

**Minutes of St Winefride's Parish Pastoral Council
Tuesday 10 November 2009 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)
Marie-Clare Dixon	Parish Area 3
Mark Hessey	Parish Area 4
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 Father Michael.

2. Apologies for absence

None.

3. Elections

3.1 Paul Turner agreed to stand as chair for the coming year and was elected unopposed.

3.2 Brenda Fox offered to stand as deputy chair for the coming year and was elected unopposed.

3.3 Peter Lester agreed to stand as secretary for the coming year and was elected unopposed.

4. Minutes from previous meeting of 8 September 2009

The minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed by the chair.

5. Minutes from standing committee meeting of 21 October 2009

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

6. Matters arising

6.1 Churches Together in Shepshed/Hope 09

Father Michael updated. Meetings are still being held regularly but numbers are dropping; six attended at the last meeting at Christchurch. The next meeting will take place at St Winefrides on 2 December. It is open to anyone who wishes to attend; at the meeting prayers are offered for any issues in the area.

6.2 Update from Family Matters sub-committee

Brenda said that the children's newsletters continue to be distributed and are popular: children actively look for them now. There was a brief discussion about how they were best distributed and Breda Kavanagh said that it was best if they were handed out as they may be missed

otherwise. As this issue was to be discussed under §6.5 Paul agreed to bring forward that motion to ask the meeting formally if we should continue with the newsletters. It was agreed to do this as the response had been very popular and the cost of £5.90 per month was considered reasonable. It was also agreed that the introduction of books for children would be continued as this was considered positive and had been well received. Brenda will thank Angie Whitmore for her initial suggestion and tell her that it is working very well.

At the Standing Committee Father Michael has asked Peter to liaise with James Lester on The Road To Bethlehem project, as he had originally sourced relevant information at a parish in Southborough; Peter presented a suggestion which he and James had proposed. It was suggested that on the weekend of 14/15 November an insert relating to the project was circulated with the newsletter inviting people to take part; two sign-up sheets, one for the crib and the other for the statue, would be placed in the church. The list will remain in the church until after the weekend of 21/22 November, after which the lists are taken down and a route organised for the crib and the statue to circulate the parish. On the weekend of 28/29 November, the first weekend of advent, a handout will be distributed to each person participating, informing them of when and from whom they will receive the statue or crib, and when and to whom they should take it. The first people will collect the statue and the crib at that weekend's masses. The crib and statue will circulate the parish according to the list and the information on the handout. A candle should be included so that people can light this when the crib or statue arrives, and stars included for children to decorate and bring to the Family Mass on Christmas Eve. The last person on the list will bring the crib to the Family Mass on Christmas Eve and the statue to Midnight Mass. Copies of the various documents involved in the project were circulated.

A discussion followed relating to the project. It was agreed that a candle would not be included but that people could use their own. Paul expressed concern about whether the project would work in practical terms but it was agreed that it has presumably worked in Southborough and we should try it and see how successful it is. It was also agreed that the sign-up sheets should be amended to give individuals the option of a particular date to sign up to. Peter agreed to organise the implementation of the project.

Father Michael confirmed that the Family Mass would be postponed until the new year.

6.3 Update on the mission

Father Michael distributed a leaflet which Luis Vaz had produced to be given out to Catholic houses in Shepshed preceding the mission in April. There was a discussion about mass times and it was agreed that the evening masses should take place at 7.00pm with refreshment following, the morning masses should remain at 9.15am and the Saturday morning

mass for the sick should take place at 11.00. Lifts will be arranged for this last.

Father Michael plans to visit each house in the parish in order to hand out the leaflet; he would not stay for any length of time. In discussing this with Breda and Luis he has agreed to begin in January, which will mean visiting eight houses every weekday for the ten weeks prior to the beginning of the mission in April. During the period between January and Easter Father Michael confirmed that he would not attend other meetings or events except where necessary. At the start of the year, the homily will be used to explain the importance of preparation. A mission prayer will be introduced from January and people will be encouraged to pray for the success of the mission during adoration, at the Rosary group and the Padre Pio prayer group. Two area masses will take place each month; the area representatives will need to organise these where possible. Deacon Bill has agreed to organise masses at communal centres. It was also planned to involve the sick and housebound for the success of the mission, and to involve children by giving a talk in school and the parish, and to invite them to draw or paint a picture of the Holy Spirit which would be brought to church at the children's service on Maundy Thursday and displayed during the mission. Father Michael also confirmed that the dates will be 25 April – 2 May 2010.

