

Hampshire Downs Parish

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council

held on Friday 11th February 2011

at The Old Georgian, Parish Office

Present: Angela Muxworthy (Chair), Canon Paul Townsend, Canon Alan Griffiths, Deacon Gerard Dailly, Sister Antonietta, Peter Bolger, Sue Broadbent, Dawn Edgerton-Kemp, Wini Meikle, Steve Taylor, Susan Trowbridge, Louise Warren, and Marcus Whitfield

1. Welcome and Apologies: Catherine Christmas, Jane Reidy, Deacon Nick Reynolds, Brian Roberts and Liz Slinn.

Angela welcomed Nicky Stevens who is Head of Department for Pastoral Formation of the Diocese and was representing the Bishop on a discussion of the thinking behind the Pastoral Council Guidelines.

2. **Opening Reflection and prayer:** led by Dawn Edgerton-Kemp which flowed into the discussion about the Pastoral Council, facilitated by Nicky Stevens.

3. **Pastoral Council Guidelines:** Nicky explored with the PPC members what it means to be a Pastoral Council. Parish Councils only came into existence since Vatican 2. In 1983 the Code of Canon Law replaced the term "parish council" with "pastoral council". The emphasis is on "pastoral" reflecting the care for the needs of the Church. Nicky asked the PPC to consider, in pairs, what is the purpose of a parish. Our basic conclusions were broadly in line with Nicky's comments that "It exists to form and nourish disciples to carry out the mission of Jesus in the world and in the church." We said that it is the place where we gather to break bread together. It is the structure where we come together to celebrate and learn of our mission under the authority of the Diocesan Bishop. Our mission is carried out in our families, home, work, neighbourhood etc.

Nicky then passed out copies of "Guidelines for Pastoral Councils" and asked the members to consider what it is doing well, according to the plan, and what it still needs to do. The PPC broke into groups of 3 to consider quotes from pages 23-25 of the Guidelines. In general, it was determined that there had been significant growth over the years but we recognised we still have a long way to go. The question was raised as to where God is calling us as individuals and as a Catholic community. In many areas we are doing well.

It was the consensus that we still do not represent the diversity of the parish, that we are a white middle class group, and that we need to reach out further both within the parish and within the wider community. We need to be less insular and perhaps needed more passion and pain for growth. Nicky concluded that no pastoral Council is perfect but we are working at it and doing well so far.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 6th January 2010** The minutes were approved.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes: Because of time constraints and with no urgent matters arising, this was put off until the next meeting. A list of actions have been lifted from the minutes and attached at the end of these minutes.

Action: Outstanding actions to be carried forward to the next meeting. Angela

5. Parish Plan Next Step:

Angela asked that we look at the objectives we have and consider how we take them forward. This weekend (February 12th and 13th) we are sharing the Road Show at St Peter's at the Saturday 6:00 p.m. Mass, and the 8:00 and 10:30 Masses on Sunday morning. On the 27th of February the Road Show will be at St Gregory's with Sue Trowbridge co-ordinating. In March it will be taken to St Stephen's and Stockbridge at dates to be arranged.

Sue Broadbent brought up the subject of the Ministry Working Group and requested that its work be brought to the whole of the PPC.

Action: Ministry Working Group to report current position and way forward at the next meeting.

6. Reports from Worshipping Communities:

St Gregory's

Pastoral Centre Bookings: The handing over of the keys to Winchester has been completed, and in future booking of the Church Hall will be made via the Parish Office. They are planning to draw up a list of local key holders. At their last WCG meeting it was suggested that a key be left in church which could be collected by any parishioner wishing to use the Hall. This could be done the Sunday before the booking Paul Kennedy will discuss this with Jim King (the nearest key holder).

Ann Bradley (senior) has arranged for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to take place on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 9:45-10:45, beginning on February 9th.

St Stephen's

- investigating a new processional cross in keeping with the Risen Christ in the school hall (old one – crown and hand broken)
- looking at developing our caring for all members of our community
- Christingle service needs to come under Hampshire Downs Liturgy Group
- Community Room use- no problems for use on Sundays – usage during the week not responsibility of St Stephens
- Praise Mass on 6th Feb went well

St Peter's

Last Sunday at the 10:30 Mass the Music Group and the Youth Choir sang which was very uplifting. In a subsequent conversation with Martin McElroy Peter encouraged him to organise more choir sung Masses at St Peter's.

7p.m. Mass: Still would like some discussion about music- hymns and sung parts of Mass are not well supported by congregation and the cantor/organist must sometimes despair of us, and we rely too much on the celebrant. Requests to keep it simple and perhaps reduce to something like the 6pm Sat Mass.

St Thomas More's

Nothing new to report.

St Peter's School

Admission numbers still uncertain for Sept 2011.

Significant concern has been expressed by the School Governors about the decisions they need to make with regards joining or not joining into academies with other Catholic schools. The Governors would like a fairly strong steer from the Diocese, should they be cautious about joining an academy, do they join other Catholic Schools, should they link with local primary schools in Winchester area? They do not wish to just link with other Catholic schools without considering the local implications (in terms of any shared services/academy clusters).

Action: Sue requested an extraordinary meeting for this to be discussed further when she had gained more information about the decision to be made and the guidance from the Diocese is available. Sue to notify PPC of proposed date.

Youth Ministry

Inspire (Ys 7&8) will continue as a joint group with St Edward's, Chandlers Ford.

SPOG (post confirmation) still meeting and really good content but needs some more numbers- although we will continue with it regardless, as the core group are very reliable.

Several weekend retreats planned with Peter McGready and getting some support. Big event planned June 11th around Pentecost theme at St Stephens for youth in the YC South area- will need help please. Youth Pilgrimage to Holy Land has 30 people (18 young people and 12 adults) as various parents and youth helpers going as well as leaders. 7 of the young people are receiving assisted places. Youth Group will be held in May rather than before Easter this year as Confirmation has the Thursday evening slots.

Completely new thing is Youth Band which we talked about in previous reports. First meeting 4th March and then fortnightly rehearsals, will be open to all skill levels, all instruments 7 years to 17ish. The Plan is to get a few pieces practiced, including, hopefully, part of a Mass arrangement and then do occasional touring appearances at all Masses.

Pastoral Centre Project

Sue announced that tenders are due for return on the 22nd of February. We will know the full price then. If there is a gap between that and our set budget, there are options that may be considered to meet the gap. Permission has been given for a few more trees need to be taken down. This will happen over half term

7. A O B

Social for PPC members and partners is planned for March 1st – St David's Day at Westville, Station Road, Chilbolton SO20 6AW. It is a Welsh theme and there will be Leek and Potato soup. Please RSVP to Angela . Angela will let you know what to bring.

8. Dates of next meeting: 5th April 7 pm at TOG 29 Jewry Street.

Canon Paul concluded the meeting with a prayer at 9p.m.

Annexes:

A. PPC Draft Terms of Reference

B. Action List from Meeting 6 January 2011