

MEETING MINUTES OF HOLY GHOST PPC

Attending: Stephen Flitcroft
Richard Luker
Brian Morris
Pat Ralph
Tony Spiteri

Apologies: Colin Davidson
Alison Ford
Fr. Vincent Harvey
Fr. Paul Lyons
Sr. Mary Patrick
Fay Redmond
Vina Tamares

Date: Thursday 20th April 2006

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The meeting began with the Gospel reading from St. John for this coming Sunday.
The minutes of the previous meeting were amended to correct the date to March 2006.

1. Matters Arising

(a) Transition to St. Bede's

i) Reaction to Mass times Comment Newsletter.

It appears that there are a number of half-truths & misconceptions going around. The Winklebury community in particular are aggrieved at the loss of what they perceive to be "their" Saturday evening Mass.

A number of people are reluctant to accept lifts

There is a degree of resistance to attending Mass at St. Josephs.

There is a perception that the new church "belongs" to the existing St. Bede's community.

Some suggestions to address these concerns were:

- a) make public an example of Fr. Vincent's workload so as to underline the necessity of the changes that have been proposed.
- b) have a phased withdrawal of the Mass Centres.
- c) publish a plan of the layout of St. Bede's church & car park.

ii) Transport issues at St. Bede's.

It is suggested that there be a central co-ordinator to deal with transport issues and additionally, a number of area co-ordinators. The central co-ordinator would be a permanent position whereas local co-ordinators could ultimately become unnecessary. The advantage of these would be that they will have better knowledge of their local areas. If the areas were geographical rather than related to current Mass Centres this would help to break down the "Mass Centre mentality"

Volunteers will be required and if these are not forthcoming then possible candidates could be identified & approached. Judith Aylmer has already volunteered to act as co-ordinator for the Winklebury area.

At Sheffield there is a suggestion that cars could wait outside the current Mass Centre and anyone requiring a lift could be accommodated in these.

The major difficulty in all of this is that currently many people have yet to decide which Mass they will be attending.

iii) Further issues from the Mass Time Comment Newsletter.

The question of the future use of the Holy Ghost church.

What style the various Masses will take (although the music groups have been meeting, no decisions have yet been reached).

As the date of the Blessing ceremony approaches there are still many unknowns regarding the ceremony itself, who will be able to attend and what facilities will be available.

(Action: SF to collate info for St. Bede's Newsletter & e-mail to PPC members.)

(b) Ministries.

i) Letter to Ministers.

The letters have been completed & signed. They are now ready to distribute to all servers, Eucharistic ministers, readers, etc. To back up the letter an announcement will be made at all Masses in case any one has been missed.

ii) "Non-pastoral" roles at St. Bede's

Groups such as cleaners, flower arrangers, etc are not included in this letter.

The New Church Group will be approached to determine what roles will need filling: e.g. alarm key holders, hall lettings, gardening, cleaning, responsibility for heating, lighting and amplification systems and sacristy.

Some current roles will continue at the Holy Ghost church and some will be required at both sites.

(Action VH)

Many of these roles, whilst being non-pastoral themselves, are vital to support the pastoral roles. Again, volunteers and suggestions for suitable people to carry out these roles are required.

(Action: SF to e-mail PPC members when these roles are identified, to request names) This will then be put out to the parish for their suggestions.

The Chair of the New Church Group has approached the PPC about the possibility of a joint meeting, on Tue. 9th May, to discuss issues related to the transition to St. Bede's. It was agreed that this should occur and any PPC member available was invited to attend.

(c) New Church Project Update.

June 23rd is still the official date for completion of St. Bede's but the architect is still sceptical of this!

There is a possibility that as many as a few hundred people may be able to be accommodated at the Blessing ceremony on May 25th but this is still uncertain.

(d) Justice & Peace.

There are no new updates on this but the Lenten Lunches have been very successful and so far over £1250 has been raised.

(e) Cell Groups Update.

There were no developments to report on the Cell Groups.

(f) PPC Suggestion Box

Nothing has been received in this.

(g) "Go Out & Bear Fruit"- Update

i) Parish Meetings Update.

Two meetings were held which were attended by a total of just seven people! This compared with 28 at St. Josephs and 20 (10% of their Mass population) at Hook. Was this due to general apathy, A perception that it is just a "rubber stamp" exercise (which is definitely NOT the case), or is it that the events surrounding St. Bede's church are paralleling the situation in the Diocese and our parish is more concerned with the New church issues?

ii)Response on LPA's.

Our parish has been able to submit 4 responses: from the PPC; the two public meetings; the Filipino group & the Knights of St. Columba.

The issues raised at the meetings were basically the same as had been raised during the PPC discussions on the subject.

iii)Priests Meeting on LPA's

The priests of the Deanery have discussed the idea of a Central Pastoral Team, a sort of "super PPC". Eight lay people would be identified from each parish, i.e.32 in total, who would then be trained. Each parish would then choose four people, giving a team of sixteen. Initially the individual PPC's would continue (currently only 2 operate in the 4 parishes of the Deanery) but eventually they would be superseded.

There are issues to be decided about how the 4 from each parish would be chosen.

2. Newsletter Items

a) The March minutes of the PPC will be sent to Pat Vincent and the current PPC statement dated January 2004 will be removed. **(Action SF)**

Newsletter items will be; i) The transition to St. Bede's

ii) Update on the LPA responses

3. Date of Next Meeting;

Thursday 18th May 2006 at 8pm.in the Presbytery

(N.B. Meeting with the New Church Group on Tuesday 9th May at 7.00pm in the Church Hall)