

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

You may recall that we held a series of four discussion groups during Lent.

The four discussions were taken from the twenty proposals in the synopsis of the sessions held during the workings of the Vatican Synod last autumn. They will form the basis of further discussions in Rome later this year.

Our final topic examined the option of forming a Parish Pastoral Council. It was taken from the eighteenth recommendation from the Synod which read:

“Based on the understanding of the People of God as the active subject of the mission of evangelisation, we suggest legislating for the obligatory nature of Pastoral Councils in Christian Communities and local churches. It would also be desirable to strengthen the bodies of participation, with a proper presence of the laity, recognising the role they can play in discerning decisions by virtue of their baptism.”

It stressed that a Parochial Church Council should be transparent and “accountable to the Community.” In other words it will be there for you.

Several attributes among members of our Council would be particularly helpful:- young parents; experience with SVP and and/or interest in social outreach; a member of the finance committee; an interest in forms of worship and all activities within the church including maintenance etc.; close liaison with the parish priest; liaison with outside bodies as a representative of the parish, viz. local government, schools, police etc.; leadership and communication skills...and many others.

The Council will use the early days to encourage the parish in the many ways, both spiritual and practical, both inward looking and outward, that the Pope and the Synod have suggested. Remembering also that they suggest “legislating for the obligatory nature of Pastoral Councils in Christian Communities and local churches..”

Members of the Council will be chosen by nomination and, if necessary, election and selection. So, everybody is encouraged to nominate suitable people (with their permission) or volunteer to Fr. David by returning the slip below, or to david.bagstaff@rcdea.org.uk by 11th May and we shall progress from there. We expect there to be an even representation from each of our churches and approximately eight members of the Council – and the workload will not be too onerous!

This is a project for the whole parish, so please join in and take part.

NOMINATION SLIP

MY NAME:.....

I NOMINATE..... TO SERVE ON THE PARISH COUNCIL.

OR: (PLEASE DELETE ONE)

I VOLUNTEER TO SERVE ON THE PARISH COUNCIL