

## HAMPSHIRE DOWNS PARISH OPEN MEETING QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

This paper summarises the questions and answers that were raised at the Parish Open Meeting held on Thursday 27 January 2011.

### **Finance:**

1. Patrick O'Donoghue asked if the Parish financial accounts could be made available in advance of the open meeting to allow time for them to be read and considered before the meeting.

*This was agreed readily and an apology rendered for the lateness of publishing this year, which was due to timing of holidays..*

2. Patrick asked for the total amount of monies collected for the different charities by the second collections could be declared because the amount currently shown in the Newsletter was invariably less than the total finally collected in that it did not show monies paid by standing order and covenant.

*Agreed. A list is attached to these notes and will in future be available on request.*

3. John Blake asked why there had been no appeals for Gift Aid this year and if the finance committee content with the amounts reclaimed?

*Marcus Whitfield: Last year a deliberate decision was taken not to make an appeal while the emphasis was concentrated on Living our Faith project.. There will be a pulpit appeal this year. The Finance committee is now looking at the whole process of Gift Aid for the parish.*

### **Ministry**

4. Lisa Nahajski : How ministry groups would select the people for any particular task if and when there is a rush of volunteers?

*The selection would normally be made by the coordinator or leader of the ministry involved. Where this was not possible the PPC Steering Group would take the lead.*

5. Gerard Carton: Do Church cleaners fit into the Ministry Clusters anywhere?

*Cleaners are most definitely included in the Enabling Cluster.*

6. Liz Slinn asked that the prayer link could be added to the ministry lists.

*Agreed.*

### Socials:

7. John Perry saw the need for a social programme to be provided for the 'older person'. He considered that other organisations (i.e. U3A – University of the Third Age) was felt by some to be 'too intellectual', while he, for one, was looking for 'fun and games'. Canon Paul was seen to nod in agreement.
8. Audrey Atter said that she believed there was a place for artistic / creative displays with some sort of event to showcase the talents of the community.
9. Clare McKenna in terms of mission suggested we should support the University of the Third Age (U3A). The U3A gatherings provided the opportunity of meeting others, perhaps lapsed Catholics and leading an ear.

*Angela Muxworthy suggested that any social held needed people from all the communities in Hampshire Downs to give their support and make such events well attended and worthwhile.*

*Canon agreed that we should be doing a great deal more on the social front and is looking for a coordinators and team volunteers. Canon Paul concluded by saying that he, like all 'older people' needed the 'fun and games' and for volunteers to arrange such events.*

### Pastoral Centre:

10. Patrick O'Donoghue wondered if, as the Pastoral Centre is such a big project with expenditure accumulating over time, it would be possible to announce how much had been spent to get to the present stage of development.

*Sue Broadbent stated that the totals paid to date on fees and the **demolition in round terns were Fees – about £100k – and Demolition - £26K.***

### Prayer and Stewardship

11. Louisa Maschio asked where prayer and spirituality featured on the ministry diagrams.

*Gerard Dailly: Prayer is an integral part of all the (8) displays. All parish gatherings were encouraged to start and end their meetings with prayer. More specifically Adoration and Adult Formation were focused on prayer. Canon said that the youth team had a session to look at the different types of pray and had suggested that a similar session could be run for the adults. Dawn E – K (coordinator for adult formation) noted this request and agreed to take it forward.*

*Teresa Keogh offered to organise, through Stewardship, a morning of quiet and reflection on the different types of prayer on a Saturday morning in Advent 2011, similar to that held in Advent 2009.*

12. Lisa Nahajski: Could we please have order of service for people to follow in our churches?

*An order of service is usually available in St Stephen's and St Peter's but they tended to go missing. An action was taken to re-supply. Canon mentioned that the order of service in different languages was also available at St Peter's in the sanctuary.*

13. Hilary Kemp asked that all communities should give some thought to access within the Churches for those of less physical ability and wheelchair users. Access into the Churches had been addressed with satisfactory results but movement within them was sometimes obstructed.

*This comment is noted but there was no answer at this time.*

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

Street Pastors: Steve Taylor took the opportunity to explain the **Street Pastors** initiative.

**Monies for the Pastoral Centre.** Marcus explained that the money earmarked for the Parish contribution to the Pastoral Centre project had been made possible from the profit from the bookshop and work from different communities from cake sales and other events. All these relatively small amounts had, together, added a considerable amount that was being set aside for the Pastoral Centre.

**Lent and Advent sessions** – it is worth explaining on the comments made in the Parish Annual Report. As stated in the highlights section of the report, the Lent and Advent sessions last year were well received. To put it in perspective, over 130 parishioners took part in the sessions during Lent and over 80 in Advent. One would always expect fewer people to participate during Advent but those who did still represented a great response from what was virtually a standing start. We were, however, unable to attract the numbers in the more rural areas during the winter months and we shall be looking to work out how best to present similar sessions this year. We are grateful to the Stewardship group in offering the material for these sessions.