

# MEETING MINUTES OF HOLY GHOST PPC

Attending: Pat Ralph  
Fay Redmond  
Alison Ford  
Mgr. Vincent Harvey  
Sr. Mary Patrick  
Tony Spiteri

Apologies: Fr. Leslie Adams  
Richard Luker  
Brian Morris  
Stephen Flitcroft  
Colin Davidson

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

**Chair:** Tony Spiteri

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The meeting opened with prayer and reflection.

## 1. MATTERS ARISING

### (a) CAFOD

#### i) *Planning application for the Burgess Road Hall*

It has been returned to the borough. The architect who is dealing with the alterations in the old Presbytery, feels it may be possible to obtain permission through alternative basis. He is liaising with a Professional Planning Consultant in Newbury.

#### ii) *Alternative use for the hall*

Ruth Bentall, who is involved in a project to start a Day Centre for the homeless, has formally approached Fr. Vincent about using the hall for this purpose. Fr. Vincent has responded, saying the Parish has already made a verbal promise to CAFOD but also pointing out that there are not adequate personal hygiene facilities.

### (b) Justice & Peace

Tony and Sr. Mary Patrick gave feedback from the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February. There was a speaker from a pilot stewardship project who explained the central ideas of recognising and using talents. They did an anonymous audit, asking everybody what they thought they were already good and what talents they wanted to gain. This represented a commitment to the wider community and a celebration of talents. Several people have offered help to parishes with this initiative.

Sr. Ann David has similarly offered to come and do a workshop on alternative forms of prayer, which could form the basis of an evening session of meditation. The day finished with an African style Mass in St. Joseph's.

There will be a diocesan day event on 28<sup>th</sup> April, when stewardship will be discussed in more detail, and this should help increase its momentum within the Parish. The core of the Justice and Peace group has said they will be attending, but more Parishioners need to be identified to go to this event.

### (c) Cell Groups

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

Stephen has mentioned this to Minnie Greayer, to see if there is anyone she can identify for the post.

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

Two dates have been identified in May to train the few new Eucharistic Ministers that have come forward.

Fr. Vincent has been in contact with Paul Inwood, who has told him to speak to Paul Connolly about training readers. As Paul Connolly is part of St. Joseph's Parish, it has been suggested that this should be a Pastoral Area issue. Fr. Vincent needs to contact Paul Connolly. (Action VH)

*iii) Food Bank*

There has been a generally positive response from Basingstoke Voluntary Services about this concept. Fr. Vincent still needs to respond to them, though. (Action VH)

**(d) Ethnic Communities**

The three main groups are the Filipinos, the Poles and the Indians. The Filipinos appear to be happy to be at Mass, and do not seem to want a great deal more. They lead the music at Mass once every six weeks or so, and have recently decided to provide food after these Masses as well.

The Indians are already an active community as well, with them doing their Stations of the Cross on a Friday Evening. Last Sunday's Indian Prayer meeting was very successful, and they were joined by a visiting Indian Bishop. They have a Mass said in their native tongue, once every five weeks or so, and they see this as an extra rather than instead of the English Mass.

The Poles are beginning to integrate, with the readings and reflections in Polish now being taken. The Parish contact at the council has identified an English teacher for them, but there is some concern that it should be going through BCOT. The diocese is trying to identify a Polish Priest to come and say Mass in this area once every two months. Due to their differences in culture, the Poles are naturally very reserved, and not used to engaging with the priest after Mass. Fr. Vincent is trying to connect with them. The concern was raised about Polish families falling between their Parish and St. Bede's School, and therefore this issue will be discussed at the next Pastoral Area meeting. There is a feeling, however, that the Poles are being welcomed into the community and that there is movement in the right direction.

The possibility of having Bidding Prayers in the three different languages was mooted, but there were a number of concerns. It may increase segregation, as well as leaving out any other communities who join the Parish in the future. Similarly, it may provoke a negative reaction from other ethnicities, who felt that this never happened for them.

