

150th anniversary of St. Werburgh's Open Meeting Working Group
Thursday, 27th March 7.30pm

Attendees

Fr Paul Shaw, Parish Priest
Tina Bainbridge-Chair
Lyn Williams
Ana Gasparini
John Egan
Gerry Tighe
Pat Floate
Tom Rozario
Stuart Murray
Heather Johnson
Paula Wszolek
Judith Done
Clare Black
Jeremy Black
Stephen Hutchinson
Ann-Marie Curtis
Daniela Perreira
Vincent Hatton
Pat Hatton
Tony Baxter

Apologies-Steve Tierney, Claire Egan, Cristina Jones, Daniela Perreira, Jane Hallas

Following a short welcome and a prayer, the meeting went straight into the discussion of events proposed so far for the 150th anniversary.

1. Commemorative bookmark (Bernice and Paula)

The bookmarks are already on sale, and there are only 44 remaining. More to be printed.
Bookmarks have already raised £160 for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

2. 150th Social Celebration Event (Ana)

It was agreed this will take place at Chester Catholic High, date set as Friday 12th September 2025. Catering to be buffet style-cost TBC but likely to be minimal, COSTCO grant may be obtained (about £75). Parishioners may wish to cook and donate food from a list to include soup (veg, leek and potato, tomato and basil)..bread rolls- kept in slow cookers, and a range of cold buffet food. Drinks- the school can sell alcohol and soft drinks. Tablecloths provided by school (drycleaning costs need to be considered however). Flower displays/ambient lights provided by school (any other decoration would incur a cost). Music-mic system provided by school. Entrance fee- potentially £5 per adult, £3 per child to cover costs with remainder donated to hospice. Entertainment – music show? Bingo £1 a ticket, Raffle £1 a strip -prizes would need to be donated. Auction- will need excellent items/holidays/services to offer-small freezer has already been donated as a prize. It was agreed a sub-committee would need to meet to provide support to Ana/Jane due to amount of work needed.

3. Lego House (Stephen H)

Cost is £75 for lego bricks plus £4 for special 150th brick-plan is to charge £100 (plus any extra donation to hospice if desired)- so therefore donation of £19 per lego church to hospice. Prototype given to Matthew Black to build. Date set on planner to launch sale of lego church-weekend after Easter (April 27th).

4. Welcome Wednesday (Pat/Lyn)

5-The 150-recipe book

Nearly 100 recipes in – cut off point this weekend (30/3). Cost to have made £2.50 per book, to be sold at £10 with donation of £7.50 per book to the Hospice. Date set for launch.

6-Easter eggs on sale this weekend 30/3 and in two weeks' time 14/4 to avoid a clash with SVP gardening gloves. Cost £2.

7-Dominoes-to be discussed with fête

8. Canon Welch and Canon Chambers graves (Gerry/John)

Diocesan finance meeting on May 7th for approval of release of Mission Together funds. FP to meet with Canon Welch's family next week.

9. Fundraising for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd (Lyn)

Lyn and FP had met with a representative from the Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

- The Hospice will speak at all 4 Masses on an agreed date.
- Supply us with buckets etc for collections
- Sponsorship forms
- Newspapers
- Christmas cards for the repository
- Come along to concerts (can bring electronic card machines for payments)
- Monies will be counted in Church weekly

All monies will be delivered to the hospice weekly for banking and recording.

- Float; If a float is needed for any fundraising event , please give a full weeks notice.
- Please hand monies in weekly (Sunday) in the provided money bags
- Gift Aid update: Envelopes dual Logo (In process)

Rules “ suggested donation”

- Weekly update in the newsletter with thermometer
- Display board (discussion) . Would you like ½ the outreach board in the porch

Or a board in Church, showing the fundraising figures and advertising activities? This was agreed.

- Just Giving page ...St Werburgh's sponsoring the Hospice(Cristina)

10. Talks (Steve)

Provisional date set in Steve's absence – Wednesday June 11th (now updated to Thursday 5th June)for talk from Michael Merrick- the director of education for the Diocese of Education. Michael is an ex-teacher and ex-footballer, a contributor to BBC radio four Thought series. He wants to speak about the challenges young people face today.

11. Music events and pilgrimage (Tom/John)

Tom would like to hold a parish music event- date set Friday 24th October. Tom to meet with FP. John introduced plans for the parish pilgrimage following receipt of the flyer, risk assessment and general overview of the route. Pilgrimage to take place on Saturday 28th June (St. Werburgh's to Flint) and Sunday 29th June (Flint to St Winifrede's Holywell). Agreed in principle-

more detailed discussion to take place in next week or so with Tina and FP and the walking pilgrimage group (now taken place- Wednesday 2nd April and signed off).

12. History group (Ann-Marie)

1. Display of Parish History (information sheets and artefacts)- Sunday 1st June to Sunday 8th June- to form part of Chester Heritage week. Church open from 1-4 every day. Existing large blue boards needed for displays. Mon 2 June- Talk “building St. Werburgh’s” one hour (in church), Tuesday 3 June Walk through history of St. Werburgh’s, Wednesday 4th June talk with Welcome Wednesday, Sat 8 June “Walk through the history of St. Werburgh’s”.
2. It was discussed that the boards would need to be released to Creation Week (Claire Egan).
3. Heritage open doors week Fri 12 to Sun 21 Sept tba.
4. Book- cheaper publishers were being sought.