Deacon Bill confirmed that he had spoken to the warden and that the warden areas at Beresford Court, Arnold Smith House and Longcliffe could be used for masses. Father Michael thanked Bill for this. There followed a discussion relating to the distribution of leaflets. Paul and Marie-Clare Dixon both offered to distribute leaflets in their areas. Father Michael said that, whilst not wishing to deprive anyone of their contribution, he felt the need to do this himself and to make personal contact with everyone. Father Michael agreed that he would place a notice in the newsletter advising of which part of the parish he will be visiting, and if the area representative wished and was able to come with him, they could then contact him.

It was agreed that the parish leaflet would only be distributed in the parish and not placed elsewhere, for example at the monastery.

6.4 Update on the parish census

Father Michael said that he had written to everyone in the school inviting them to complete a tear-off slip and hand it to him at parents' evening or post it through the letterbox of the presbytery. He had had five responses.

6.5 Children's newsletter and books

This point was addressed under §6.2, above.

6.6 Fund-raising ideas and copyright

A copyright report was circulated and Peter introduced this topic by summarising the salient points. The inclusion of copyright material in a

saleable publication would infringe copyright and so permission would need to be sought from the copyright owner. The Bible is subject to copyright which is owned by the publisher of the relevant edition; Peter said that he had contacted Darton, Longman and Todd, the publisher of the New Jerusalem Bible and the Revised Standard Version, who confirmed that we can use up to 800 words (with permission) in a publication free of charge but any more than this would be subject to a royalty. Peter said that Paul had found an online Bible which had been translated by a missionary society in the USA which was not subject to copyright; however, as this was not a Catholic Bible it would omit certain parts and also would not be subject to an imprimatur so it was suggested that we did not use this. Traditional Catholic prayers such as the Hail Mary were considered to be out of copyright. The Missal and the Lectionary are subject to copyright, which is owned by the International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) and use of any of these (with the exception of thirteen prayers, including the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed, which are in the public domain) would almost certainly be subject to a royalty; however, as it is unlikely that parishioners would request inclusion of extracts from these texts in a fund-raising publication it was felt that we should not progress permission for use of this material. Prayers, poems and other devotions written by other authors such as Helen Steiner Rice would almost certainly be in copyright and would also be popular with parishioners; the inclusion of an entire poem may be subject to royalties.

Peter suggested that an alternative approach was to encourage parishioners to write their own poems for inclusion. This had been suggested previously and whilst it is acknowledged that many parishioners may not feel capable of doing this, Peter said that an anthology of poems written by parishioners and submitted to The Voice had been produced about ten years ago and sold at the Christmas Fair. It was therefore agreed that we should move forward on producing a publication which would primarily include original contributions but which may also include other poems or Biblical extracts but with the caveat that these may be edited or not included depending upon copyright. It was also agreed that the publication would need to be marketed well as Brenda said that The Voice anthology had not sold well as it had not been marketed. Peter and Luis agreed to liaise on this issue.

Mark asked if a 'buy a tile' scheme might be considered. Brenda said that she and James Lester had discussed this idea last year, with the idea of a tile being purchased which could be dedicated to a person or family. A visual aid showing which tiles had been purchased could accompany this. Brenda said that tiles could be sold but at a reasonable price. Brenda said that it was necessary to have something tangible which people could visualise; Marie-Clare suggested coloured stickers or lego bricks. Father Michael said that James had measured the roof and had the idea of a graphic design on which tiles would be coloured. Brenda said that she would look into this idea again.

6.7 Display of minutes

Peter confirmed that a plastic device had been placed in the stand in the porch to improve the display of the minutes.

Feedback from previous actions

6.8 Feedback from parish area representatives

Parish Area 6: Peter confirmed that a house mass had taken place at his home on 8 October; it had been successful, with eight residents of the parish area and eleven people in total in attendance. A mulled wine and mince pie evening has been planned for 8 December. This will be a social event without a mass.

7. Main Agenda

7.1 Delivery of Christmas leaflets

Paul introduced this topic. Each year the Churches Together in Shepshed produce a leaflet with the times of Christmas services for each of the churches. Each church is allocated a part of Shepshed to distribute the leaflets in. A document was circulated which featured an annotated version of the electoral register, identifying streets in the Anson Road estate and near Ashby Road which have been allocated to St Winefride's. The council members were asked if they could help distribute leaflets.

