catechesis sessions for Holy Communion |
| Friday 21st/Saturday 22nd: Living Christ Retreat in SJS |
| October | Sunday 28th 10.00 One Mass at St John Stone |
| November | Sunday 11th: 10.45 special Remembrance of 100 years of end WW1 on Village Green |
| NEXT PARISH OPEN FORUM - WED 9th NOVEMBER at SH |
|  | Presentation to Parish Chosen Charities |