

Parish Coordinating Group Minutes

13th September 2011

Present: Fr Kieron O'Brien - Chair, Fr Paul Turner, Marie O'Grady, Kathy Campbell, Geoff Breeze, Susan Line, Ged Lavery, Mary Eveleigh, Paul Andrewartha, Harry Henshaw, Lena Finn (secretary).

Apologies: Simon Davenport, Fran Chapman

1. Prayer & welcome

- Fr K welcomed Harry and Fr Paul to the Group.

2. Minutes of last meeting.

- Agreed

3. Matters arising

- Following on from the discussion about Welcoming and K.I.T at the last meeting ME had taken the subject to the Welcoming meeting and the MAD group. Although they discussed how to improve communication and stimulate interest in ministries they concentrated on how to bring people back to the faith. ME presented her findings to the group. It concluded there were a number of reasons why people lapsed for instance family problems, social engagements/hobbies, apathy. Fr P stated one of the main reasons is when people move area and are not longer part of a community and it can be very hard to integrate. This is especially so with university students. MO'G also felt that when a person is bereaved it can be hard to come to church on their own when they had been used to coming with a partner. SL felt that this should be picked up by the Bereavement Group. Fr K felt that ignorance was also a factor. Other churches especially the free churches could appear to be more attractive as they were good at evangelizing and teaching. Fr K felt that the way forward would be to action an Outreach Group to identify these people.

4. Parish Census & Follow up

- Following on from the previous agenda item Fr K suggested a question for inclusion on the Census form as to whether people know of someone who would like a visit from a member of the parish.
- GB distributed a draft of the revised Census form.
- Fr K asked GB & KC for a final version of the form for the next meeting so that a date can be agreed during November for the new Census to be completed.
- Volunteers would be needed to follow up any comments on the completed forms.
- Fr K felt that maybe two forms were needed, one as a census and one as a questionnaire. The questionnaire would be a positive sign that the parish was taking the issue of outreach seriously.
- HH suggested that rather than a tick box it may be better to have a scaled response 1-5 agree/ disagree for some of the questions.
- The group agreed to review the subject at the next meeting.

5. Open Meeting

- Is on 27th September and will focus on the Strategy Document prepared by Christopher Emerson. The document is on the website.
- Three people had expressed an interest in helping with the Fund Raising position.
- Fr K asked that members of the PCG be present at the meeting.

6. Liturgy Report

- Fr K confirmed that the sung responses would continue for the time being at all masses. We will have a better sense of what is working after a few months. 20 to 30 people had remained after mass for the practice.
- Fr P felt that by singing the responses it gave people a feel for the Missal music and lifted the mass. On 26th September there will be a presentation led by Jane Porter, who is currently working for the England and Wales Liturgy Office. It is an opportunity to see what musical settings are available and explore which of them might work for our communities.
- In Spirit and in Truth is a new six session course starting on 3rd October to help those understand the Mass and explore the new translation.

7. City Angels

- This is an initiative from Revelation Church but will include members from other churches.
- Its aim is to take a caring service into the city on a Saturday night to provide hot drinks but also help those in need and provide a listening ear. There will be no extreme intervention and is supported by the local police force.
- Fr K had two volunteers from Bosham and asked the group to spread the word.

8. Advent Groups

- Fr K had been approached by the assistant priest of St Paul's to consider the possibility of providing a shared Advent course along with Christ Church. He is attending a meeting and will have more information at a later date.
- The Diocese will be issuing a booklet this year.
- MO'G found the Advent Groups in St P's were poorly supported. Action was being taken to move a hall booking to enable any groups to be held in the hall after mass on a Friday morning to encourage more people to participate.
- SL will extend an invitation to Holy Trinity again this year to join their group on a Tuesday morning.
- Fr K will confirm the Meeting Point Carol Service.

9. Membership of the Group

- Fr K felt that the group needed constantly refreshing.
- Representatives from the 10am Mass and PDG were needed.
- Fr K clarified the aims and purpose of the Group for Fr P and HH.
- KC asked if a representative from the Buildings Committee should be included.

10.AOB

- The Christmas Party for Volunteers is set for Monday 12th December.
- PA informed the group he had sent fifty letters inviting children to the Confirmation course but did not anticipate that number signing up. The weekend away would be at CYE. He was also focusing on the Altar Servers and would be working with Fr P. The Mass on Youth Sunday will involve the children and those on the ministries rota would be asked to step down. PA was looking at a “Working B” on 20th December whereby members of the Youth Group would come to the church and assist with cleaning and preparing the church for Christmas.
- SL queried the role of the Justice and Peace representative. Fr K confirmed that he had approached Helen Floyd who had attended the recent conference and successfully made an appeal for Pax Christi but at the moment she was not in a position to take it forward. However, the parish had continued to support Mercy House and Fr Joe.

Next meeting Tuesday 17th October at Bosham

**Future dates: Tuesday 22nd November - St Richard's
Monday 9th January 2012 – St Peter's (TBC)**