

**Minutes of St Winefride's Parish Pastoral Council
Tuesday 9 March 2010 at 7.30pm**

Present:

Fr Michael Eastwood	Parish Priest (president)
Revd Bill Hutchinson	Parish Deacon
Breda Kavanagh	Parish Assistant
Luis Vaz	Parish Area 1
Paul Turner	Parish Area 2 (chair)
Peter Lester	Parish Area 6 (secretary)
Brenda Fox	Parish Area 7
Janet Wale	Parish Area 8

1. Welcomes were made by the chair, Paul Turner. An opening prayer was led by Deacon Bill.

2. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

3. Minutes from previous meeting of 12 January 2010

Luis Vaz requested a change to §5.6. With this change made, the minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed by the chair.

4. Minutes from standing committee meeting of 24 February 2010

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

5. Matters arising

5.1 Churches Together in Shepshed/Hope 09

Fr Michael reported that Hope 10 meetings are continuing this year; attendance is increasing in number. The next Churches Together meeting will take place this Thursday (11 March); from the minutes of the last meeting Fr Michael reported that (1) Lent groups are in progress around each church, with about 20 people each week; Brenda Fox and Maureen Smith attend from St Winefride's; (2) a notice has been placed in the porch advertising the Good Friday Walk of Witness.

5.2 Update from Family Matters sub-committee

Paul reported that the Family Mass had taken place on 16 February and was a very nice event; attendance was reasonable. Fr Michael said that the sub-committee would meet again to put ideas into practice for National Family Week, 31 May – 6 June.

Action: Family Matters sub-committee

5.4 Update on the mission

Fr Michael reported on preparations for the mission. The mission prayer is being said at weekend masses; its success is included as an intention at the Rosary held each Monday; the sick and housebound will be visited between now and Easter and be encouraged to include the mission in their prayers; Fr Michael will visit the school on Thursday (11 March) to talk to the children about the mission and to draw or paint a picture. Originally it had been planned that the subject of their pictures would be

the Holy Spirit but Fr Michael felt this may be too abstract for the children and so the meeting agreed that he should suggest an Easter scene such as Christ rising from the tomb. Fr Michael also reported that his visiting was going very well and he was up to date with his programme; his reception has been very welcoming and the exercise is felt to be worthwhile. Fr Michael confirmed that Deacon Bill had investigated the hosting of a mass at Beresford Court, Arnold Smith House and Longcliffe; unfortunately the lady who looks after these homes is away for some time now so only one will be held before Easter, at Beresford Court (in Area 4); the others would take place after Easter. Fr Michael had also written to Fr Francis to confirm the times of Masses and Fr Francis had agreed to these. The evening mass had originally been arranged for 7.30; however, the printed leaflets had 7.00, so the mass has been moved to this time. Brenda Fox confirmed that the Ladies Group would organise teas after mass.

5.4 Fund-raising ideas

Luis said that this is still on-going. Brenda said she would like to stage a World Cup sweepstake this summer and this was agreed to.

Action: Brenda

5.5 Parish car-sharing scheme

Breda Kavanagh reported that she had not yet started work on this scheme due to her accompanying Fr Michael on his visiting; however, she would aim to have a sign-up list in the porch before Easter so that the scheme can be in place for the mission.

Action: Breda

5.6 Communication

Paul said that it has been agreed to include a piece in The Voice as a vehicle to communicate with the parish, and he had written a piece which Brenda circulated. Paul said the idea was to make this a regular feature. A short discussion was held about how the mechanism of publishing this piece regularly would be done. Breda also mentioned that there were a number of items on the web site which were now out-of-date or had been requested to be removed, and Paul agreed to liaise with Marie-Clare Dixon regarding this.

Paul said that one item discussed at the Deanery meeting on 25 February was the deanery newsletter, set up by Terry Spicer of St Mary's parish. Any events or matters of interest for the wider community within the deanery should be included in this newsletter, so that it can be circulated to other parishes. Paul said that the only item which could have been included in the last issue was the Family Mass on 16 February but we were not able to meet the deadline in including this. Fr Michael said that it was a great vehicle but it may not always be possible to include something. Paul said that if there is anything we should be communicating about, we should let Terry know about it; Paul agreed to pass any suggestions on to Terry. Brenda asked if the Mission had been suggested; Paul said he would forward this to Terry for inclusion in the appropriate newsletter.

Action: Paul

Feedback from previous actions

5.7 Feedback from parish area representatives

Parish Areas 1 and 6: Luis Vaz and Peter Lester both reported that they had been accompanying Fr Michael on his parish visiting of their areas in preparation for the mission.

6. Main Agenda

6.1 Question from Gerald Monk regarding the wall of Our Lady's aisle

This question was received via Deacon Bill and concerned when the wall of Our Lady's aisle would be repaired. Fr Michael reported that it had been looked at by a builder who said it was too large a job to repair and was unwilling to do so lest he damaged it. Then Fr Michael contacted Keith Hamilton, the architect of the new hall, who felt that the damp affecting the wall was coming from the confessional, an extension built in 2003 or 2004. Keith then said he would visit the church on Wednesday 17 March with Gouldings, the firm who had originally built the confessional, so that they can look at the wall and hopefully put it right. Once repaired, time will be needed for it to dry out before it will be decorated. Fr Michael commented that there had been a similar problem about eighteen months ago in which damp from the chimney was affecting the lady chapel and sanctuary; the chimney had to be repaired, after which there was a drying-out period before the lady chapel and sanctuary could be decorated.

