

# MEETING MINUTES OF HOLY GHOST PPC

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

**Date:** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2007

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The meeting opened with prayer and reflection on a Gospel reading.

## **1. MATTERS ARISING**

### **(a) CAFOD**

The fate of the Burgess Road Hall is now in the hands of the Diocese. A Professional Planning Consultant is being contacted. CAFOD have stopped looking at alternative sites and are still keen to take on the tenancy of the Burgess Road Hall.

### **(b) Justice & Peace**

There is to be a meeting of the group on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

At last month's meeting the group came up with several items:

? To revisit the idea of having some-one to announce the "Thought for the Week" as an introduction, in addition to welcoming Mass goers. This could be undertaken by one of the Readers.

? There are plans for a monthly Rosary to be said for Justice & Peace issues and this would encourage people to make use of the church in the evenings. This raises issues about key holders and also about how to access the electrical doors from outside

? The group want to start the process of organising free-standing notice boards. If these could be acquired they could be utilised to focus attention on pertinent issues. The group wish to capitalise on the feeling of newness which the church currently generates. The cost of such boards will be investigated. Minnie will be contacted to see whether the board on which she displayed the new church information, would be suitable for use in the interim. (Action TS & CD)

? Family Fast Day is on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. They are looking for a speaker to talk about this after the Mass.

### **(c) Cell Groups**

#### *i) Co-ordinator for Reader's meetings*

This is still to be arranged. Steve has yet to contact Minnie. (Action SF)

#### *ii) Readers & Eucharistic Ministers Training*

Fr. Vincent has proposed several dates to Paul Inwood for Readers training. It is thought possible that Eucharistic Ministers could be trained "in-house".

### *iii) Food Bank*

During the meeting in Andover, Steve & Fr. Vincent investigated their Food Bank. This is a franchise operation based on the Salisbury Bank. They rarely deal with individuals directly but usually with organisations that are in contact with the people in need. Following discussions, it would seem that there are two methods by which Basingstoke could become involved:

- to take our own franchise
- become part of the Andover franchise

The second option would appear to be the most likely course to adopt. Andover's Food Bank involves a team of between ten & fifteen people and is very highly organised.

Fr. Vincent will talk to Voluntary Services to determine what issues and areas would be involved.

It appears that the make-up and numbers of a Basingstoke operation would be similar to that of Andover.

Bob Carr informed Fr. Vincent that he would be contacted but no-one has done so yet. Fr. Vincent has e-mailed the relevant web-site and is again awaiting contact. Officially there are no homeless in Basingstoke, but even the local MP acknowledges that this is not realistic.

Currently, the Food Bank would come under the J&P umbrella but the Andover experience shows that it would become big enough to stand alone in a relatively short time

### **(d) Ethnic Communities**

#### *Polish Community Meeting Review*

The meeting of the Polish community went well. Many people turned up and it was estimated that there were thirty people in the Hall, some of whom spoke little English and some who were unknown to the parish. The Borough's link person, Islam, also attended and collected some phone numbers for contact purposes. Barbara and Theresa were on hand to translate.

It has been reported that the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists are providing English lessons for Poles and there are questions about the motivation for this. Currently, this is not happening in Basingstoke.

There is a large Polish community in Andover and Fr. Codd has provided an e-mail address for Polish translations of Mass readings.

There are language issues with the Polish community and Fr. Vincent's announcements are often misunderstood. Fay has been unable to find anyone who could provide translations for basic English language conversations. Fr Vincent will provide Fay with Islam's contact number. (Action VH& FR)

#### *Focal points for Ethnic Groups*

**Indian** The only names for this community are those for the Syro-Malabar group. This community have been very proactive and hold a monthly Mass (now held on a Saturday, because of difficulties in finding a priest for Sunday). During Lent, this group will be having Stations of the Cross at the Holy Ghost church.

**Filipino** The contact for the Filipinos is Joseph Batiller. Currently this community have a Mass approximately every 6 weeks and they are more integrated than some of the other ethnic communities.