Father Michael said that once the leaflets had arrived we would need to distribute them. Paul confirmed that this would be a case of putting leaflets through letterboxes. Marie-Clare said she would like to do this for Hathern, which was not included on the list; it was agreed that more would be ordered to enable Marie-Clare to do this. Brenda said that she had distributed many of the leaflets last year with Tom Vellacott and that she was happy to do this again. It was therefore agreed that Brenda would take a selection of leaflets and the remainder would be made available in the church for volunteers.

7.2 Leaflet drop

It was felt that with the current number of leaflets being distributed there was no need for any more to be produced or circulated at this time.

7.3 Deanery and Diocesan reports including deanery meetings report

Paul introduced this topic by reporting that attempts are being made to follow up the Deanery Day with a communication channel covering the whole deanery. Father Michael and Paul attended a meeting at which it was suggested that a regular monthly newsletter could be produced in which parishes could advise one another of events and initiatives taking place in them. Terry Spicer of St Mary's in Loughborough has organised this. Any items of interest which the council can identify which may be of interest should be sent to Terry. In addition this meeting and a successive one attended by Father Michael and Deacon Bill addressed the question of what young people want from church. In a bid to retain young people at mass and to try and include them, it was suggested that

we should attempt to canvass opinion from them, rather than impose our own ideas on them. The meeting was therefore encouraged to identify ways in which this might be achieved.

Janet Wale suggested consulting through St Mary's youth club or the Passion, but Breda said the former was no longer well attended and that we are not represented at the latter. Brenda suggested a form aimed at a specific age group. Bill said that such a form could be included with the leaflet which is to be distributed to each of the houses as preparation for the mission; it was agreed that this method may reach more young people including those who do not attend. Paul encouraged members to think of any other ideas that they might have.

In terms of ideas for inclusion in the deanery newsletter, Brenda said that the mission ought to be one of them. The initiative of the advent crib and the statue was also suggested; and Brenda said that the Christingle and the positive response to the children's newsletters ought to be included as well. Father Michael said that the mission and advent initiatives were also included on the agenda of the next deanery meeting.

The issue of the blog was raised and Father Michael said that there had been a poor reaction to it. Each parish was encouraged to determine whether this could be a viable form of communication.

Father Michael also said that at the recent deanery meeting the dean has asked each council to consider the issue of mass times: with the increasing age and poorer health of the deanery's priests an increase in emergencies and crises caused through death or ill health was likely and rather than a knee-jerk reaction a planned strategy should be instigated. Opinions and actions regarding the number and times of masses should be considered at each of the deanery's parish council meetings. As each parish holds its masses at about the same time there is a need to address whether this can continue or if parishes should consider changing their times.

Deacon Bill suggested that Eucharistic services should be considered but Father Michael said that by law every effort must be made to find a priest to say mass. However, in a real emergency a Eucharistic service could be a very real possibility. Marie-Clare suggested a partner parish scheme where two parishes coordinate their mass times so that the priest in one parish could serve the other if necessary. Mark said that in many parts of the country churches hold masses at unusual times so that a priest can reach it in order to say mass. Father Michael said that there is no Sunday evening mass in the deanery and wondered if a priest would consider this; Paul said the university holds one at this time. Deacon Bill questioned whether a Sunday evening mass would cover an individual's obligation to hear mass, as evening prayer and night prayer are said for the following day. Peter questioned if the monks at Mount St Bernard ought to be included, bearing in mind that they have a contemplative vocation; Father Michael said that any cover for parochial

masses should be sourced from the existing parish priests and it was agreed that in discussing this topic it should be acknowledged that the monks are not available to participate.

Father Michael said that he would inform the dean at their next meeting that the council had discussed this question and given it serious consideration.

7.4 Dates of 2010 meetings

Peter circulated a list of proposed dates. With two alterations these were agreed. The dates will be:

Standing Committee Meetings (9 December 2009)	Full Council meetings 12 January 2010
24 February 2010	9 March 2010
21 April 2010	11 May 2010
23 June 2010	6 July 2010
18 August 2010	7 September 2010
20 October 2010	9 November 2010
8 December 2010	

8. Any other business

8.1 Access to the toilets

Brenda asked if the path leading to the toilet would be repaired as it is easy to walk grass into church. Father Michael confirmed that this would be happening soon.

8. Date of the next meeting

The next Standing Committee meeting will take place on 9 December 2009. *Please note that since the meeting this date has now altered.* The next meeting of the full council will take place on 12 January 2010.

9. Closing prayer

The closing prayer was led by Deacon Bill.