

MEETING MINUTES OF HOLY GHOST PPC

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

Apologies: Fr. Paul Lyons

Date: Thursday 16th March 2006

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The minutes of the previous meeting were amended to include Joy Murphy as one of the representatives of the Mass centres present at the February meeting.

1. Matters Arising

(a) Transition to St. Bede's.

It appears that insufficient information is being released about the move to St. Bede's. However it was suggested that such information could be & should be put onto the Parish web-site. It was further suggested that the PPC minutes should also be published on the web-site, as they don't involve anything confidential. Pat Vincent will be contacted so as to implement this and the February minutes will be e-mailed to her.

(Action VH,SF,CD)

A hand-out is to be collated for information to be put out.

(Action SF)

(b) Ministries.

Father Vincent & Steve have met up & drafted a letter to all Ministers involved in the Mass. In case some are missed out there will also be a note published in the newsletter. The question of other ministries (e.g. flowers, cleaning) has yet to be addressed.

(c) New Church Project Update.

The latest date for completion of St. Bede's has now been set as 23rd June.

Fr. Vincent will be on his own in the parish by 30th June.

The blessing of St. Bede's by Bishop Crispian will still take place on 25th May but there will need to be restrictions on the numbers attending. Those who should be there include the New Church Group, PPC, & Mass Centre Representatives but actual numbers can only be decided a couple of weeks beforehand when Health & Safety limits can be ascertained. The Order of Service has already been planned but may well need some last minute revision.

(d) PPC Suggestion Box.

Nothing new has been received.

(e) Justice & Peace.

Veronicas lay missionaries are going well, as are the Lenten Lunches

(f) Cell Groups Update.

Cell Groups are being kept under review. They ought to be of use with the implementation of St. Bede's but such a role has yet to be determined.

(g) Mass time Questionnaire comments response.

Once the logo has been added a document will be issued on the week-end of 25th/26th March. This will incorporate a tear-off slip on which further comments can be made. Parishioners will also be directed to make comments to PPC members, the office, or the web-site. There will be a short introduction to the document delivered by PPC members at all Masses that weekend. (Volunteers recruited!). Fr. Vincent will e-mail the logo to Steve who will compose an introductory speech. **(Action VH, SF)**

Tony suggested a need for a good quality printer – this will be addressed when the move to St. Bede's takes place.

2. “Go Out and Bear Fruit” – Larger Pastoral Areas.

There are to be two open sessions for parishioners: the first, hosted by Fr. Vincent, will be held after Mass on Tuesday 28th March. The second, led by Steve will be held in the evening of Thursday 30th March. There had been quite a poor turnout to the last meeting. **(Action VH, SF)**

Yesterday (15th March) the Bishop had met with the clergy, amongst whom there was a degree of fear & angst because of the unknowns. Bishop Crispian had stressed the need to be optimistic, realistic and a people of hope.

The Diocese expects to have 70 active priests in 10 years time.

One fear was that the LPA's were being introduced under the pretext of collaborative ministry when in fact it was to do with the reduction in clergy. The Bishop acknowledged that the lack of clergy was pushing the idea but stressed that behind it were the principles of Vatican 2.

The working party has read everything that was submitted and has endeavoured to assimilate it all

It has been suggested that our area will largely stay as it is, but with Hartley Wintney being lost to another area.

The results of our Parish discussions will go to Winchester before a final plan is produced. Portsmouth, for example, are arguing against the current suggestions. Andover are pushing for the eastern end of their parish to be moved into the Basingstoke area. Thus the process is a genuine consultation and current suggestions may well change. The only fixed boundary is that of the Diocese.

In the past, parish boundaries were adjusted simply by agreement between priests- there was no consultation with parishioners.

Before discussing the LPA Document, Ali read a Gospel passage from it and there was then a period of reflection before Fay re-read the passage.

The group looked at Hopes & Fears raised by the document. Hopes were that it would foster a greater sense of the wider Church. Fears were that the process may pass us by if there is little change for us, we would be focussing more on our new church. There was also the fear of the unknown- no-one knows how individuals

would be affected by the changes. However there were no major fears; it was felt that the consolidation within our own parish reflected a mini version of what was going on in the Diocese.

A SWOT analysis was conducted of our parish:

Strengths: Holy Ghost Parish was growing, solidly established and has a well established Parish Priest who is held in high esteem. Because of the Mass centres there are a large number of lay leaders. Lay participation is strong in the parish. Father Vincent's encouragement of the laity, his people skills and approachability encourage strong bonds between parishioners.

Weaknesses: The Mass centres divide the Parish community, thus many parishioners are unknown to each other because of this fragmentation. We are perceived as cold in terms of welcoming new people. The distance between church and school makes for difficulties.

Opportunities: There will be a larger catchment area for initiatives such as Justice & Peace. For the clergy there will be more opportunity for them to grow closer together. In areas where clergy have held a weekly 1hr meeting to discuss scripture & the coming weeks' readings this has strengthened them. Resources could be shared e.g. Laity willing to minister, such as catechists, would not be restricted to one parish.

Threats: Holy Ghost & St. Josephs parishes could become a core, leading to the isolation of Tadley & Hook. There could be negative vibes & different reactions from current parishes & lay groups with shared responsibilities. Other parishes (e.g. Tadley & Hook) could perceive us to be subversive: a threat to them because of our size. They may fear having to move towards us.

There remains a question of when Fr. Danny (already 78) will retire. If he is not replaced then that community will be affected & the Hook parishioners will need to be accommodated.

In our locality there is already considerable cross over with St. Josephs including good contact between the parish secretaries. Also, because of the hospital & Bishop Challoner school we already have connections with the other communities.

There was a suggestion that our parishioners could attend Mass & make themselves known in the other parishes as a means of breaking down barriers and even that Parish Priests could say Mass from time to time in each others parishes.

An e-mail has circulated claiming that Central funding for the Diocese will be launched. This was renounced by the clergy at yesterdays meeting. The Bishop expects that it would be at least 3 years before new LPA's bed down. It is not thought likely that all the parishes in a LPA would end up with one finance account.

Hartley Wintney could return to be incorporated with Fleet.

The Whitchurch area (currently with only 2 Masses per month) could move into Tadley. This would make geographic sense but would raise problems of how the area would be serviced.

Once St. Bede's has been completed there are currently no plans to move Fr. Vincent.

3. Newsletter Items.

These are to be:

- 1) Discussion of issues raised in the meeting with Mass Centre reps.
- 2) Discussion on the LPA's.

4. A.O.B.

Sr.Paddy raised the issue of strengthening the Eucharistic Adoration day. There has been more commitment to this from parishioners.

If those "committed" used the front pews then they could be identified by others. However, from a security aspect it may be preferable to use the rear of the church. This item will be held over.

Fr. Vincent will be looking for volunteers for the Washing of Feet on Maundy Thursday. **(Action VH)**

5. Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 20th April 2006 at 8pm.