

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting  
2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016  
St Mary's Parish Meeting Room

**Present:** Fr Pat, Margaret Barnes (Chair), John Barnes, Alicja Dale, Eddie Aitken, Teresa Todd, Hilary Taylor, Joe Burns, David Wilkinson, Anne Waddington, Josie Liddell

**Apologies:** Peter Dowson  
Meeting opened with a prayer.

**Minutes of last meeting** were agreed as true record.

**Matters arising**

- Teresa reported that the gifts & clothes donated to refugees were very gratefully received.
- **Family Mass** in March went well and the next such Mass is on June 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **Quarante Ore** was fully covered and well attended.
- **Pilgrimage to the Cathedral** – all arrangements are sorted. A mass leaflet is being prepared for use on the day. 250 pilgrim tickets have been handed out so far.
- **Dementia Awareness** meetings were held. About 20 attended each session and they were found to be interesting and informative. Teresa asked if there was an audit available to determine if we are "dementia friendly". Rachel Walker, the Diocesan co-ordinator for "Growing old gracefully" may be able to help. Horsforth is a dementia friendly town and holds events which could be publicised in church. Hilary has more details. It was felt that Eucharistic ministers could benefit from more training and information. Fr Pat said that here was literature on the subject in each church.

**Implications of a Parish Council**

After much discussion, it was proposed that:

- The time seems right to move from 3 separate church Pastoral committees to one overriding Parish Council. (This has been agreed by all three Pastoral committees.)
- Provision will exist for individual local meetings to be held when necessary.
- Groups could be formed for specific purposes outside the Parish Council e.g. the planning group for the Family Masses.
- It was suggested that each church community had 3 or 4 elected representatives on the Council.
- Assumption would prefer the option to have two permanent and two "as hoc" members.
- The maximum term of service would be 4 years
- We should encourage more parishioners to get involved rather than leave it to existing council members to carry on indefinitely.
- The purpose of the meetings should be strategic to work alongside the Clergy to plan the future of the Parish and plan parish events.
- The purpose of the Parish Council needs to be made clear and how representatives should be chosen to represent each community.
- These ideas will need to be communicated to the Laity either in writing or from the Pulpit
- A sub-committee be formed to plan the structure and purpose of the proposed Council.
- Joe will circulate examples of existing Parish Council constitutions to the attendees of the meeting to allow us to review and comment on them before another meeting to

be held on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July** at 7.30 p.m. in St Mary's Meeting Room to discuss the purpose and structure of a proposed OLK Parish Council.

- The results of this meeting would be taken forward to the September Pastoral meetings for discussion.
- Recommendations from these meetings will be brought to the September meeting of OLK Parish Council for agreement.

### **Live Simply**

- This could be incorporated into our future mission
- Joe explained more about what is involved and how it should involve the whole Parish.
- There are three aspects a) Live Simply b) Live sustainably c) Live in solidarity with the poor.
- It combines our relationship with God and our relationship with one another and our relationship with the Earth's resources.
- It offers a great opportunity to further integrate the Parish as a whole.
- The process has already been started in St Benedict's in Garforth and has taken 2 years thus far.
- It begins with an audit of what the Parish has done already and what further steps are needed to do what is necessary to gain the award.
- There is a checklist on the Cafod website of what needs to be done.
- This could be introduced to parishioners along with plans for the new Council in Autumn
- We could start with an audit in September at each church of what is currently being done ( *Volunteers are needed to undertake this task, please*)

### **OLK Magazine**

- To follow on from the St Mary's Magazine, which has run its course.
- Contributions have now slowed down and the format is old fashioned.
- An A3 size may re-vitalise the style and be better for the website.
- Steve Bates could design the format but will need input from Parishioners/ groups/ schools.
- Could also include spiritual reflections.

### **AOB**

- The people who run the Wakefield City of Sanctuary have a summer appeal for clothes and toys/summer holiday gifts/ colouring books and pencils which could be used by children who are refugees in our community.
- The centre at Wakefield is the dispersal centre for the region and some of these families will be rehoused in Leeds.
- It was suggested that an appeal be made when families are being invited to the Family Mass and that the Uniformed organisations be invited to contribute at their monthly mass in July.
- Margaret to get in touch with both schools to ask if they will help
- Teresa will write something for the bulletin to encourage people to contribute
- Collections to be made on June 26<sup>th</sup> and July 4<sup>th</sup> July in each church.
- Teresa will then take these to Wakefield.

### **Next meeting**

**July 7<sup>th</sup>** St Mary's Meeting Room to discuss structure of the Parish Council

**21<sup>st</sup> September** St Mary's Meeting Room to report back from Pastoral Committee meetings