



Note of meeting at St Bernadette's on Tuesday 25 January

Looking at what we have in the parish and how we can take that forward.

There have been lots of changes in the parish over the years. A real sense of community has developed. A number of regular social events have been built up as well as times for prayer.

Covid has had a terrible effect. It has drastically reduced the opportunities to get together. People are slowly coming back though and we look forward to re-starting those community activities within the parish.

We need to deepen the spiritual side as well the social. Faith needs to be nurtured. Perhaps as more people get involved in the parish, they may also want more devotional activities as well.

This has been the week for Christian Unity. While some people in the parish do take part in services with other Christians, it's only a few. There are lots of things happening in the churches of Westbury and Catholics could be more involved.

Westbury used to have a community of sisters – their presence is missed. Having resources to help with the spiritual side is important – Fr Tom cannot do everything. Is it still possible for the parishes to have deacons, lay people based in this community to help with the spiritual side? Also, there is so much more that women could do in the Church, globally and locally, if they were permitted to.

As people get older, it can be more difficult for them to get around, particularly if they don't have a car. Perhaps people may be willing to give people a lift to Mass on Sunday. This could be advertised through the newsletter, as well as by word of mouth.

How to attract younger families to come to Church? The children used to have their own special session once a month during Mass. This meant they could look at things in ways and language particularly appropriate to them. Catholic services, including the Mass, tend to have set forms of words which aren't always accessible to young people.

The point was made though that the lack of young people/families is not unique to the Church. Tennis clubs, fishing clubs, lots of other organisations also struggle to reach and engage young families and young people.

We are a community with a past and a future. As Covid restrictions are removed we have real opportunities to welcome people back – and welcome new people to join us.