**Polish** Barbara Birt is currently acting as the contact, but it is hoped that a member of the Polish community will come forward to take on the position. Efforts will be made to identify a Polish priest from Reading who will be available to say an occasional

Mass in Polish. This would have to take place on a Sunday, as the majority of the Poles work on Saturdays.

## **2. NORTHWEST HAMPSHIRE PASTORAL AREA**

*Report on the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> January*

\*A Directory for the North West Hampshire Pastoral Area is being produced and will shortly be available across the area. This will contain addresses of churches, schools etc.

\*A sub group has been set up comprising Vincent Harvey, Andrew Edworthy (Hook) and Michael Short (an Andover Deacon). This group will identify areas that the Working Group needs to concentrate on.

From Tadley, Mary Lea (who runs the Confirmation programme, and also has an insight into the priest's role), will attend the sub group with the aim of drawing Tadley in. Deacon Anthony Cairns will be moving into Tadley and Fr. Kevin is very positive about the impact of this.

\*The Spiritual Development Group is a Diocesan group run by Fr. Paul King from the Oxford area. They are currently looking for a contact person.

\*There has been a volunteer from Hook to take on the role of Archivist.

\*Fr. Danny raised the question of the future of Hook as he is now 78 years old.

## **3. PPC ELECTIONS**

As the Pastoral Area develops, the role of the PPC will change but it is not yet known how. It could be that it will evolve from helping one parish priest to helping all of the priests in the Area.

Fay, Pat, Brian and Steve are due to leave the PPC in April and the first meeting of the new PPC will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Elections will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April and nominations must be received by Easter Sunday (8<sup>th</sup> April).

## **4. PARISH HELPERS PARTY**

The party will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February and Steve has a list of those who will provide refreshments.

## **5. NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

Items for the Newsletter:

- Discussion of issues raised at the last J&P meeting.
- Report on the Food Bank in Andover and the potential for its introduction in Basingstoke.
- Feedback from the Polish reception held after Mass on 4<sup>th</sup> February and discussion on the other ethnic communities in the parish.
- Elections for the new PPC.

## **6. A.O.B.**

? Congratulations were offered to Fr. Leslie Adams on his recent Ordination to the Priesthood. It had been a very enjoyable & emotional day.

Fr. Leslie's ordination was the first major event to take place in St. Bede's church and threw up a couple of minor problems:

There was feedback on the microphone system, but Fr. Vincent's microphone has now been turned down and this should resolve the problem.

The fire alarms were set off because of the incense. The sensors outside of the church are smoke detectors. The one in the service sacristy will need to be changed and it was felt that an extractor fan would not resolve the problem.

There were no parking issues and the circulation of people did not present any problems. There is a DVD of the Ordination which can be viewed by anyone who would like to watch it.

? The Dedication of St. Bede's is going ahead as planned. Paul Inwood is co-ordinating the singers and an open invitation may be extended to singers throughout the LPA.

? The rotas for Eucharistic Adoration need to be renewed. These have usually been done during Lent. There will be a need for at least two people to be committed for each half hour. (Action VH)

? In last month's minutes, the Webb family were inadvertently not mentioned in connection with the presentation of the Icon. We apologise for this oversight.

Sr. Mary Patrick has a video explaining how Icons are produced and the meanings within them. This will be publicised in the Newsletter.

? Fay has discovered an old photo of Holy Ghost Cub Scouts and would like to have this enlarged and do a "Where are they now?" exercise with this.

? It was suggested that there be a screening of Sr. Paddy's video and Fr. Leslie's ordination DVD to mark Vocation Sunday (29<sup>th</sup> April).

? Colin suggested that a library facility for Religious books should be set up. This provoked a discussion on where this could be established. There is no space in the Repository but maybe one of the storage cupboards could be equipped with shelving to accommodate this. This could also provide a home for the eight boxes of Fr. Maurice's theological books. This item is to remain on the agenda.

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 8pm in St. Bede's meeting room.