

MEETING MINUTES OF HOLY GHOST PPC

Attending: Stephen Flitcroft
Alison Ford
Brian Morris
Sr. Mary Patrick
Pat Ralph
Tony Spiteri

Apologies: Colin Davidson
Fr. Vincent Harvey
Richard Luker
Fay Redmond
Vina Tamares

Date: Thursday 21st September 2006

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1. St Bede's Site Committee

Members of this Committee, (Mick Gee, Frank Hynes, Andy Sawko, & Graham Seymour) attended to meet the PPC & to spend a few minutes discussing the possible handover date of the new church and the issues which might delay it.

Then the meeting proceeded with reflection on the coming Sunday's Gospel reading, and prayer.

2. Matters Arising

(a) Transition to St. Bede's

i) Transport

Geoff Fowler has been undertaking the role of Central Co-ordinator. The scheme is progressing well but there are still a few requirements for lifts yet to be met. A more specific requirement will be published in future newsletters.

ii) Ministries

Readers: Several dates have been proposed for familiarisation sessions but these depend on the state of St. Bede's church.

Welcomers: Nothing has been organised so far.

Children's Liturgy: Currently this is operating in both Popley & Sherfield. There is to be a meeting of everyone involved on Friday 22nd September.

Music Groups: These have now basically agreed how they will operate in St. Bede's.

iii) Non pastoral roles

The Site Committee now have responsibility for these. The issue of cleaners and a few other roles, such as gardening are still to be sorted out.

(b) New Church Update

i) The handover date has *still* to be confirmed. Much will depend on the meeting to be held on 22nd September.

The transfer to the new presbytery is on hold – there have been a few problems with this building too.

Similarly, the date of the first Mass is also on hold.

The Dedication is still scheduled for 2nd December 2006. A small group comprising Christine Young, Mary Huntley, Minnie Greayer, Steve Flitcroft & Fr. Vincent are looking after this.

ii) CAFOD have agreed to lease the Burgess Road Hall at a commercial rate from October. There have been no issues regarding planning permission.

(c) Justice & Peace

At their meeting, it was decided to hold an event for the Family Fast Day in October. The theme will be “Fair Trade in Gold”, with signed cards being sent out to Mining Companies rather than to retailers as these can’t always ascertain the source of their gold. Bishop Challoners’ CAFOD rep., Virginia O’Kelly is also planning an event for the school which is still in the discussion stage.

The next meeting of the J&P group is scheduled at the end of September.

(d) Cell Groups Update.

Currently there are no new developments. Nothing more is expected to happen until the move to St. Bede’s has been accomplished.

(e) PPC Suggestion Box

Nothing has been received in this. There was a suggestion that after moving into St. Bede’s we should look at a different name for this facility.

3. Larger Pastoral Areas

There is to be a meeting on 28th October with Fr. Vincent as Co-ordinating Pastor. This meeting will involve all the clergy of the LPA & probably Deacons, together with the chair of both the Hook & the Holy Ghost PPC’s.

Clergy training days will be held in Oct/Nov. & subsequently there will also be training days for the laity.

It is expected that there will be 8-10 lay posts on an LPA Committee. The current idea is to train a pool of people from which to fill these positions.

The PPC looked at some of the issues that could be raised at the 28th October meeting. These included:

- ensuring that Sunday Mass is accessible to as many people as possible.
- the support of priests in their Ministry.
- supporting the identity of Mass centres.
- ensuring the growth of hospital/prison lay teams.
- more effective catechesis.
- pastoral care for the sick, elderly & housebound.
- sharing of gifts, talents & expertise
- developing individuals’ leadership skills.
- stewardship of people & buildings.
- ecumenical dialogue.
- evangelisation and involvement in the local community.
- welcome to all in the community

Eventually, it is anticipated that the PPC would disappear, to be replaced by an LPA Group which would be akin to the DPC.

Neither financial co-ordination nor the co-ordination of Pastoral Ministry would be looked at in the short or medium term.

There was concern whether the LPA would have the ability to focus in on particular needs of individual parishes. If a need was identified then this could generate local groups.

Another concern was that if the priest represented the local parish, would this preclude lay activity. Conversely, with lay involvement would this by-pass the clergy?

Further issues included how to find, and who will appoint, suitable laity (especially in a parish without a PPC).

Additionally, would the clergy need to agree terms of reference for the LPA in advance? If so, should this also include recriminations/punishments?

The final issue was to ensure that the LPA was properly implemented across the entire area and that all local interests were included.

4. Newsletter Items

Minutes for the July meeting were not available due to “technical problems”.

Larger Pastoral Areas

St. Bede’s church update.

Discussion with the Site Committee.

5. A.O.B.

Brian reported that he had attended Mass in the USA recently where immediately before Mass began a member of their PPC equivalent had welcomed the congregation and introduced himself, the Celebrant and the Readings. Then he explained their tradition of introducing themselves to each other. Thereupon, the congregation were encouraged to turn to their neighbours and exchange names and where they were from.(in a “Sign of Peace” style). Could we adapt this idea for when we move to St. Bede’s, even if only for a short period, as a way of getting to know each other better and of forging one community. Also, would it be a way of putting faces to the names of the PPC members and possibly of other posts within the parish.

6. Date of Next Meeting;

Thursday 19th October 2006 at 8pm. still in the Presbytery!