

## MINUTES OF PARISH FORUM MEETING : 5<sup>th</sup>. March 2008

Meeting opened at 8.05pm. Opening prayer by Sr. Marion.

**Present:** Canon John, Sue Macfarlane, David Tinkler, Peter Roberts, Maureen Everington, Eileen Stronge, Nigel Stokes (minutes), Joe Marsh (chair), Eugene & Nuala Hammond, Rose Stokes, Anne Randell, Collette Morgan, Joe Burns, Tom Smallwood, Frank Lehmann, Wanda Leckie, Sr. Marion, Keith Williams, Mark & Geraldine Glover  
**Apologies** Phil & Ernie Clement, Viv Caldwell, John McGrenaghan, Margaret Tailby

### Website presentation:

Chair welcomed Mark and Geraldine Glover who are undertaking to set up the Parish website. They summarised their work so far and explained future possibilities for consideration. Each of the four churches had links - with a description, summary of service times, disability info., location map, etc. Parish Groups were represented and the Forum will post minutes etc. First phase to be finalised by end of May. Waiting for submissions from Christian Unity, Deaf Care, Jumbulance, Guild St. Stephen, Choirs, Pilgrim Queen shrine, St Eds.walkers. The second phase (longer term) would explore greater interactivity. Need website controller.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup>. January were accepted without amendment.

### Matters Arising:

Patronal Feast mass on May 7<sup>th</sup>. @ 7.30pm. (see Liturgy group report)

Calendar at rear of church - Chair to get up and running in collaboration with Peter Roberts.

Communications re. hospitalised/ill parishioners - through Eileen, Canon to make this known via pulpit and to include with prayers.

### Group Leaders Reports:

- **Churches Together** - David T. thanked all who attended the ecumenical evening service with Bishop where the President of Church's Together was confirmed into office. A small group had attended Holocaust memorial day with civic dignitaries and faith groups. Good Friday witness - usual format with various starting points meeting at Toller church. Diocesan ecumenical committee - meeting parish reps. 9<sup>th</sup>. April at Milton K. (Andy S. is representing parish). Christian Aid week 11-18 May - house collections.
- **Rothwell** - Passover meal 18 March. Childrens Charity concert on June 7<sup>th</sup> and first Holy Communion 29<sup>th</sup>. June. St. Bernadettes's Feast Day 16<sup>th</sup> April. at 7.30pm with healing service and refreshments.
- **Liturgy group** is exploring material which could be used for lent next year. The group felt that a time of reflection, prayer and meditation in addition to The Stations Of The Cross would assist the faithful during this holy season. Format for readers Act of Renewal is completed and agreed - change of date to May 7. This Mass will be offered for readers and it will also be in preparation for Pentecost. At this Mass at 7.30pm there will be Laying on of Hands. Refreshments in the hall after Mass.
- **Childrens Liturgy** - thanks for bringing Lower Room into operation, group to move children's board there. Adult present in recess to see children past candles. Saturday class now up to 15 participants.
- **Music group** - Paul goes to both our schools, lunchtime St Eds. and after school at Thomas M. Groups growing, At first Sunday each month @ 10.30 mass. Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> May Pentecost 6pm. Children's choir is running well with over 40 taking part.
- **RCIA** - five good candidates for reception into church at Easter vigil. Prayer support please.
- **Knights St.C.** - Graham Trotter helping Keith Williams (tel: 355765) re. Health & Safety issues to produce list of advices. Thanks for excellent collection of £640.

### Parish Development actions:

Eugene circulated copies of draft Parish Directory. Proof readers (Anne, Rose, Wanda, Canon, Sue) to send info. on any errors within two weeks. It will then be corrected, formatted and a copy sent to website builders for inclusion. Chair thanked Eugene for this great effort.

### Deanery Pastoral Council:

Peter reported that the Deanery PC met 31/1/2008 and the Diocesan PC on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.