6.2 Question from Gerald Monk regarding new hymn books

This question was also received via Deacon Bill, and asked for news about the hymn books which were due for purchase some time ago. Fr Michael replied that we had originally decided new hymn books were needed, but then became aware that the new missal was going to be introduced, which may be accompanied by new music. Fr Michael had therefore decided to wait for this to be issued. In response to this enquiry he had contacted the Chair of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission for further details. The Chair confirmed that it would be most prudent to wait for the new missal as there will be some alteration to the music. The new missal is in its final stages and will most likely be ready at the end of the year; after its approval there will be a lot of printing, with the music being issued about six months after that; it is likely, therefore, that the music will be issued in June 2011. It would therefore be economical to retain the current hymn books (as well as other liturgical books) until the new music has been issued.

6.3 Question from parishioner regarding Family Mass homily

This question was received via Luis, and asked if the Family Mass homily could be directed more towards the children present at the mass. Deacon Bill said that this can be difficult as there is quite a wide range of ages among the children and it can be difficult to know where to pitch the homily; this is especially true with more complex gospels. Fr Michael said that the mass is also for adults, and would not want to be 'talking down' to them. Fr Michael and Deacon Bill agreed to talk about this issue.

Action: Fr Michael and Deacon Bill

6.4 Vacancies on the council

Paul introduced this issue by saying that we no longer have representatives for areas 3 or 5. At the standing committee it was discussed that the formality of the election process might put people off; therefore it was suggested that a notice be put into the bulletin asking anyone who may be interested to come along to a meeting as an observer, and if they wished could 'join' the council, rather than 'put up' for election. If more than one person from one area wished to join, then an election would be required. The standing committee has therefore proposed that we advertise for volunteers rather than election candidates. The full council agreed to do this. Luis asked whether we needed to remain with the area representation; Paul said that the council had agreed to do this. Fr Michael said it would be useful not to advertise before Easter due to preparations for the mission; a good time to ask for volunteers might be at the AGM.

6.5 Annual number of meetings

Paul introduced this item by saying that at the Standing Committee Fr Michael had commented that the council, when first formed, had discussed the idea of holding six meetings a year with a view to reducing this number to four once the council was established. This would bring it in line with other councils. This idea was now presented to the full council for discussion. Fr Michael commented that it may not have been a formal declaration, when the council was first formed, that the number of meetings would be reduced; and that, just because other councils have fewer meetings, we do not necessarily have to. Paul said that if the number were reduced to four and an urgent matter arose, an extraordinary meeting could be called.

Deacon Bill said he would prefer six meetings: with four meetings an issue may arise shortly after one but would not be discussed for many weeks; it might also be difficult to call together all council members for an additional meeting whereas with six meetings all the dates have been fixed already. Brenda questioned, however, how many times an urgent matter of this kind had arisen. She also said there may be more to talk about at a quarterly meeting. Luis confirmed from his documentation that the council guidelines record that a meeting should take place once every thirteen weeks, so four meetings a year would be acceptable; both he and Janet Wale were in support of four meetings. Brenda however was concerned that a reduction from six to four may mean that things may not get done due to the length of time between meetings. Long-term projects could take even longer if there were fewer meetings and things may not get the attention they need; however, she suggested we could try four meetings to see how it worked. Peter agreed with Brenda that four meetings may delay progress on activities; however, he suggested that the full council could act as a body which initiated individual projects and tasks and smaller committees would be established to undertake the work, reporting back when complete or otherwise at the following meeting, a la the Family Matters sub-committee; such committees could include other members of the parish which might encourage more interest and participation in the council.

Brenda also commented that if we are trying to encourage new members by observing meetings, such a delay between meetings may not enable people to get a good idea of what the council does, in order to make a fairly quick decision. Paul suggested that as we have dates in our diary for this year we leave the number of meetings as they are and review this issue again at the end of the year.

6.6 Date of the AGM and agenda

Paul introduced this item by saying that due to other appointments it had been suggested that the AGM be moved to Wednesday 26 May. However, not all council members could accommodate this date and so it was agreed that the AGM will remain on Tuesday 25 May, at 7.30 pm. Peter agreed to contact each of the groups in the parish to ask if they would like to submit a report to the AGM. The meeting also acknowledged that the Garden Fete will be taking place on Saturday 26 June.

Action: Peter

6.7 Deanery and Diocesan reports

Fr Michael reported from a deanery meeting on 18 January, about last year's deanery celebration day in July. At this meeting Fr Charles Sormany at St Mary's in Loughborough had organised a special follow-up group called the 'Growing Together Group'. Regarding young people in the diocese, the dean, Fr Philip Scanlan, would approach the Briars team based at Crich for support and cohesion, and to discuss a new questionnaire with the group; Tony Dugan, the chaplain at De Lisle school, would also approach the Briars team.

Paul reported from a deanery meeting of 25 February at St Mary's, where attendance had been very low. From this meeting it was emphasised that parishes need to pass information on to Terry Spicer for the deanery newsletter, although it was acknowledged that it takes time for people to get used to this.

Fr Michael announced that Fr Philip has organised two separate deanery meetings at Sacred Heart church in Loughborough, on 27 April and 4 May, both Tuesdays, when Fr Ken O'Riordan would speak about the reasons why and how the new missal would be introduced. The first meeting falls in our mission week but the importance of someone representing us at both of these meetings was expressed.

7. Any other business

None.

8. Date of the next meeting

The next Standing Committee meeting will take place on 21 April 2010. The next meeting of the full council will take place on 11 May 2010.

9. Closing prayer

The closing prayer was led by Fr Michael.