

PASTORAL CO-ORDINATING GROUP MEETING
Thursday 13th August 2009

PRESENT: Fr. Robert Tom Regan Linda Nolan
Deacon John June Blakemore Sarah Down
John Ballard Ann Bassett

OPENING PRAYER

APOLOGIES: George and Mary Phillips, Jacek Kostuch, Sharon Mileham, Kathy Pope and Breda Kurth.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Approved as an accurate record

MATTERS ARISING

Hymn Books/St. Augustine of Hippo Letter: Discussion on both these matters was deferred until the next meeting on account of Jacek's absence.

Emergency Priest Cover: Fr. Robert informed the Meeting that this issue was being considered diocesan-wide and that when a decision was made, the agreed procedure would be confirmed. In the meantime emergency cover was organised through the Parish Office.

CORRESPONDENCE: A request from the CWL for a Cheese and Wine Evening and Table-top sale to be held on Saturday 17th October 2009. This was agreed.

JUSTICE AND PEACE REPORT: John Ballard drew the Meeting's attention to three items in the Justice and Peace Group minutes.

- **CAFOD** Maria Barnes has been appointed as the new Mid-Cornwall Co-ordinator for CAFOD. A Parish Contacts Meeting will be held on 14th September and the 50th Anniversary of the CAFOD Fast Day occurs on 26th February 2010.
- **FOSTAH** (Friends of St. Austell Homeless) It has been suggested that the Anniversary of the death of Cardinal Basil Hume should be commemorated by a United Service held in St. Augustine's Church to mark his life and work (especially his concern for the homeless), followed by a Coffee Morning to raise funds for FOSTAH. Fr. Robert reported that a date had already been agreed, Saturday 17th October. Although concerns were raised because the date coincided with the one agreed for the CWL Cheese and Wine Evening, it was felt that this would not be detrimental to either. It is hoped that the Coffee Morning will be supported by all the churches in the town who participate in FOSTAH. John Ballard also pointed out that this date was chosen to enable Fr. Robert to be present.
- **UN Day of Recollection for Peace – Monday 21st September 2009.** Last year a reflection on Justice and Peace was led by John on behalf of the Justice and Peace Group. Liz Burroughs is looking for a volunteer from St. Augustine's to lead prayers (approx 10mins) every hour on the hour at a Vigil which is going to be held at Mount Charles Methodist Church. A request for volunteers will be put in the News-sheet and, in the meantime, John Ballard will give the matter some thought. John would prefer not to lead the prayers himself as he was involved last year.

John suggested that the Justice and Peace Group would be pleased to prepare the Bidding Prayers for 13th September, Racial Justice Sunday.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Church trailer: Tom Regan reported that Paul Briscoe had requested the purchase of a trailer to help with the maintenance of the church grounds and that Paul was willing to pay towards half the cost of purchase. A number of practical problems relating to such a purchase were raised:

- Safe, secure storage
- Insurance
- Users of trailer
- Number plates
- Problems relating to joint use and ownership

As a result of the difficulties raised, the general consensus of the meeting was against the purchase of a trailer. Fr. Robert suggested that sharing our own resources, i.e. the use of a trailer when the need arose, helped parish community life. He undertook to talk to Paul about the PCG's decision.

DEANERY MATTERS: The Deanery forum AGM is being held on 26th September. Breda and Pat will be attending, as will June if she is able.

SOCIAL GROUP REPORT: In Jacek's absence, Fr. Robert mentioned the on-going preparations for St. Augustine's Feastday celebrations.

ECUMENICAL MATTERS

The St. Austell Churches Together AGM will be held on 21st September. St. Augustine's representatives are Deacon John and Sylvia Ryan but all parishioners are welcome to attend. Fr. Robert reported that there had been a very encouraging attendance at the Par District Council of Churches' beach service.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fr. Robert reported that the recent legacy to the parish has now been paid into the parish bank account. A Finance Committee Meeting is to be arranged, if possible for next week, Monday 17th August, to advise on how to proceed with the investment and use of this legacy. Fr. Robert expressed the view that, once the parish debt had been paid off with a portion of the legacy, the remainder should be placed in the Common Diocesan Investment Fund to provide a "financial Cushion" for the parish over the next 50yrs or so. The church's current financial position will be helped considerably by the absence of the annual "parish debt" payment to the Diocese. John Ballard queried whether the money would be ring-fenced for our own parish. Fr. Robert confirmed this and explained that the Common Diocesan Investment Fund was a vehicle that the Diocese had on behalf of respective parishes to enable them to draw on the interest to help with specific needs and projects. The money in the fund is ethically and carefully invested. The legacy will also give our parish an opportunity to help other parishes in need as we ourselves have been helped by the generosity of the parish of Wimborne last year. Fr. Robert will announce the good news to the parish during St. Augustine's Feast day weekend.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10th September 2009