

An Update from Blackfriars Partnership

Blackfriars
Partnership



Nigel Lightfoot, a member of the Blackfriars Partnership Development Group writes:

'The Partnership is made up of 14 parishes in the City of Newcastle, West Newcastle, Gosforth and Ponteland and a Mass centre at Cheeseburn Grange. It includes the University Chaplaincy.

The Partnership Development Group (PDG) has continued to make good progress under the leadership of Fr. Shaun O'Neill. The first step was to hold a workshop to set out the vision for the partnership and to prioritise the partnership initiatives. Six sub groups have been commissioned to take the partnership forward.

There is an ambition is to relieve our priests of much of their business and organisational duties so that they can concentrate on their ordained ministries. This will be achieved by working together and connecting the current parish initiatives to produce a streamlined approach.

The sub groups are:

- Youth
- Lay Leadership
- Administration
- Finance
- Liturgy
- Communication and coordination

These sub groups are small and each is led by a volunteer from one of the parishes. It is planned to widen the parish involvement and become more inclusive as progress is made.

Meetings of the PDG and the subgroups have been scheduled for the year.

Events have included a Day of Prayer, and a Lay Leadership Workshop is planned for October 21st. There will be a Partnership service on Monday 4th December at St Mary's Cathedral.'

Blackfriars Partnership Development Group is happy to share their work and would like to learn from other PDGs. Please contact: nigel.lightfoot@mac.com