

ST MARY'S WOOLHAMPTON PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 20th November 2008

Present: Niki Bhamra, Joanna Harrison (chair), Barbara Jones, Sean Murphy, Paul Paniccia, Annalisa Webb.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Fr. Benedict, Sandra Brewster, Kate Burke, GERALYN COLLINS, Tom Huelin.

2. The meeting opened with prayer

3. **The minutes of the previous** meeting were approved as a true account of the proceedings.

4. Matters Arising

A comment received from Burghfield regarding appointment of new members for the PPC suggested that the proposed selection of one name from a list of three submitted by the community would result in disappointment by the two not selected. This could be avoided by the appointment of new members by the parish priest without recourse to the church committee. If the nominated individual was not on the local committee they would automatically become a member in order that a channel of communication would be maintained between the respective bodies.

The observation was made that whatever method of selection was used it would be difficult to select willing individuals against a background of low level of commitment and contemporary patterns of life. It was agreed that further discussion was needed by the PPC to resolve the issue. **Action: All PPC members**

5. Formulation of Verbal Communication to the Church Communities

The following statement was composed to be communicated on the weekend of 29th/30th November 2008:

The Pastoral Council has been considering how the parish can mark the Year of St. Paul called by Pope Benedict to celebrate the 2000th year of the apostle's birth. There is a proposal to arrange a parish pilgrimage to Rome, possibly over one of the Bank Holiday weekends in May 2009. It would be helpful if those interested in participating could inform one of the local Pastoral Council representatives before its next meeting on 10th December when the matter will be discussed in more detail.

There will be an Advent Reconciliation service for young people and their families on 6th December at St. Luke's, Theale.

6. Review of Actions from the last meeting

- a) The Council was unaware of any names being proposed as new members for the PPC from the beginning of 2009. It was felt that a notice in the bulletin about the PPC was needed to increase its awareness amongst parishioners.
- b) The proposal of a day of recollection for members of the PPC and church committees had been well received. Fr Paul King, whose fee is £75, had agreed to lead the day at Douai Abbey on Saturday 13th June. To use the Douai facilities would cost £17.50 per head with lunch provided or £12.50 per head without lunch. For logistical purposes the size of the group would need to be limited to 20, or possibly 25, participants with a first come first served basis of registration. If the parish provided a 50% subsidy the cost to each participant would be of the order of £8 to £11. Arrangements need to be finalised. **Action: All PPC members**

7. Parish Support Group for Parents & Grandparents

After discussion it was agreed that the first meeting of the support group would be at Douai Abbey on Wednesday 28th January 2009 from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm. It was anticipated that subsequent meetings would have rotating leadership and alternative venues either in the function rooms at the churches in the parish or in parishioners' homes. **Action: Annalisa Webb**

Following extensive thought a name for the group, *Faith, Hope & Families*, was proposed.

The spiritual dimension of the meeting could be the reading, reflection and sharing of a scripture passage such as one of the readings or the gospel assigned on the following Sunday. At subsequent meetings the spiritual content could be around other Catholic devotional practices according to the consensus of the group.

At the first meeting the 10-point list could be presented and a prioritisation exercise undertaken to address the points individually at subsequent meetings. This could follow an introduction of those present and sharing of their needs. Refreshments would be served at mid-point of the meeting. Participants could also be invited to tender questions on aspects of Catholic teaching which may be addressed as an item at subsequent meetings by the parish adult R.E. co-ordinator, who is willing to do this.

Another suggestion that had been tendered was to help parents encourage young people to engage in the liturgical activity of the parish such as serving, reading or leading the bidding prayers commensurate with age. It was stated that the extraordinary ministry of communion was restricted to adults because of child protection considerations.

8. Any Other Business

a) The Advent Reconciliation event at St. Luke's Theale on 6th December for young people and their families had not yet been generally publicised. A certain number of invitations had gone out although everybody was welcome.

Action: Fr Benedict/Parish Office

b) A question was asked about dates and arrangements for the 2009 First Holy Communion and participation in a Corpus Christi event. **Action: Fr Benedict**

c) Following a recent experience a question was asked about the procedure for calling out the parish priest in an emergency when he was not able to take the call personally or outside parish office hours. It was agreed that arrangements in these circumstances needed to be clarified and communicated. **Action: Fr Benedict**

It is understood that parishioners in hospital would have recourse to a priest through the chaplaincy arrangements of that institution.

d) The Council was made aware of the tour around Britain of the relics of St. Therese of Lisieux during 2009. The visit to St. John's Cathedral Portsmouth would be on 16th/17th September.

The Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 10th December at Douai Abbey when the main item for consideration will be Marking the Year of St. Paul – Pilgrimage.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Chair.....

Secretary.....

Date.....