13. Easter Wreath making event (Marie)

20 plus names signed up- Thursday 3rd April at the high school 6.30pm

14. Creation event (Claire)

Open week of faith- dates now set following a meeting with Tina and FP. Dates – Saturday 12th July to Sunday 20th July. Claire to set up on Friday 11th July. Taizé evening tba. Sycamore course to follow in the Autumn.

15. Prayer book (Lyn)

The liturgy group are putting together a prayer book for the 150th anniversary which is underway

16. Gardening event (Cristina)

Cristina’s suggestion that parishioners could donate 150 bulbs/plants for the garden- any collected in addition to this could be sold for Hospice donations. Date set 12th/13th April.

17. Witness recordings (Stuart)

Stuart had provided a proposal regarding witness recordings. This is still in it’s initial stages and needs further thought and discussion prior to progression.

18. Celebration of cultures (Daniela)

In Daniela’s absence, it was conveyed by Lyn that this is underway with contributions being sought from parishioners.

19. Gift for Rowton Methodist Church (Vincent)

Collection has taken place and hoover acquired. Extra monies (£35?) donated to the Hospice.

20. Tapestry banner- Helen L absent from meeting-to discuss next meeting

21. Week of prayer (Jeremy)

Jeremy provided a proposal for the above.

What is it ?

“what I love most about these retreats is what I think Jesus loves most.. he shows up and does what Jesus does... he looks at people with love”

A retreat in daily life: each retreatant commits to pray for half an hour (or more) each day, and also meet for a one to one conversation with a trained prayer guide to reflect on what arises from the prayer. The meetings can be in-person or on-line. Typically there are also whole-group sessions, an opening session on the Sunday afternoon, one or two evening workshops (e.g. ways of praying, God in Art etc), and a closing session on the Friday evening.

The week would be run by the Jesuit institute: being led by one of their (lay) leaders team of voluntary prayer guides.

(see the links in “additional information below” for more details on what’s involved)

Who for ?

Anyone over 18, who is prepared to commit to 30 minutes per day prayer for a week. There is no prescribed way of praying other than “pray as you can, not as you can’t”.

Maximum group size 30, ideally > 15.

When ?

This depends partly on availability of the Jesuit Institute’s parish team. Provisionally they will set aside 12-18th October, but could offer 21-28th November.

Cost

There is no charge as such, but there are suggested donations to cover the base costs. For up to 15 retreatants the total “suggested donation” is £1000. Then £50 per additional retreatant.

As St Werburgh’s is not a “poor” parish it is reasonable to expect us to manage this.

Alternatives: A “retreat day” or “retreat weekend” are both possible alternatives to a full week.

It was discussed if the participants would contribute to the cost. £1000 would not be possible to be paid by the parish. Jeremy to discuss further with FP- possibility of delaying this due to the amount going on.

22. Commemorative mugs (Tina)

Proposal presented alongside prototype mugs. Four different mugs to be on offer, photo on one side (external view of church, church at night, Parish front garden in Spring, interior of church during Pentecost mass 2024), new 150th logo on other side. Cost of mugs to be £4 maximum.

Initial suggestion of £10 per mug (covering costs and £6 donation) seen as too high. To be discussed. No outlay- mugs would be pre-ordered and paid for in advance prior to production.

Date to launch set- Sunday May 18th so that mugs could be sold at fête in June.

23. Summer fête (Pat)

Date set- Saturday 21st June.

Venue: Church -Front and back gardens

Attractions: Open gardens (gardening team)

Open Church (Bernice and Gerry to coordinate)

Sponsored Dominoes (WW Domino team) (It was discussed that the domino team would like to have a separate event (possibly take place in day chapel?))

Lego build (Steve) (not checked with him yet but great opportunity for £1 a brick and/

or a raffle)

Live music

Primary school (Head teacher wants to involve school in the celebrations)
group of children , concert on the steps of Church (Kate Lunt to
coordinate with school)

Hook a duck type games (hope some of our older Youth /Cath Soc would
run)

Craft table for children (WW crafters)

Cake stalls (Bernice coordinate)

Flower demonstration (not checked with Marie yet)

Bookmarks and recipe books on sale

Refreshments (Bernice coordinate)

Meeting for committee- Saturday 12th April at 10am. Risk assessment to follow.

24. Cathedral pilgrimage- Gerry suggested booking in a visit to Shrewsbury Cathedral by train from Chester. Attending mass and having lunch. FP would like to have 3 pilgrimages- one day for the parish, and two to include other parishes. FP to discuss with Gerry.

25. Foreign and out of date currency (Cristina)- bucket to be acquired from the Hospice- security regarding the bucket needs considering (Lyn)

26. Friday evening concerts (see earlier discussion over concerts point 11)

27. A greener parish (Heather/Paula)

Heather suggested we should do some tree planting, a few ideas for this - either identify an area within the community that has space for and would like some trees and apply through the woodland trust for a planting pack (pretty sure the planting season is November - march so would be an activity to happen towards the end of the year), or look at purchasing individual trees for parishioners to plant themselves at home (this is something the tree team in my place of work have done and it's always proved quite popular with residents). 150 trees for 150 years!

Heather also suggested that parishioners may like to take part in 150km in September to fundraise for the hospice (running/walking).

Tom closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting finished at 9pm.

Date for next meeting- Thursday 24th April 7.30pm

