

MEETING MINUTES OF HOLY GHOST PPC

Attending: Fr. Leslie Adams
Colin Davidson
Stephen Flitcroft
Alison Ford
Mgr. Vincent Harvey
Richard Luker
Brian Morris
Pat Ralph
Tony Spiteri

Apologies: Sr. Mary Patrick
Fay Redmond

Date: Thursday 26th April 2007

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The meeting opened with prayer and reflection on the Gospel reading for this coming Sunday, Good Shepherd Sunday

1. MATTERS ARISING

(a) PPC Elections

Three elected members, i.e. Stephen, Fay & Brian together with two appointed members, i.e. Vina & Pat are all now due to stand down. They are all ineligible to serve again on the PPC for a period of two years.

Following an election to fill the three vacancies, the Parish Priest will liaise with the new PPC to appoint two more members.

However, only two names have been proposed, so these two (Geraldine Gallacher & Liz Lovegrove) will be invited to join the PPC without the need for an election. There will be a plea for further nominations to fill the third vacancy. These will be required by 3rd June so as to hold an election, if necessary, on 10th June.

It is anticipated that every place of worship within the LPA will have a representative group and that a model similar to the current PPC & DPC system will exist, albeit under different titles.

(b) CAFOD

CAFOD have now found premises on the outskirts of Aldershot. Therefore they are no longer looking to acquire the Burgess Road Hall. There has been no further progress with Ruth Bentall's approach to use the building as a Day Centre. Mgr. Vincent will need to take this proposal to the Finance Committee. (Action VH)

(c) Justice & Peace

* Out of the Lenten Lunches has arisen the suggestion of a Children's Mass with Children's participation. The idea is that this could happen quarterly. Veronica has contacts for this & Tony will follow it up. (Action TS)

* Confusion has arisen with *Family Fast Day* envelopes over the issue of gift-aiding. People need to be advised to put their personal numbers on the envelopes to assist in distinguishing between gift aiding to the parish & gift aiding to CAFOD. The financial team in our parish is competent in administering this, but CAFOD has not met this capability in many parishes.

There is a suggestion that envelopes for the October & Lenten Fast Days be collected prior to Mass and then brought up with the Offertory. (Action TS)

** Food Bank*

There needs to be clarification of the J&P group's role in this. Mgr. Vincent has e-mailed the local authority, which is very interested and wants more information. A meeting between them has yet to take place.

The Food Bank is to meet the needs of people in ordinary circumstances but who find themselves in crisis. It is not intended to address the problem of beggars or for those in long-term need but to meet emergency situations.

On a related subject, the box for food donations for May Place is still at the Holy Ghost church. This will be relocated to St. Bede's and its move publicised.

(Action VH)

* The group is trying to organise a monthly Rosary & Meditation Service and May would be the ideal month in which to launch this.

Meditation would focus on an Icon, and Fr. Andrew from St. Mary's in Old Basing would be the ideal person to speak on such a topic. There was a suggestion that the sessions could be ecumenical, but Mgr. Vincent cautioned that Marion Devotion can be a problematic area for many non-Catholics. Sr. Paddy has a video about the Icon in St. Bede's and Mgr. Vincent possesses other Icons if the group wanted to expand beyond Our Lady. There is to be a meeting this Tuesday (1st May) which will be very low key as it has not been advertised.

* There is to be a pilgrimage on 20th May from Abingdon to Boars Hill which will be publicised in this weeks' newsletter. Names of those wishing to attend will be requested and subsequently a coach or lifts will be organised. (Action TS & VH)

* The "Live Simply" Picnic on 8th July will be promoted as a Parish event. Parishioners will be encouraged to bring food for a picnic on the field following the 11am Mass. The J&P group will discuss this further & contact the school for permission.

(d) Cell Groups

i) Co-ordinator for Reader's meetings

Minnie has proposed several names and it was agreed that June Bowers be approached to see if she would be able to take on the role.

ii) Readers & Eucharistic Ministers Training

Training for Eucharistic Ministers is well in hand: There is to be a session on 3rd May and another session three weeks later, both for new Ministers only. Once these have been commissioned an invitation will be extended to all Eucharistic Ministers to remain behind after Mass for a further session.

At the moment, nothing has been organised for the training of Readers.

(e) Religious Book Library

St. Bede's school has taken delivery of new substantial, solid wood, bookcases. These would also be ideal for accommodating the religious library facility at St. Bede's church and Mgr. Vincent will pursue the possibility of purchasing some through the School. (Action VH)

2. NORTHWEST HAMPSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

(a) Pastoral Area Directory

Copies of the new Directory were distributed to PPC members.

Every Parish in the LPA will have a copy and each parish will be responsible for distributing it locally and for publishing it on their web-sites.

It was agreed that copies should be made available to the Tourist Information Office, The Alliance of Basingstoke Churches, a Polish employment agency and the Hospital.

Stephen will e-mail a copy to Pat Vincent to be loaded onto the web-site. (Action SF)

The Directory will be updated periodically. It was noted that this edition did not contain the names of the Parish Priests - this will be amended in the next revision.

(b) Parish Census/Audit

Every area is to conduct an audit. This could be achieved as part of the Stewardship Campaign and encompass questions such as who the parishioners are and what skills & talents they possess.

(c) Stewardship Meeting

The next Stewardship Meeting takes place on 28th April and the Parish audit will be looked at in more detail during this.

(d) Issues for Next Meeting 19th May

No new issues were identified for the next meeting of the North West Hampshire Pastoral Area.

3. ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

- ? Elections for the new PPC: Two members elected unopposed; nominations by 3rd June for the remaining vacancy
- ? Justice & Peace group proposals for a monthly Rosary & Meditation Service.
- ? Burgess Road Hall is currently unused and available.
- ? "Live Simply" picnic to be a Parish event.
- ? New Directory for the North West Hampshire Pastoral Area will shortly be available.
- ? Plans for the Dedication of St. Bede's church on 26th May are on track.
- ? New PPC to hold their first meeting on 17th May

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

? Dedication Update

Arrangements for this are moving along steadily. The Order of Service is more or less complete together with planning for food etc. Fr. Leslie's Ordination proved to be a useful dry run for this event. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 80 guests in attendance, comprising clergy of the Pastoral Area, past clergy of the Parish, the Anglican Bishop, the Mayor, the M.P. and the Architect etc.

? John Bottings Replacement

John is continuing in his role in a reduced capacity and is happy to continue. Liz Flitcroft is working with him and so the Parish is no longer actively seeking a replacement.

? Catholic Newspapers

There were problems with provision of these and the low uptake was a financial burden on the parish. Consequently they are no longer available from the church.

? *Kneelers*

Brian questioned whether kneelers, similar to those utilised in the Confessional could be purchased and positioned in front of the Sacrament House and the Lady Chapel to facilitate those who wished to kneel at these locations to pray.

?The current PPC was thanked for their work & commitment over a social gathering

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The first meeting of the new PPC:

Thursday 17th May 2007 at 8pm in St. Bede's Meeting Room