

MINUTES OF PARISH FORUM MEETING : 14th January 2009

Meeting opened at 8.00pm. Opening prayer by Canon John.

Present:

Canon John, David Tinkler, Vivien Caldwell, Eileen Stronge, Nigel Stokes (minutes), Joe Marsh (chair), Anne Randell, Colette Morgan, Rose Stokes, Joe Burns, Nigel Bishop, Keith Williams, Nathan Hawkins, Andy Sipple, Fr. Andy, Margaret Tailby, Phil & Ernie Clement, Geraldine Glover.

Apologies:

Pam Smyth, Sue Macfarlane, Peter Roberts, Eugene & Nuala Hammond, Wanda Leckie,

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were accepted without amendment.

Matters Arising:

Chair reported that lock on hall kitchen door has again been changed after a key had gone missing. Also a portable door bell installed so that the door can be kept locked during use of the hall.

Group Leaders Reports:

- **Churches Together** – Andy reported that only 200 of the 1000 leaflets detailing Christmas service times across town had been distributed due to poor attendance at event and that next year this would be done at the lights switch-on. Around 50 attended the Christmas Day Dinner at Central Meth. Church. Reminder of Christian Unity service at Fuller church 7.30pm., 22nd Jan with participation of other churches in the week of prayer. Preparations now started for Good Friday April 10th procession of witness and ecumenical service in town centre. 14th March is the parish ecumenical reps. meeting in Northampton which will also look at recent catholic/methodist conversations.
- **Scouts** – Message from Peter Caldwell that there has been an increase in the number of leaders and helpers and therefore the group can now take on more recruits in the age range 10.5 to 14 years.
- **Children's Liturgy** – Vivien stated that running the group each week was proving successful with more children attending. However, there were still problems/delays with CRB checks. (Anne also reported concerns with delays over such checks on Eucharistic ministers). Chair to check with Tony Noone again. Anne asked that any changes to Scouts parade dates be notified to her as this affects the Eucharistic ministers and readers rotas which she does, also the coffee rota.
- **Knights** – thanks for constructing and dismantling the crib. Also assisted SVP with the distribution of Christmas gifts.
- **Ireson Fund** – correspondence has been received from Eugene in which he raises concerns about the lack of any meeting as yet to discuss proper investment and accounting to both Parishioners and the Diocese. Also that the fund has not been publicised in order to get it actively supporting Youth in the parish. Chair asked for volunteers to help Eugene and reminded Forum that it had approved the setting up of a sub-committee in November 2007 to oversee the fund. Andy Sipple offered help. Chair to speak to Eugene. Suggestion to advertise fund on website, posters and newsletter with a view to giving fund greater exposure of its existence, aims and objectives. Also circulate poster/notice about fund in primary schools.

Deanery Pastoral Council:

No report available.

Parish Development actions:

Chair reported on the success of the new newsletter format, also that new office equipment had been installed and is working efficiently. He congratulated the communications sub-committee who had organised both. Nathan reported that new noticeboarding has been ordered and samples of shelving etc. for parish library are awaited. Chair asked for volunteers to help with installation, KSC could offer their help with this.

Geraldine reported that the domain name for website is now owned by the parish priest! Christmas page and notes on year of St.Paul were recent additions to site. Could rota providers please check that any phone numbers provided are given permission for to go on website? Secretary to place request in newsletter. The Youth Diary area – formatting problems being experienced, so webmaster trying to contact Eunice who provided this resource.

The Chair and Canon both thanked all on the Communications team for their hard work and efficiency in getting things up and running.

Parish Repairs and Maintenance:

Chair met with Aidan Lynch regarding works to the Hall. Main ramped entrance to hall now to be from The Grove and a second ramp by the female toilets fire door. Work to start in summer, date tba. Chair to contact Aidan re. plan update and request planned ideas and alterations to be available at next meeting. Also, the Presbytery will undergo refurbishment and decoration from May. Clergy will need help to pack items in preparation, also rented accommodation near to church with at least three bedrooms will be sought. Secretary to place request in newsletter enquiring about accommodation to rent.

Recent quinquennial report suggests that both Burton Latimer and Rothwell churches will need some maintenance and decoration work soon, depending on affordability. The discoloration of walls above radiators in St. Edward's was discussed and concern raised about possible damage to the Stations of the Cross. Speaking with Blounts has not resolved the problem. Idea of radiator shelves to be looked into as an experiment over one radiator initially to see if this is a remedy.

Health and Safety:

- Reported that a fire blanket had to be used to put out a small fire which arose on Christmas Day mass in Our Lady's Chapel due to plastic burning where candles were lit. New blanket to be purchased.
- Vivien enquired about the wooden stage steps being stored at the back of the hall. These pose a danger to children climbing on them during coffee after mass. Also several groups have items which they use in the Lower room which, despite being neatly stored, keep being removed and placed on the hall floor! These include a heavy TV and projection screen used by the Alpha course and others, plus small tables used by children's liturgy. To comply with disability law, we need to have a TV available in Lower room for those who cannot access Upper room during video presentations. Equipment placed on floor is also a safety hazard for children, theatre group users, parishioners coffee after mass, etc. Meeting agreed to place a notice asking that these are not to be moved, also arrangements will be made to dispose of steps.
- Carpet tiles have now been sorted in sacristy.
- Hall kitchen fan needs replacing to extract steam, etc. from kitchen when water urn is on.

A.O.B:

- Joe Burns asked whether the parish would be interested in a trip to Oberammergau Passion Play in 2010. (possible Ireson fund subsidy for youth?). Joe to look into feasibility and report back at next meeting.
- The relics of St. Therese of Lisieux will be brought into Birmingham Cathedral and Coleshill Sacred Heart and St. Teresa church on the 19th. and 21st. September respectively. Also to Walsingham on 6th. October. Anne to look into the possibility of a parish pilgrimage and report back.
- Canon suggested that as a parish we might look at ways of helping parishioners during the current economic downturn, should they need help or a small loan, like with a credit union. He will research this and report back.

The chair closed the meeting at 9.15pm with thanks to all present and to anyone who has carried out tasks for the parish, whether in communications or other responsibilities, during this last year in which we have achieved a great deal. Seconded by Canon with the hope that support will continue in 2009.

Closing Prayer from Canon John.

Next meeting of Forum – Wednesday March 4th.. at 8 pm.