

MEETING MINUTES OF HOLY GHOST PPC

Attending: Colin Davidson
Stephen Flitcroft
Alison Ford
Mgr. Vincent Harvey
Richard Luker
Brian Morris
Sr. Mary Patrick
Tony Spiteri

Apologies: Deacon Leslie Adams
Pat Ralph
Fay Redmond

Date: Thursday 18th January 2007

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The meeting opened with prayer and reflection on the Gospel reading for this coming Sunday.

1. MATTERS ARISING

(a) CAFOD

There is to be a meeting tomorrow (19th Jan), with Sean Hayes the Diocesan Surveyor, to pursue the matter of the Burgess Road Hall letting.

(b) Justice & Peace

The next meeting of this group will be on Monday 22nd January and they are planning an event in conjunction with Bishop Challoner School to be held in February. The group have several ideas in the pipeline. They are looking at whether they should follow the Diocesan ideas or use these as facilitative rather than directive. Andover also has a fairly active group with which they are already in contact. Veronica Taylor is planning to reinstate the CAFOD lunches during Lent and the group also want to talk again about the Kenyan missionaries. Mgr Vincent has made dates available for these.

(c) Cell Groups

Dates for Readers Meetings

Mgr. Vincent will propose some dates for a Readers meeting that will be part training & part social. It was considered that there may be a meeting before appointing a Co-ordinator. (Action VH)

Co-ordinator for Readers Meetings

This role would involve contacting the readers to arrange a couple of meetings per year. Minnie Greayer will be consulted on this. (Action SF)

Training

A similar facility could also be set up for the Eucharistic Ministers and it was pointed out that a number of these are also Readers.

Paul Inwood could be approached to offer a training session and this could also be utilised by the entire LPA not just the Holy Ghost parish.

Food Bank- Andover

A food bank has been in operation in Andover for over a year now and is going extremely well. The operation involves a large group of parishioners who collate food parcels for people who have been referred to them (usually by Social Services).

They wonder whether our parish would be interested in learning more about this project. (Action VH & SF)

(d) Ethnic Communities

Outreach to the Polish community

Steve has met with both Barbara Birt and Mgr. Vincent to discuss this. The 11am Mass on Sunday 4th February is to be followed by a social gathering in the Hall for this group to meet up. The newsletter of 21st Jan. will contain an article about this in Polish.

There is a tradition in Poland that people take home candles for the day on the Feast of the Presentation (2nd Feb). Mgr Vincent will bless candles on Candlemas Day and these will be available to the Polish Community on 4th.

He will also inform his contact on Basingstoke Council about this event, since they have identified the Polish community as the ethnic group most struggling to integrate.

(Action VH)

Several parishioners have shown a willingness to get involved with this group. There is also a need for translators to provide pertinent notices in the relevant languages, in the newsletter, for the other ethnic communities within the parish.

2. STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship has already been introduced in some parishes. The aim is to endeavour to broaden the idea of giving. It is not simply about money but also about the giving of time & of talents. The basis is that these have been loaned to individuals so how are they to utilise them. It touches on the concepts of Cell Groups and of Justice & Peace and also ties in with the LPA. There is additionally an environmental dimension to this concept.

When people become involved in various jobs throughout the Parish, this frees up the clergy to concentrate on their Sacramental ministry.

A Diocesan representative has attended a conference on the subject in the USA, where the concept of stewardship is highly thought of.

Mgr. Vincent will endeavour to get in touch with a contact who could give us some ideas on which to build.

(Action VH)

3. LARGER PASTORAL AREAS

The third meeting of the LPA will take place on 27th January with Steve & Mgr.

Vincent in attendance. The group are still feeling their way about what they would like the LPA to look like in five and in ten years time. They are also starting to look at how they would like to get there. Views were invited from the PPC about what we want from the LPA. It was pointed out that the Cell Groups are feeding the LPA concept from the bottom up.

The parish web site now has a page featuring all the Mass times throughout the LPA and will be expanded to include more information about the LPA, which currently has no web site of its own. The web site connection will be put in the newsletter.

It was proposed that the Mass times in the LPA be featured on the St. Bedes' notice board. A leaflet is to be published with maps & other relevant information.

The Jersey LPA is very successful, but has been in operation now for ten years. It also employs lay Pastoral Assistants.

It was suggested that our parish highlights, at the meeting, our efforts to integrate ethnic groups and also raises the issue of areas of need & deprivation. In Basingstoke these would be Popley and South Ham. Interestingly, the churches of St. Bede & St. Joseph are right in the middle of both these areas. Additionally, we could have lessons for the establishment of the LPA that we have learned from the setting up of

St. Bedes' church and the dissolving of the Mass centres. This has resulted in some people being lost to other parishes.

4. LESLIE ADAMS

How to make best use of Fr. Leslie after his ordination

Following his Ordination, it is anticipated that Leslie will remain in the parish until Sept/Oct. He will be an extra resource with which various initiatives could be kick-started. Possible ways to utilise him:

- *He could be put on the rota for the hospital chaplaincy.
- *Provide cover for Mgr. Vincent's holiday
- *Allow him to take on the role of chaplain to the Knights of St. Columba.
- *Give him responsibility for the Pentecost Novena.
- *Enable more regular Masses to be held at the Holy Ghost church e.g. Saturday morning, Wednesday evening and Monday.
- *Extra weekday Masses during Lent
- *Stations of the Cross during Lent
- * A resumption of a Mass in the convent (not necessarily on a Friday)

He is keen on visiting, so has been given the details of the housebound of the parish.

5. PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

It was announced that John Botting is to retire and his replacement is needed.

The role of Administrator concerns the management of the buildings and everything to do with them. It also administers the paid employees. Further, it involves working with the Diocese

Ideally, John's replacement would have a background in engineering and in facilities management. Mgr. Vincent would welcome any suggestions for candidates for the role and he will look on the parish database. (Action VH)

6. ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

The fact that the PPC minutes are published in full on the parish web-site will be promoted, together with the web address.

At the January meeting, the PPC discussed among other topics,

- *The concept of Stewardship.
- *Outreach to ethnic communities and the publication of pertinent announcements & events in their native language.
- *Dates for training and meetings of Readers.
- *Issues for the Parish with respect to the LPA.
- *Utilisation of Leslie Adams following his ordination.

7. A.O.B.

?It was proposed that someone from each group, such as cleaners, counters, gardeners, flower arrangers etc. should make their own appeals at Masses so as to recruit more volunteers to these ministries. There was a large response to Mgr. Vincent's call for parishioners to become involved with the Children's Liturgy. It was agreed that a window of opportunity exists whilst the church is still new which should be exploited while it lasts.

?There has been some feedback from parishioners with regard to the Stations of the Cross at St. Bedes' church. This concerns the fact that they are in a strip along one wall rather than traditionally around the church. Also, the script has a small letter "h"

when the word “his” refers to Jesus. The Stations are an ongoing topic that will be returned to at a later date.

?An Icon of Our Lady of Divine Providence is to be presented by Sister Mary Patrick to the Parish. The Icon has been painted by a sister in France. It will be blessed on 4th February and then hung on a wall of the church. A large candle will be positioned on a plinth to draw attention to it. When the statue arrives for the Lady Chapel, it may be moved onto a plinth. Sr. Mary Patrick hopes the Icon will stimulate prayer.

?There have been several complaints that the Sacrament House is too low (however, this is how it was intended by the artist)

?During distribution of the Eucharist, there is still confusion despite guidelines and “crowd control” measures being suggested.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 15th February 2007 at 8pm at St. Bede’s meeting room