

MINUTES OF PARISH FORUM MEETING : 16th July 2008

Meeting opened at 8.05pm. Opening prayer by Rose Stokes.

Present:

Sue Macfarlane, Pam Smyth, Collette Morgan, David Tinkler, Peter Roberts, Eileen Stronge, Nigel Stokes (minutes), Joe Marsh (chair), Anne Randell, Rose Stokes, Geraldine Glover, Andy Sipple, Denise Johnson, Vivien Caldwell, Nigel Bishop.

Apologies:

Canon John, Eugene & Nuala Hammond, Wanda Leckie, Sr. Marion.

Minutes: last meeting minutes accepted with one amendment – (AoB) Sr. Marion is member of Stream 3

Matters Arising:

- Chair invited Andy Sipple to report back on a meeting he attended at Christ the King – a seminar for parents, teachers and youth workers on young people and the new technologies. He presented a paper and gave copies of Safety Tips for parents monitoring their children's use of the internet. The main points - Be very wary of children using teen chat rooms, emphasise NEVER give out address, phone, email, instant messaging details. Ensure that children's profiles on social networking sites are private, and that any pictures they put up are appropriate. Point children to www.thinkuknow.co.uk (run by Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre). Understand how the sites your children use operate, so you can show them how to use the safety features. Use parental controls/ internet filters (see www.webuser.co.uk/products/Internet_Filtering_207_index.html). Start setting boundaries when they're young. **Decision:** Andy to send Geraldine relevant info. to enable her as a parish website controller to include an adult version of how to exercise parental control of internet . However, beware mobile phones will become the main way in which young people access the internet, as screens improve, Wi-Max is rolled out and costs fall, making it far more difficult to monitor children's internet usage. Chair thanked Andy for his efforts.
- Rose reported back from the group asked to review notice boarding in the church. Various improvements suggested were noted with regard to lighting, notice locations and refurbishment. **Decision:** Rose to prepare list of recommendations for chair to discuss with Canon as costs involved. An action plan will then be drafted for take-up by Communications sub-group. Chair thanked Rose.
- Anne asked what developments there had been in the training of lay people. Peter stated that this would take time to plan, but not forgotten. Deanery Gen. Meeting Oct.15th. would permit follow up.

Group Leaders Reports:

- **Churches Together** – 'RE.act HOPE 08' weekend event August 2nd. (Market Place) and 3rd. (Ise open area Family Fun Day). Much of cost borne by Christ the King, thus can we contribute? **Decision:** Andy to publicise on newsletter. Owing to short notice no stall will be provided and Peter to pass on to Canon the meeting's recommendation of £100 contribution for his consideration. Other reported items – 3 parish reps. all re-elected at AGM. East Kettering Liaison Forum (est. by KBC) have offered churches an input. Christian Aid week raised c.£7000, thanks to collectors. Spooner's Christian bookshop (Sheep St), please use or lose!
- **Children's Liturgy** – Vivien reported enthusiasm of youngsters coming through, & better communications now from schools. Children's Liturgy will resume every Sunday from September and will review at end of year. CRB clearance seems to be stalling (many up for renewal soon). **Agreed:** Vivien to contact Tony Noone & report back, also about eucharistic ministers needing CRB?
- **UCM** – Pilgrimage to Walsingham on 20th. June very enjoyable.
- **Flower Group** – Instead of the usual red flowers, prayer cards with medals were given to those being confirmed & were well received. Meeting agreed how much the flower arrangements are appreciated.
- **Rothwell:** Sue advised that August 10th was the 50th anniversary of St. Bernadette's construction. Will be a BBQ at a parishioner's home for Rothwell parishioners to celebrate.

Priests movements:

Chair reported the changes to the clergy (in bulletin). Fr. Andy Richardson coming in September. Meeting extended its thanks to Fr. Dariusz, who leaves in September, & wished Canon a speedy recovery.

Parish Development actions:

- **Website** – Thanks to work done by Mark and Geraldine Glover, went live June 1st. Found by 3 search engines, 300 visits in first month from around world! All parish groups entitled to a page but each group should choose a co-ordinator to tell webmaster when to remove items. Rotas could be made available online. Request for examples of online archives to upgrade parish history area? Still need suggestions for children's area – ask children's liturgy group? (Care with close-up photos of children – need parental permission). To comply with Data Protection, request being advertised in newsletter over next two weeks for group leaders who do not want their contact details on line to say so. **Decision:** establish small communications committee (Karen Cannon, Nathan Hawkins, Geraldine Glover, Eugene Hammond, Nigel Stokes) to advise Forum and oversee newsletter, website, notice-boarding, facility bookings, directory, etc. To meet prior to next Forum.
- **Newsletter** – Secretary passed around samples of newsletter formats. An increase to A3 size was considered favourably. Communications group to obtain costings A4 v. A3, also photocopier lease charges for in-house production from downloads.

Deanery Pastoral Council:

Peter reported that there has been no DPC Meeting since 24th April and that was reported in Forum minutes of 14th May. The Build My Church Initiative is being moved forward by the "Stream 3" group of which Sister Marion is a member. Letter from Canon Kevin O' Driscoll states that the group is trying to offer the Bishop and the Diocese some sensible way forward with regard to future parish arrangements. His letter is to be discussed at tomorrow's DPC meeting. All these documents available from secretary.

It has been suggested that for practical purposes the Deanery should be divided into 3 Clusters:-

1. Oundle and the four Corby Parishes, 2. Kettering and Thrapston/ Raunds, 3. Wellingborough and Rushden. These represent a simple geographical division and there was an example of the benefit only this week when Thrapston/ Raunds shared with Kettering for confirmation. Wellingborough Prison and Kettering General Hospital serve whole Deanery, thus there is a case for sharing the burden of these throughout the Deanery. Peter gave statistics of each of these towns' priest provision.

Parish Repairs and maintenance:

Chair reported approval of some £17,000 for Desborough disabled toilet facilities. Deacon Aidan Lynch appointed to look after Diocesan Property Services. Meeting planned at Desborough on July 22nd. but will also deal with Kettering improvements to hopefully get these moving. Chair received recent quinquennial report on St. Nicholas Owen church and prepared schedule for action which will be tabled at the next KSC meeting in July. Anything they cannot do will require further input to plan who will do the outstanding items. Knights will arrange rubbish clearance of garden.

Health and Safety:

The high section of altar step under the hymn board has been blocked off from access as agreed in last meeting. Knights looking for an electrician to carry out safety report of apparatus and installations etc. Otherwise, no incidents to report.

A.O.B:

- Anne mentioned the importance of being one parish family and expressed the wish that parish events should enable all parishioners to be involved if they wish.
- Vivien enquired about storage space for produce when she implements a Fair Trade stall.
- Chair to contact Eugene regarding his offer to oversee the Tony Ireson fund for Youth activities in the parish with a view to getting this off the ground.

Closing Prayer from Anne Randall.

Meeting closed 10.05 pm.

Next meeting of Forum – Wednesday Sep. 10th.. at 8 pm