

## 2017-03-18 Ginger Group Notes

Present: RR, DW, FW, RD, RP, JB, PB, JY, AS, PoB, MM (Mary McGee, newcomer)  
Several apologies

RR Opening Prayer

DW Review agenda; No matters arising not already on agenda

Bishop's visit was well-attended by parishioners - good events in both Mass centres.

In the Q&A the Bishop was very encouraging. He mentioned the premises can and should be used to the full according to our wishes. It's up to us to execute the vision. He mentioned there are currently six priests under training. Clustering parishes is a possibility; also engagement with local education authorities

Local area is experiencing/anticipating a population explosion with ongoing planning and development - housing and infrastructure.

Damian & Phoebe attended the recent Stewards / Clergy conference. Notes from Steve Webb address "a vision for working together to evangelise the diocese" were circulated via email and available at <http://bardfieldandthaxted.org.uk/ginger/stewards.shtml> with the proposed timeline probably the most useful part. Short, medium, long term (25yr) plans.

It is now very reasonable to synchronise Ginger Group efforts, meetings and obviously deliverables closely with strategic planning timeline.

Review of parish questionnaire response, also available at <http://bardfieldandthaxted.org.uk/ginger/stewards.shtml>. Two subgroup meetings were held, concentrating on part B for sending to everybody and drawn from that the one page for Brentwood and also part C. Many thanks extended for the difficult job.

Reminder of the importance of communicating well within the response - that we are one parish with two Mass centres and that the response also collects two years of Ginger Group engagement, thought and discussion.

What we can try to do is take the questionnaire response which is like a snapshot of the current state, and convert that into a proposal as to how things need to be - a "moving image". We need to figure out how to do that in time for Steve's plan in July - to take what we have and ask "so what now?" -- there's a very definite need to engage neighbouring parishes - inter-parochial.

Action:

FW, CS, RD, JY, MM) Some refining / editing / clustering required for part C response. Division between current state and future directions.

Group) Also more future planning required to provide for Steve's plan

There were many good ideas spun out of the questionnaire, not necessarily all strategic (e.g. activities, prayer groups) - very appropriate to raise at parish council.

Action:

All) Point 7 homework: next meeting to share individual short/medium/long term perspectives and expectations - what would you want to do if you were in charge (in 30 seconds)

Aim to distribute the refined questionnaire response to the Parish with (80-off) newsletter insert on Palm Sunday

Intention to invite Stewards from neighbouring parishes again for next meeting

Proposed meeting dates (tentative)

Sign-off on response by email before Easter. Chrism Mass Weds 12th

- Sat 22nd April
- Sat 13th May
- Sat 10th June
- Sat 8th July
- Sat 5th Aug
- Sat 14th Oct
- Sat 9th Dec
- Sat 6th Jan 2018
- Sat 24th Feb 2018

AOB

- Queries about financial feasibilities for homework proposals
- Request for representative typical parish costs during periods of normal running (e.g. parish priest, housekeeper, ...)

RR: Closing Prayer