

## **Ginger Group meeting notes: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 11.00am At the Church of the Holy Spirit, Great Bardfield**

### **Attendees:**

Celeste Slater, Conor McDonagh, Damian Walsh, Fiona Walsh, Jo Butler, Matthew Foster Neil Davison, Paddy Marsh, Patrick O'Brien, Pauline Butler, Philip Slater, Phoebe Walsh, Fr Richard Rowe, Robina Debnam, Roger Pettett, Shirley Foster

### **Notes:**

1. Fr Richard opened the Ginger Group (GG) meeting with a prayer.
2. The agenda for the meeting was quickly established as:
  - Diocesan Strategic Planning Group (DSPG)
  - Stewards of the Gospel (SoG)
  - Kitchen Works
  - Security Works
  - The Ramp / Access Improvements
  - Asbestos Management Annual Survey
3. RP announced that he was unable to continue to fulfil the responsibilities of the Chairperson role for the GG, and was standing-aside following today's meeting. RP was thanked by the group for his stewardship of the group since inception. DW offered to accept the role of Chairperson at future GG meetings.
4. The group's focus turned to the issue of how the churches of the Holy Spirit & English Martyrs were to be regularly represented at the Stewards of the Gospel (SoG) meetings. There was a brief description of the role, and a letter was circulated describing the experiences of those parishioners who've attended the first few meetings. Initially, within the Ginger Group cohort, a volunteer didn't present themselves, however DW offered to attend the SoG, when it corresponded with work and family commitments and DSPG meetings. DW offered to distribute the actions & feedback of the SoG & DSPG meetings to the GG, relying the group's combined input and effort to perform the responsibilities of these roles.
5. There was a group-wide discussion about how to advertise the SoG role on Sunday, including leaflets and announcements from the altar at both churches.
6. A relatively lengthy discussion followed reviewing the purpose and objectives of the GG. The general consensus amongst members was that the GG should focus on the clerical and pastoral future-proofing for both Churches, and redirect those technical and administrative matters such as "The Ramp", leasing the Priest's flat and security issues to the Parish Council agenda.
7. A questionnaire was circulated, posing questions about the medium/long-term future of each parish within the Diocese. The questionnaire was considered by some at the meeting to touch upon important questions / issues to reflect upon, however the questions were highly strategic and required significant forecasts and assumptions about their congregation, revenue, etc. and other numerous variables.
8. The next GG meeting date was proposed as Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 11.00am Great Bardfield.
9. Fr Richard closed the meeting with a prayer.