

MEETING MINUTES OF HOLY GHOST PPC

Attending: Deacon Leslie Adam
Colin Davidson
Stephen Flitcroft
Alison Ford
Mgr. Vincent Harvey
Brian Morris
Pat Ralph
Tony Spiteri

Apologies: Richard Luker
Fay Redmond
Sr. Mary Patrick

Date: Thursday 21st December 2006

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

1. MATTERS ARISING

(a) CAFOD

Following the rejection of planning permission for CAFOD to use the Burgess Road hall on the grounds of a loss of local facility, the parish appealed the decision. It was pointed out that the Borough only used the hall about three times per year and that there were acceptable alternative venues available. Further, it was emphasised that if the building was left vacant then it would deteriorate.

However, it appears now that there was a misunderstanding, and our next step should not have been to appeal, but to re-apply emphasising that the building has been advertised for use with little success. This has now been done, but in the meantime CAFOD has been looking for alternative sites.

(b) Justice & Peace

The group wants to capitalise on the success of its recent campaign about the conditions under which gold is mined. It is looking at events to raise peoples' awareness of the raison d'être for a J&P group. There is already a good contact with the St. Joseph's representative and the group is looking to link up also with contacts from Hook, Andover & Tadley so as to communicate with them even if they do not get involved.

There has been some concern about different approaches from CAFOD and the J&P group to certain issues. It is felt that the group's role should be to raise awareness of issues and leave people to think for themselves about them.

The Justice & Peace group now aims to set an agenda to push itself forward.

(Action TS)

(c) Cell Groups

Natural groups, such as readers & those in other ministries, already exist within the parish. It is felt that such groups should meet up for "bonding" sessions. The facilities available at St. Bede's can offer support to such groups.

The role of the former SVP group has been taken over by St. Josephs.

It was proposed that dates be set aside, in the near future, on which these natural groups could meet up on a part social / part business basis.

It was also agreed to find a co-ordinator who would be prepared to organise a meeting of Readers, perhaps twice a year.

There is a need for more Eucharistic Ministers and Welcomers.

(d) Ethnic Communities

It was suggested that a social event, in conjunction with a Mass, be organised for the Polish, Czech and Indian communities.

There is more than one Filipino community.

At the moment the Syro- Malabar group have their own monthly Mass.

The long term aim would be to involve all the communities in a Mass with their own cultural involvement.

The Polish community in particular has been identified by Basingstoke Council as having problems integrating and some funding could be available to facilitate this.

In the past, the PPC & various Parish representatives had met with the Filipinos.

Could this be repeated, and with other communities?

Another idea was to recognise the National Day or some such significant date in the calendar for each community.

It was agreed that notices in the relevant languages should be included in the Newsletter for pertinent items.

Fr.Vincent would approach various contacts with regard to this and an item would be placed in the newsletter asking for translators to identify themselves.

(Action VH & SF)

2. LARGER PASTORAL AREAS

i).Name for the area

The majority voted for “North-West Hampshire” as the name for our area.

ii). Stewardship

Nothing has been started on this yet.

iii).LPA Meeting Update

There is a need to prioritise issues and to investigate how the area will look in the next 5 years. Communication needs to improve both between and within parishes.

The next meeting will be held in Andover in January.

3. NEWSLETTER ITEMS

The minutes of the November meeting will be posted on the Parish web-site.

4. A.O.B.

There was a request about setting up a receptacle for food parcels to be donated to May Place. Fr. Vincent is to contact May Place to check whether this is viable.

(Action VH)

5. ST. BEDES'

Issues that have arisen:

Kneelers: there are problems with finding them and re-stowing them.

Holy Communion: distribution to the disabled and those with limited mobility is challenging as not all these people want to sit in the front pews. This will be taken to the PNG meeting. (Action BM)

There are also logistical problems of distribution with people pushing & colliding with each other.

Accommodation: The pews will accommodate twelve, but often people will not move to facilitate full occupancy.

Hosts into the Ciborium: Circumstances allowed this to happen only once, but the habit has been erroneously adopted by some.

Sacrament House: Many feel that this should be raised on a plinth because it is felt that the "Burning Bush" is too low. However this is how the artist intended it: emerging from the ground.

Setting the scene for Mass: Noise disturbance from talking and from children has been highlighted. Five minutes before Mass commences, Fr Vincent will welcome the congregation and initiate a period of reflection /silence.

It was proposed that Mass books and others with a religious theme be provided for children on entering the church. Similar schemes have worked well at Old Basing & Sherfield. This would hold their interest and keep them occupied and would likely reduce any disturbance they might cause.

An appeal for parishioners to donate such books for this purpose will be launched in the Newsletter.

However it was recognised that some of the ethnic communities do not have a problem with regard to children's behaviour at Mass. For them, it is the experience of being there that is important.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 18th January 2007 at 8pm at St. Bede's meeting room