At present the chief concern is the "**Build My Church Programme**" following the meeting in Milton Keynes on 8<sup>th</sup> December. The Bishop was to meet with priests of this Deanery today. Peter has received a preview of briefing from Tony Mcmanus (one of our reps on the Dioc. Pc) and stated that the Pastoral Strategy Group, which facilitated the 8<sup>th</sup> December Meeting, is to be succeeded by "STREAM THREE", a resource to help Deaneries explore potential Blueprints for Change. It is NOT a Diocesan OFSTED. Major concerns are Development of Lay Leadership; Fostering Vocations; The Future of Chapels of Ease.

**Actions & Decisions** already taken include: Financial Review of NORES and NYMO is being undertaken prior to bringing all pastoral groups together to evaluate diocesan resources. Centralised control of building and development loosened, local Priest to be more involved.

Bishop is investigating the employment of a professional Fundraiser for a Major Campaign. First target is care of retired priests. He also wants a person (perhaps a lady recently retired) with professional & psychological expertise to have care for retired & retiring clergy. Note: Bishop would like each Deanery to have a 40 hour celebration to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lourdes Apparitions. Also please continue the discussions on:

**Lay People** "What Training do you think is needed?"

**Clergy** "What do you need lay people to be able to do?"

This Parish has only one (should be two) representative on the Deanery Pastoral Council.

Hope 2008, an ecumenical initiative, is happening in a few but not all parishes

Thrapston/Raunds have 8 confirmation candidates who will join us in Kettering

Rushden has Monthly Scripture discussion meetings on a Saturday

The Deanery Pilgrim Queen initiative continues to develop (Kettering has a Parish movement)

### **Review of Sunday Mass Arrangements:**

Canon reported generally positive feedback. Several priests are staying in the parish over the summer months which may ease the situation, eg: of Deacon doing two services on a Sunday. More lay involvement with more training? Maureen outlined details of courses to train people thinking of becoming catechists, to increase peoples self confidence and understanding of liturgy and bible. (Contact Maureen for details). Canon stated that the Bishop envisages 40 hours of prayer for vocations to priesthood, spreading around the Deanery ie: 8 hours in five different parishes. He is open to parishes making different arrangements but needs to draw up basic statistics. Wants a response from whole church, not just priests.

### **Parish Repairs and maintenance:**

Chair reported on a meeting of fabrics group with Deacon Michael, Canon and John Day. Site visit of hall and agreement on redrawing plans for disabled facilities at St. Eds. along the lines suggested by Chair.

Regarding Desborough, very thorough quinquennial report, could lower costs if we went to tender. Details now at Bishops House Finance committee. Possible trial pit to be dug to ascertain where damp coming from. Toilet does not require planning permission just building regs. – obtained a year ago, thus need to act quickly as a number of parishioners disadvantaged. Submit to local tender.

Upper Room recarpeted, refurnished and redecorated with teaching board now fixed. Thanks to all who spent a weekend doing this. New fire door being obtained for kitchen/upper room entry area. Kitchen area upgrade and other jobs hopefully by end of June (Knights).

**Health and Safety:** No incidents reported

### **A.O.B:**

- Upper Room, litter already dropped and whiteboard marked despite fresh refurbishment. Encourage proper care to give better impression to outside speakers etc.. After disabled facilities built in hall, the whole lower floor needs repainting and cleaning. Then need to review whether caretaker's hours enough to do thorough job?
- Still difficulties of double bookings, especially now facilities are better and in more demand. Idea of booking sheet for all three bookable areas, to be placed at back of church so that all users can see if space is available. Chair to look into this when organising new calendar.
- Problems with some of heaters in church. To be seen to before contractor guarantee expires.
- Suggestion that, in view of our newsletter being revamped this year, we should collect bulletins from other churches we may visit in our holiday travels, to get ideas. Do we now need a communications group?

Closing Prayer from Canon John

Meeting closed 10 pm.

Next meeting of Forum – Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup>.. at 8 pm. Upper Room