**(e) Religious Library**

Fr. Maurice's books are all still at Holy Ghost, and will only be moved when a location has been identified to avoid clutter in the new complex. Shelves for the store cupboard in the Parish Hall are being researched, but there must be space for the books to be seen. There is space in the L-shaped meeting room, with both wall shelves and freestanding bookshelves being discussed. The repository and the library must not be allowed to mix, but the library books could be made available more of the time and provide an alternative focus point. A librarian needs to be found. It is going to be advertised in the newsletter, but booklovers may also be recognised through the stewardship audit.

**2. NORTHWEST HAMPSHIRE PASTORAL AREA**

*i) Issues for next meeting*

- Polish communities – this has been discussed previously, but feedback could be given.

- Stewardship – The meeting from the 17<sup>th</sup> February will provide the focus, but there will also be an attempt to put the various existing groups in the area in contact with each other, to provide support and ideas.
- Food Bank – report back to Andover in particular, about progress on this project.
- Diocesan Anniversary – our area’s submission (see below)

*ii) Bishop’s request*

Bishop Crispin has requested some visual representation of this area to mark the anniversary of the diocese, with examples such as a collage or painting. It was suggested that our area obtained a map from a website such as Google Maps to cut out and submit. This will be suggested at the next Pastoral Area meeting.

**(Action VH)**

*iii) New Parish representative*

The Chairperson of the new PPC will need to take over Stephen’s responsibilities at these meetings. It entails approximately two hours every six weeks.

### **3. PPC ELECTIONS**

There have been no official nominations to date! Fr. Vincent will emphasize the elections and the need for candidates at Mass. The names of those members stepping down and those who are remaining are being published in the newsletter on the 18<sup>th</sup> March.

### **4. PARISH CENSUS**

This was to find out if it was seen as necessary at the moment. The last one was done five or six years ago, but the question was raised in relation to the move to the new church. It was felt it was a bit similar to the stewardship audit, although that was anonymous. It was felt that if the audit was done a list of possible talents should be provided as a guide. This item is being held until after the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April when hopefully, there will be more details available.

### **5. NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

Items for the newsletter :

- Stewardship
- Ethnic communities
- Pastoral Area meeting issues
- PPC elections
- Dedication – highlight date again

**(Action VH)**

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

*i) Dedication*

There are still regular meetings about this.

*ii) Parishioner’s letter*

A letter was written identifying some problems:

- Possibility that not all lift sharing to the new church is working as well as it could. It identifies Dial-a-ride as possible transports and asks if it should be highlighted to Parishioners.
- Wondered if, to help alleviate parking, the land behind the church could be purchased for more car parking. This land is actually the school playing fields so this is not possible. Fr. Vincent has counted around 120

cars on site at the 9am Mass, so it seems as though there is efficient parking at the moment anyway.

- Due to the amount of noise in the church, signs outside the church asking for silence were suggested. This is a known concern, and Fr. Vincent is trying to help this by speaking before Mass on occasions. He focuses on the Readings and the Gospel. It is hoped that this will develop into a reader's task and thus represent the community asking for reflection before Mass. The concern about this is the need to script this, when it often sounds the best when it is improvised. Children's Liturgy will shortly begin which will help, but it is thought best to gently persist with getting a quieter church.
- Young people have been seen climbing over the fences and hiding behind cars on site. Higher fences were suggested in the letter, but it was decided that this actually reduces security as once someone is on site, they then cannot be seen. In an associated matter raised by Fr. Vincent, more young people use the school playground at the weekend for skateboarding. Fr. Vincent has made himself known to them and is aware of their presence, but it was thought they should not be alienated whilst they do no damage. Fr. Vincent will mention this to the school, however. Due to the lack of facilities in Popley, Fr. Vincent will also talk to a local councillor about the matter. (Action VH)

*iii)* It was requested that disabled badges were displayed in cars parking in the disabled spaces. Fr. Vincent agreed to put this in the newsletter. (Action VH)

*iii)* A few matters relating to the complex were raised. At night, parts of the car park are very dark and there is a kerb near the main door which can be a tripping hazard. Also, the doors in the complex are too heavy for some.

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

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 8pm in St. Bede's meeting room. N.B. This is not the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.

This will be the final meeting for the current PPC.