

## PARISH GROUPS

### **ROSARY:**

Our group meets every Tuesday 2pm in the dining room (or St Elizabeth room) at St Bonaventure's. We have a scripture reading, Our Lady's monthly message from Medjugorje, intercessions, a mystery of the rosary and end with the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We usually have a short social time afterwards with tea, finishing around 4pm. (Julia Meredith)

### **Safeguarding at St Bonaventures**

PSR.bristol.stbonaventure@cliftondiocese.com

Bishop Declan has asked all parishes in the diocese to renew their commitment to providing a safe and supportive environment for all. We have a responsibility to do all we can to ensure that everyone taking part in parish activities is kept safe from harm.

Three of us are sharing the role of Parish Safeguarding Rep – Eileen Newby, Juan Carlos Mondragon and Mary Moore. Between us we have been contacting parishioners involved in supporting children and vulnerable adults within our community, asking them to complete or update a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check, encouraging them to complete some online training and offering any support needed. We in turn are supported by an experienced diocesan team of full time staff.

If there is anything you're a bit concerned about relating to safeguarding, or would just like to talk something through, please get in touch with one of us. You can approach us after Mass or at other parish events, use our email address PSR.bristol.stbonaventure@cliftondiocese.com or make contact via the parish office.

### **WELFARE GROUP:**

The Welfare group is made up of parish volunteers who work together with Mgr. Massey to support any parishioners who are housebound, the sick and their carers, the dying and the bereaved.

We take Holy Communion to those unable to attend Mass.

Organise the healing Masses and the annual Remembrance Mass.

Offer help with funeral preparations to the bereaved.

Visit the housebound, keeping them up to date with Parish life.

Organise a Christmas tea party.

There is also a monthly **coffee morning** where everyone is welcome to come and chat.

**(COFFEE MORNING - 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10.30 – 12.00)**

If you, or someone you know, would like to get in touch with the Welfare group please contact us through Mgr. Bernard. There is always space for new volunteers! (Mary Mcconalogue [marycmcc52@yahoo.com](mailto:marycmcc52@yahoo.com) )

### **READERS**

The proclamation of scripture is a vital ministry in the life of the Church. At St Bon's we are extremely fortunate to have 18 very dedicated readers on the Reading Team. As there is a good number of us, members are only asked to read once every five or six weeks. A rota is sent out every three months for the following three months. For the Christmas and Easter Services a separate rota is compiled of willing readers. New readers are always welcome so if you are interested in becoming a reader at St Bon's and being part of this very valuable ministry, then please contact Joanna at the Parish Office - training is available Angela Carruthers.

### **CAFOD Group**

St Bon's has a long history of amazing support for CAFOD both in fundraising and campaigning. As well as the Fast day appeals at Lent and Harvest, there are disaster emergency appeals, cake sales and other sales, postcards and petitions to sign and other actions as suggested by CAFOD head office. Parish contacts are Hilary Farey and Mary Moore.

CAFOD's Clifton office is also based in the presbytery and this is run by Bart Kowalewski, the Community Participation Co-ordinator.

## **BROWNIES**

Our Parish Brownie Group meets on a Monday evening in the Parish Hall from 6.30 - 8pm and is open to girls aged 7-10. Through regular meetings, special events, day trips and sleepovers, Brownies learn new hobbies, play games, complete challenges and get adventurous outdoors. Girls also extend their knowledge and abilities by working towards Brownie interest badges covering many different hobbies and activities from Baking or Inventing to Painting or Performing. For more information, or to register your daughter for Brownies, please email [stbonsbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:stbonsbrownies@gmail.com) (Angela Parry)

## **106th Brownies**

We use the parish hall on Tuesday evenings in term time for Brownie meetings for primary school aged girls to participate in fun activities, learning new skills and learning about the world around them through games (which are great in the large hall space), activities and crafts including cooking so we're really grateful to have use of the kitchen. We also have use of a cupboard on the back of the stage where we store some of our craft materials and equipment which is also really helpful. We originally met in the New Church on Cranbrook Road but when that church closed down to be converted to flats we were lucky enough to find a new home at St Bon's Parish Hall. Our girls come from several schools including St Bonaventures RC Primary, Bishop Road School and others so the unit is a good place for girls to meet those from other schools. Our Brownies usually move up to 179th St Bon's Guides. (Sharon)

## **179th St Bonaventure's Girl Guides**

The St Bonaventure's Girl Guides is a long-established Guide group based within the parish. It is open to girls aged 10 to 14 years of age and now meets in the parish hall on a Thursday evening from 7.15 pm to 8.45 pm.

