

ST MARY'S WOOLHAMPTON PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 21st January 2009

Present: Niki Bhamra, Sandra Brewester, Joanna Harrison (chair), Barbara Jones, Paul Paniccia.

Marc Servais was welcomed as a new member from Pangbourne who would be succeeding Sandra Brewester on the PPC.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Fr Benedict, Paul Barras, Kate Burke, Geralyn Collins, Annalisa Webb

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 & Review of Actions

a) **New PPC Members** – This issue is still causing concern as only Pangbourne had been able to identify a new member. Niki Bhamra announced her resignation from the Council with effect from after the meeting as she was moving away from the parish. She was thanked for her contribution to the work of the Council. Paul Paniccia also reminded the meeting that he would be leaving the Council when his term as secretary ended in March 2009. As the situation currently stands there would then be no representation from Burghfield. **Action: Fr. Benedict**

b) **Day of Recollection** on Saturday 13th June – Identification of those wishing to attend from the church committees would need to take place as soon as the new ones have been elected over the coming weeks in order to establish if all 20 places have been taken. A suggestion was made that if there were still any places not taken they would be offered to PPC members from other parishes in the pastoral area.

c) **Parish Pilgrimage to Rome** – Currently only seven parishioners had definitely booked. It was agreed that a final deadline for receipt of completed booking forms and deposits would be the weekend 31st January/1st February. If the number of around 25 participants had not booked by the deadline the pilgrimage would be cancelled and cheques returned.

5. Formulation of Verbal Communication to the Church Communities

There was no substantive general communication to be made.

6. Report from Pastoral Area Pastoral Council

Due to the large number of absences it was agreed to postpone the item on Friday self-denial to the February meeting. A report was given of a meeting of the PAPC held on 8th January.

Parishes had not yet been invoiced for the Pastoral Area celebration which took place at Douai in June 2008, but the anticipated amount would be about £400 per parish. Also outstanding was an invoice for the publication of 4 issues of *Together*, the Pastoral Area newsletter. It was expected that the parish would be making about a £1,000 contribution in total to these Pastoral Area expenses.

The new member of the Diocesan Dept. for Pastoral Formation, Teresa Keogh, advisor for Collaborative Ministry and Stewardship, would be meeting with all the PPC's of the Pastoral Area on Wednesday 17th June.

Fr Eamon Walsh would be attending the diocesan meetings for co-ordinating pastors as listener.

Bishop Crispian, Msgr John Nelson and Nicky Stevens will be meeting with the leaders of the Pastoral Area on 6th March to discuss progress and future developments in the Pastoral Area.

A suggestion had been made that the Pastoral Area as a whole organise a group to visit the relics of St Therese of Lisieux when they are at Gerrards Cross on 8th/9th October 2009. It was argued that the visit should either take place when the relics are in the diocese at Portsmouth Cathedral or at the Oratory in Oxford which is closer to us than Gerrards Cross.

Those identifying a need for training of readers or new ministers of communion should contact Deacon John Foley who would make the necessary arrangements.

Ideas and material are needed for future issues of *Together*, the Pastoral Area newsletter.

There was discussion on how the Church in the Pastoral Area could assist those affected by the current economic downturn.

There was a need to identify two pastoral area ecumenical representatives to be points of contact with the Diocesan Christian Unity Committee to disseminate information and attend bi-annual meetings of the Diocesan Council for Christian Unity. It was agreed that they should be drawn one from the west and one from the east of the Pastoral Area.

Action: All Council Members

On the matter of ecumenism, copies of the revised edition *Churches Working Together*, a code of practice for parishes on ecumenism, were distributed to Council

members for display and use in the churches of the parish. This is an example of the type of activity that a Pastoral Area ecumenical representative would undertake.

7. Any Other Business

Safeguarding – The Council’s attention was drawn to two training sessions on Saturday 28th February, 10.00-13.00, for child protection awareness, and Saturday 14th March, 10.00-13.00, for vulnerable adults, both at English Martyr’s, Reading. Accommodation was limited to 40 participants per session. It is a requirement that all engaged on ministries with children and vulnerable adults will need to attend one or both of these training sessions as appropriate. It was agreed that these sessions would be publicised in the parish bulletin and those wishing to attend to book through the parish office.

Action: Barbara Jones/Parish Office

Lent Penitential Service and Holy Week Arrangements – Questions were asked about a date and venue for a penitential service in Lent and the liturgical arrangements in the parish for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Action: Fr. Benedict

The Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 18th February 2009 at Douai Abbey when the main item for discussion will be Friday Self-Denial.

Dates of future PPC meetings are:

Wednesday 18th March 2009

The meeting closed with prayer.

Chair.....

Secretary.....

Date.....