

St Margaret of Scotland, Carshalton Beeches Parish Pastoral Council end of year report for 2017

St Margaret's Parish Pastoral Council was established at the beginning of 2017 and held its first meeting in February.. Its current membership consists of Paul Cavadino and Gerald Soane (Joint Chairs), Nuala Llewellyn and Yumna Joubelly (Joint Secretaries), Nuala Garvey, Eamonn O'Domhnaill, Richard Thomson, Geoff Balls, Paul Sharp, Estella Begley and, Chris Da Cruz.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meets every six weeks. It has sub-groups dealing with Liturgy, Evangelisation, Communications, the Social Life of the Church and the Young Church. The parish has a separate Finance and Maintenance Committee which has representation on the PPC.

In the course of 2017 the PPC and its sub-groups have taken the following actions:

Communications

- Advised on the design and content of the St Margaret of Scotland parish website which was launched during the year.
- Produced a Welcome Booklet containing details of services, activities and contacts in the parish.
- Produced 1,000 postcards with Christmas and New Year Mass Times and distributed these to households throughout the parish. Attendances at both Christmas and New Year Masses were higher than last year.

Social Life of the Church

- Arranged an internationally themed social event on Pentecost Sunday to celebrate diversity within our parish community.
- Arranged a Quiz Night in September which raised £1,300 for the church.

Young Church

- Organised a series of Youth Masses which involved a large number of young people in prayer, music, readings and worship.
- Arranged a successful Young Church social event with games, sport, music and refreshments in the Oaks Park in September.
- Organised a Harvest Mass which collected a large amount of food for the Sutton food bank.
- Arranged a successful Christingle Service in December.

Evangelisation

- Arranged for our Eucharistic Ministers to attend a Day of Recollection at Emmaus House, West Wickham, in September.
- Organised an instructive talk by Gerald Soane in October on the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima.

Liturgy

- Revised the arrangements for the Children's Liturgy at 9.30 Mass to reduce overcrowding and ensure that the arrangements run more smoothly.
- Made new arrangements for Readers at Mass so that two Readers are now available at each of the Vigil and Sunday Masses.
- Recruited and trained 12 new young altar servers who have now been received into the Guild of St Stephen and have begun to serve regularly.
- Organised a "Deep Clean" day to improve the appearance of the church benches, furniture, windows and interior.

This is only the beginning ...

The PPC has therefore made an effective start in the course of its first year. The parish's long-standing Finance and Maintenance Committee has also taken a range of key initiatives during the year including the purchase and installation of a new front door, sound system, Mass books, hymn books and a state of the art cooker for the kitchen.

All in all it has been an exciting year for the parish. The PPC believes that the groundwork laid during the last year will enable 2018 to be an even more fruitful and stimulating year for our parish community.