The purpose of the group is to empower girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and to make a positive difference in their community. However, to achieve this the group needs more volunteers. At the present time the group only has one leader and so must rely on parental support at each session in order that the group can continue. The lack of volunteers and leaders also restricts the number of girls who can be registered and attend each week.

If you would like to find out more about the parish guide group either for a young person or, to see how you could help support the running of this group, please e-mail Karen Nelson, the current guide leader at [179stbonsguides@gmail.com](mailto:179stbonsguides@gmail.com) for further details.

Sadly, if more young adult or older adult help is not forthcoming then there is a danger that after over 100 years the group may not be able to continue to exist. (Karen Nelson)

## **HCPT**

HCPT - The Pilgrimage Trust is a registered charity offering pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes. There is a strong group of volunteers within the parish who travel annually to Lourdes with HCPT Group 176, looking after sick, disabled, disadvantaged and terminally ill children for a week's pilgrimage holiday. During the week the group learn about the life of St Bernadette, take part in processions and liturgies, visit the baths and the Grotto, and enjoy excursions to the surrounding mountains and villages. The cost of the Pilgrimage for the children is funded by voluntary contributions and Group 176 rely heavily on fundraising events within the Parish to help raise the funds for the children who travel with the group. Money raised enables many young people with physical, behavioural or emotional needs to benefit from a life-changing pilgrimage holiday and the helpers in the group are extremely grateful to the parishioners at St Bon's who offer support financially or through prayer. (Angela Parry)

## **LITTER PICKING GROUP:**

Watch out for notices in the Newsletter, activity is not necessarily monthly. Please bring along your litter picking stick and bring the kids too. Bags are provided. (Annie Sparkes)

## **SUNDAY MORNING MUSIC GROUP**

The primary function of the Sunday Morning Music Group is to enhance the worship at the 10am Sunday Mass with music and hymns but we also sing on Holy Days and Special occasions such as Confirmation or First Holy Communion, and for the feasts of Christmas and Easter. If you play an instrument or want to sing with the group, then please come along to one of our rehearsals which take place in the Church every Sunday morning at 9am. (Angela Parry)

## **Laudato si Group**

After viewing the Pope's film 'The Letter' about the climate and ecological crisis, St Bon's has started a Laudato si group, along with other parishes in the diocese. Building on the foundations of a liveSimply parish, an award gained by St Bon's 12 years ago, we will use the Laudato Action Platform to further develop the principles of living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.

'Laudato si' is Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical on our common home, putting the teachings of our faith in a new light for today's ecological crisis. To help the church respond to Pope Francis's challenge, the Laudato si Action Platform was developed, offering tools and resources and equipping us to take action now. It includes a self-assessment to help us understand where we are today, then suggests actions, tailored to our unique needs, to make the biggest impact. There are also Reflection Guides and templates that connect our core values to the Laudato si goals and serve as a beacon of light for others.

St Bon's Laudato Si Group is still in its early stages, completing the self-assessment, and welcomes input from any parishioner. There is a Whatsapp group and we plan to hold occasional meetings. This year's Creation Mass in October was arranged by members of the group. (Hilary Farey)

## **St. Bon's Community Food Pantry**

The St. Bon's food pantry was set up as an initiative suggested by a number of residents from Egerton Road, just over a year ago and from then has evolved into a constant and reliable service, managed by volunteers. The initial aim was to provide essential, non perishable food and toiletries to people in the community who may be experiencing short term financial difficulty due to the rapid rise in the cost of living. The intention was also to sign post people to other types of provision, such as food banks, which may offer a longer term solution to their needs.

