

Ginger Group meeting notes: Saturday 14th January 2017, 11.00am At the Church of the Holy Spirit, Great Bardfield

Attendees:

Damian Walsh, Ken Lowe - Saffron Walden SofG, Janet Yates, David Jarvis, Linda Wheeler, Robina Debnam, Mary McGee, Patrick O'Brien, Graham Meek - Braintree SofG, Angie Hart - Kelvedon SofG, Conor McDonagh, Michele Davison, Amanda Waples, Phoebe Walsh, Fiona Walsh, Roger Pettett, Neil Davison, Alf Wheeler, Ann Smith, Nelion Ridley

Apologies:

Fr Richard Rowe

Notes:

1. Opening Prayer and introductions.
2. DW introduced the structure of the meeting, the Matters Arising from the previous Ginger Group meeting, and the forthcoming meetings / events / conferences leading up to Chrism Mass on Wed 12th April 2017. Key dates:-
 - a) Bishop Alan Pastoral Letter to be read in all parishes Sunday 12th Feb 2017 on this topic
 - b) Conference to take place between all clergy and SoG's on Saturday 25th Feb 2017
 - c) Recruitment and appointment of the first Director of Development, starting April 2017
 - d) Submission of questionnaire conclusions during Chrism Mass at Brentwood, Wed 12th April
 - e) Planning preparations and implementation of change to take place 2017 to 2020
3. DW confirmed that Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral on Wed 12th April 2017 is the deadline for submission of the questionnaire summary responses which to be ceremoniously included in the Offertory Procession at that Mass.
4. Alfred and Linda Wheeler offered to accompany Fr. Rowe on 8th/9th Feb 2017 clergy event. (later discovered to be an erroneous date – Damian mistake!)
5. Robina Debnam and Roger Pettett offered to accompany Fr. Rowe and Damian on Sat 25th Feb 2017 Conference for all the clergy of the diocese and all the SotGs.
6. DW wondered whether a "buddy-Priest" could be arranged, to provide the clerical support to Fr. Rowe if he was unable to attend, and to ensure full sharing of information. Fr David and Fr. Kevin to be contacted from neighbouring Kelvedon / Braintree / Dunmow Parishes suggested by those visiting Stewards of the Gospel present at this meeting
7. A Draft Questionnaire was compiled and tabled by Robina, Fiona, Linda, Celeste, Janet – *final draft attached to these notes*. This team is referred to as the Ginger Group Parish Questionnaire Sub-Group.
8. Methods for procuring responses from the parishioners was debated.

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9. It was suggested that each Sunday an alternating GG representative communicate the purpose of the questionnaire, and attempt to secure responses. In addition, emailing the questionnaire to all parishioners on the current database was mooted, and to create an automated questionnaire website to receive anonymous responses (now successfully up and running, thanks to Roger!).

10. It was agreed that Mass times and venues remain unchanged for the Bishop's visit, with a "potluck" style catering arrangement. Robina proposed 'Horham Hall style' approach.

11. All of the regular GG participants were asked to submit their questionnaire responses before the Clergy Conference on 25th Feb 2017 – but actually the agreed deadline is 12th Feb 2017 please, so please note this correction.

12. DW reminded the gathering of the purposes of the GG by reading the open-letter to the parish prepared by Fr. Rowe in November 2015.

13. Angie Hart, Graham Meek and Ken Lowe each reflected on their personal experiences, and their community's attitudes, towards the SotG journey and objectives.

14. Angie Hart recommended that prayer groups and bidding prayers, asking for a successful outcome and for the SotG role, be considered within the Thaxted and Gt Bardfield communities.

15. Please note there is a Parish Council Meeting on Thurs 19th Jan 2017 at 8:00pm.

16. Next GG Meeting – Sat 18th Feb 2017.

17. The following GG Meeting – Sat 18th March 2017.

18. The meeting closed with a prayer.

(Special thanks to Conor, whose comprehensive meeting notes provided the basis of this version of the distributed Meeting Notes.)