

Tynemouth Priory Partnership Development Group

Minutes of the meeting held at St Columba's, Wallsend 13th Sept 2017

Present: Fr Chris Hughes, Andy Merchant, Damian O'Connor, Michael Thompson, Ian Pearson, Terry O'Brien, Theresa Anderson, Margaret Dodds, Pat Brennan, Michael Wade, Sheelagh Cassidy, Rebecca Leighton, Andrea Hall, Lynne O'Hare, Bill Crumbley, Joe James.

Apologies for absence were received from Mgr. Faley, Fr Martin Stmpczyk, Fr John McElhone, Deacon Terry McGann, David Leane and Andrew James.

Fr Chris Hughes, chairing this initial meeting, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers, specifically for Fr Anthony Donaghue.

Fr Chris focused our minds on the question, "What is the PDG supposed to be doing?", invited us to reflect on this and then to introduce ourselves, voicing our hopes for the Group and outlining what talents we have to offer. It became apparent that there is a very good spread of age, experience, qualifications and skills, and a shared vision to promote a lively and effective Church within the Partnership area.

The meeting decided to proceed directly to the election of officers. Uncontested nominations were:

Chair: Ian Pearson

Vice Chair: Andrea Hall

Secretary: Joe James

The meeting considered the Nature and purpose of the Group. It was suggested that the various areas of activity given in the 'Pointing the Way' document could provide a starting point, with the Group subsequently identifying and exploring any gaps that would require additional attention.

It was further agreed that a study session would be needed to examine and compare the Parish Profiles that had been completed as part of the 'Forward Together' process. From this would emerge a mission statement, aims and targets, and a plan of action. The meeting considered combining this with a Day of Prayer and Getting to Know You event, but eventually decided to make these the themes of our next evening meeting on 18th October at St Aidan's, Wallsend.

Although there were two invited Youth representatives present, Michael Thompson notified the meeting that he had invited two members of the Youth Council also to be attend future meetings.

Joe is to compile and circulate a list of names and contact details from this meeting.

Next meeting: 6.30 pm at St Aidan's Wallsend on Wednesday 18th October.
Shared Table, Prayer and Review of parishes' strengths and opportunities for development.