

MINUTES OF PARISH FORUM MEETING : 10th. September 2008

Meeting opened at 8.10pm. Opening prayer by Canon John.

Present: Canon John, Sue Macfarlane, David Tinkler, Peter Roberts, Maureen Everington, Eileen Stronge, Nigel Stokes (minutes), Joe Marsh (chair), Wanda Leckie, Nathan Hawkins, Nigel Bishop, Andy Sipple, Fr. Andy Richardson.

Apologies John McGrenaghan, Rose Stokes Anne Randell, Collette Morgan, Frank Lehmann Geraldine Glover, Pam Smyth, Sr. Marion, Vivien Caldwell

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on 16th July were accepted without amendment.

Matters Arising:

- Andy has sent Geraldine relevant info. to enable her as a parish website controller to include an adult version of how to exercise parental control of internet.
- Peter/Canon to send £100 to RE.act Hope 08 if still needed. Apology for not having carried this out earlier.
- Vivien has spoken to Tony Noone re. CRB checks. There have been changes in the system, thus holding back until new forms sent out.
- Chair apologised for not having yet contacted Eugene regarding his offer to oversee the Tony Ireson fund for Youth activities in the parish. At moment, Canon can still give standard cheque and transfer funds from Ireson fund.
- Correspondence received from Webmaster regarding developments – contact point added for anyone not wishing their phone details to be on website. Some parish groups have requested space on website and this is being provided. Internet safety guidelines and some rotas also on website now.

Group Leaders Reports:

- **Churches Together** – HOPE 08 event on August 2/3 successful with around seven churches participating. Meeting of Parish Ecumenical reps in MK on 27 Sep, addressed by Anglican Bishop John Flack. Much involved in Anglican/RC discussion. Andy S. to represent us.
- **UCM** – nothing to report. Sr.Liz being taken to Knock
- **Flower Group** – plans for Harvest and Christmas in hand, also Women's World Day of Prayer Oct.9th. – happy to put forward St.Eds as venue.
- **Outlying churches reports** – Chair to ask B. Latimer for a volunteer.

Parish Development actions:

Secretary explained remit of communications sub-group which met on September 2nd. Five areas of communications within parish had been agreed for review. **Parish Directory** – Eugene done a good job, just need to have it updated every so often. Some group responses need beefing up/standardising at next update. It is up to group leaders to ensure that details are up to date. Canon to re-advertise availability of directory on newsletter. A small group had also met to review **Noticeboards/publicity** in church porch and suggestions were explained. Chair proposed (Canon seconded) that Nathan now develop a project plan, costings and time-frame analysis for presentation at next Forum and identify interested helpers. Proposal accepted. **Newsletter** – current problems discussed (compatibility with website, different formats due to large typing pool taking turns week by week – needs standard format all can work with). Karen Cannon is proficient at DTP and has offered to take on new newsletter formatting as co-ordinator. Secretary presented costings for the newsletter options available and proposed adoption of A3 newsletter, acceptance of Karen's offer and setting up of a meeting with Karen, Peter, Fr. Andy, Geraldine. (Canon seconded). Proposal accepted. **Website** – needs contributors, particularly youth (Eunice now completed youth directory – Geraldine to liaise). Need backup webmaster when Glovers away. Nigel Bishop offered to do this (Geraldine to liaise). Would like each church to have web-rep to send in info. on activities (ad. placed on website). Need photos of people (got buildings, etc). **Parish administration** – communications with people in parish and outside agencies. Also intra-parish communications to bring four churches closer together. – could

have Rothwell, Desborough, BL. boxes on new A3 newsletter with their announcements, mass times, activities. Convent section also? Parish office upgrading – Fr. Andy and this group to look into whether we need new computer, photocopier, Is there a need for a paid part-time daily secretary? Peter to find out current copier leasing details and discounts from Toshiba.

Deanery Pastoral Council:

The last meeting was on 17th July 2008 when Danny Cannon from this parish also attended, There were at that time three of the ten Deanery priests off sick and two of them, Father John Osborne and Fr Stephen McGuinness are still out of action.

We had received a couple of letters gathering background information from “Stream three” the Diocesan action group taking forward the “Build My Church” initiative. We await the next stage of consultation. The two sick priests in Corby have led to cancelling one Evening Mass at St Patrick’s and a few Deacon services at St John Ogilvie.

At St John Ogilvie they have produced “Welcome Leaflets” in both Russian and Polish which have been appreciated.

The annual Open General Meeting is at St Brendan’s Corby on 15th October 7.00pm Mass and business meeting at 8.00pm. Guest Speaker Alex Heath from NRES will speak on “Evangelisation” everybody welcome. The next ordinary meeting of the Di PC will be at Raunds on Thursday 20th November.

The Diocesan Pastoral Council met on June 8th when Bishop Peter reported the success of the March Weekend meeting for “Nibblers” (young men who had some interest in becoming Priests.) Fr Brian from Thrapston is to look into how this Deanery might nurture the possible vocations of youngsters below the age of 18. The Di PC meets again on 11th October when we look forward to an update on the work of Stream 3.

Parish Repairs and maintenance:

Chair reported on a meeting with Tom Smallwood and Aidan Lynch. Work at Desborough starts September 1st. with finish date of 27th. Work at St.Eds hall will not be started until New Year. Knights to look at all issues relating to Burton Latimer as raised in quinquennial report on Sep. 27th. Convent had offered to pay for the garden work.

Health and Safety: No incidents reported. Portable Appliance Testing – Knights have identified an electrician to do the job. Canon to mention to Barry/Eddie risks associated with inhalation of fumes from cleaning solutions.

A.O.B:

- Canon reported on the ongoing training given to hospital visitors.
- Andy Sipple reported on Sick Pilgrims Trust but was concerned that most helpers are in their 70’s and appealed for younger volunteers. Proposed a distribution of information twice yearly with newsletters and Nathan seconded this.

Closing Prayer from Canon John
Meeting closed 9.20 pm.

Next meeting of Forum – Wednesday November 12th.. at 8 pm.