There are two types of provision made each week, the first being the food pantry which operates from our church and the second is a large food donation which is made through a 'click and collect' order and then transported to the Aid Box Community, which is located on Cheltenham Road and provides extensively for refugees in Bristol.

The food pantry is open four days a week, Tuesday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. During the weekend people can access the food pantry, although it is not re stocked on these days. Each Monday a small team of volunteers shop to replenish our stock and from this the shelves of the food pantry are re stocked ready for use.

A significant feature of the food pantry is that people do not need a referral to access the service we provide, therefore making it a useful and immediate provision at a time of emergency or fluctuating domestic finances. The food pantry is not staffed, people are trusted to not abuse the provision and have the benefit of anonymity.

Generally, we have found this ethos has been respected.

The food pantry and the Aid Box Community provisions are generously financed through donated money and items. Each week the parish newsletter publishes a list of what items are most needed and explains how money can be donated. The whole initiative is a joint effort of our parish community, our neighbours on Egerton Road and other volunteers from the wider community who support the initiative.

## **Management of the Hall and Bookings** – John Hickey

On behalf on St Bons I manage the bookings for the Parish Hall on weekday nights and at weekends.

I also rent out/oversee the use of the car park when necessary.

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

I have been treasurer for over 6 years and my job is to accurately record the parish finances.

We have over the last two years gone over budget due to extortionate utility prices, gas, electricity, water, and the maintenance where we had to borrow money from the diocese to proceed. I am sure you will all agree that the building has been neglected for many years but there is still a long way to go. The business centre is still thriving bringing in much needed revenue.

We currently owe the diocese £77,000 as you will see by figures provided at the AGM on 12th November 3pm. Income and expenditure figures will also be available. We will also provide figures for 2021 and 2022.

(Clare Gallagher)

## **6PM SUNDAY CHOIR**

We are a small but happy bunch so if there is anyone who wishes to join us, please come along at 5.30pm on a Sunday evening to practise hymns before mass where you will be made very welcome. (Clare Gallagher)

## **Group for men: Men of St Joseph International (MOSJI)**

- The group is officially recognised by Catholic Church and is present in 12 countries
- It is a Bible and Catechism study group
- The group was started by Donald Turbitt after discussions with St John Paul II assistant Cardinal Dziwisz where the need for group for men was expressed
- More information and official documents: <https://www.mosji.org/about.php>
- The group meets on every first Friday of each month except summer break
- We have met 5 times so far
- There is 9 men in the group
- It is a small group type i.e. meetings are conducted in small prayer and discussion groups of up to 7-8 men. If there are more men present at the meeting the group splits into smaller sub-groups

(Bart Kowalewski)

## **Saint Bonaventure's Gardening Team**

We are a small team who maintain the presbytery and church gardens and the parish car park, meeting every Thursday morning from around nine am until midday or later. We take care of three lawns, two long hedges and surrounding borders. In particular, we care for the parish cemetery garden where generations of the Friars Minor are interred as well as the ashes of many past parishioners; it is good to have a tranquil space for people to come and remember departed loved ones. The presbytery garden is used for recreation after the Sunday Masses, a setting for summer events and also as a location for wedding photography.

The parish has invested in a battery electric lawnmower and a petrol hedge trimmer so that we can do virtually all necessary work ourselves and avoid the expense of engaging outside contractors. In the past, volunteer gardening only operated seasonally, but now we work year round as this is a more efficient way of keeping the gardens looking at their best. In order to make the entrances to the church and presbytery look welcoming, we plant spring bulbs and summer bedding plants in the stone troughs outside in due season. Overall, the gardens are an amenity for parishioners, our neighbours and for passers-by.

We will be happy to hear suggestions as to how we can enhance the gardens further and we always welcome new volunteers. (Dominic O'Dwyer)

**PARENT AND BABY/TODDLER:** Mondays 10 – 12 in presbytery (Claire: 07871627928)