

PASTORAL CO-ORDINATING GROUP MEETING
Thursday 9th July 2009

PRESENT: George Phillips Jacek Kostuch John Ballard
Ann Bassett Linda Nolan Sharon Mileham
Tom Regan Sarah Down Breda Kurth
Kathy Pope

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. APOLOGIES: Fr. Robert, Deacon John, Mary Phillips and June Blakemore.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Approved.

Linda mentioned that as yet the CWL had not had any communication with Deacon John about "Besom" but would liaise with him on the matter.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Parish Open Meeting: Fr. Robert is going to give a power-point presentation about "The Life of the Parish". The PCG agreed that questions about matters relating to various aspects of parish life could be encouraged by having a box in the Narthex in which to place questions and for a piece to be put in the Newsletter. John Ballard gave advanced apologies for his absence at the Open Meeting.

Hymn Books: Jacek reported that the Music Group were still considering the subject. It was felt that action to replace or renew the church's hymn books could not be deferred until the publication of the revised Lectionary. Kathy Pope raised the idea of "electronic Hymn books" or a loose leaf folder system that would be a less permanent and costly outlay and could be updated, added to and reviewed at less cost to the parish than the purchase of a set of new hymn books. The PCG agreed to defer discussion until the next meeting when there should be some feedback from the Music Group.

5. CORRESPONDENCE - None

6. JUSTICE & PEACE REPORT

Talk on Refugees and Asylum Seekers: John Ballard reported that it was a worthwhile and informative evening but mentioned that, although it was attended by about twenty people, it was sad that there were only three parishioners from St. Augustine's present and said that it raises the question of whether it is worth putting on talks for the parish. He mentioned that Fr. Robert has said that speaker's expenses should be paid by the parish.

7. REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

Tom is waiting for a report from the roofing firm before any further discussion.

8. DEANERY MATTERS – None

9. SOCIAL GROUP REPORT

Fundraising Subcommittee:

Feedback: Jacek reported that feedback had been given to Brenda Townes and Hilary Hoskin but that the committee had received no feedback from the PCG in response to their ideas. This had been interpreted as approval. George Phillips felt that there ought to be a PCG vote on ideas put forward by the Fundraising Subcommittee as opposed to tacit approval.

St. Augustine's Feast Day: Jacek reported that he had met with Hilary Hoskin to work out plans for St. Augustine's Feast "Weekend". It is going to be a three day celebration, commencing with 10.30am Mass on Friday 28th August and concluding with 10.30am Mass and lunch on Sunday 30th August. The underlying theme will be a "Celebration of the Skills and Talents of the Parish". It is planned to have an Arts and Crafts Exhibition - £1 entry to include a voucher for a beverage. Parishioners will be invited to display and sell their arts or crafts, encouraging them to make a donation to the parish. If the take up is too small it could be opened to other churches in the area and become more of an ecumenical event. Workshops are planned for the Saturday – Sister Barbara to lead a workshop on painting/writing Icons, Angela Hyland to lead a Flower arranging workshop, and someone to be approached to lead a drawing workshop. There is to be a Celebration Mass at which Fr. Robert will give a Reflection on St. Augustine of Hippo. Parishioners will be asked to bring a plate of food for a parish lunch after 10.30am Mass on the Sunday and it is hoped that the Music Group will co-ordinate it. Jacek also mentioned the possibility of asking a local band to come and play during the Saturday events. The Feast Weekend is to be advertised through the papers, websites, local parishes etc. It was confirmed that, although the main objective of the Feast Weekend was to celebrate the life of the parish, it was also hoped that it would become a good fundraising event.

St. Augustine's Letter: Although the draft letter to all other parishes around the world dedicated to St. Augustine of Hippo was approved by George, the idea of asking other parishes for a donation was met with a mixed reaction. Some members of the PCG felt that it was not appropriate or desirable for a financially self-supporting parish such as our own to send out a "begging" letter around the world, especially when many of those parishes are likely to be much poorer than our own. A decision was deferred since, owing to a certain number of absences at the last PCG meeting, some members of the PCG had not had a chance to consider the letter (distributed at that meeting).

10. ECUMENICAL MATTERS

Mount Charles has approached us to advertise an event in August on John Wesley. It was suggested that Fr. Robert's dramatised look at the book of Tobit might be of interest to Christians of other traditions in the area and could become an ecumenical opportunity. Kathy Pope suggested that weekly parish events that were possibly of interest ecumenically could be sent via email to other churches in the area. John Ballard mentioned that Mount Charles had an "Email Circle" and wondered whether we might do something similar.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CWL Big Cream Tea: To take place on Friday 25th September provided that date is free.

Emergency Priest Cover: John Ballard raised the problem of how to contact a priest in an emergency, outside office hours, when Fr. Robert is away. Jacek suggested that a card with a list of contactable priests could be produced.

Security Measures: Tom reported that the Crime Prevention Officer had been happy with the church's security arrangements but had mentioned that one area of weakness was the unlocked side gate and the absence of main gates. It was mentioned that Fr. Robert felt that the open car park acted as a service to the community and that the by-product of the car park being used by the local community was a security measure in itself.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 13th August 2009 at 7.30pm