

**St. Alban's Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes of meeting held 15th September 2009**

Present: Fr. Gerry; Martin Brown; Lorraine Collins; Sandra Endsor; Angela Fairbrother;
Anne Kearney; Susan Lewis; Maria Neads; Walter Stone; Sally Parlato

Apologies: Mark Booton; Maggie Holmes; Jim Parlato; Sean Reid.

Opening Prayer: read by Maria.

Minutes of last meeting agreed after correcting the date of the previous matters arising. These will now be sent to Simon for putting on the web-site.

Sandra has agreed to be PPC secretary until the end of this term, i.e. March 2010/

The Council was joined by Sally Parlato who came along to tell us something about her role in **CAFOD and FairTrade** within the parish, and also her work with the young people.

Sally is responsible for collecting the weekly CAFOD envelopes, counting and sending off the money, these normally total 10+ each week. Peter Peak takes care of the Lent and Harvest Fast-day collections.

There is always a supply of envelopes at the back of church for parishioners use and it was thought that people should be made more aware of this.

Sally together with Fr. Gerry are the only people doing anything about CAFOD within the parish. Anne Kearney has previously volunteered to look after the displays and is still willing to do this. We need a bigger group to decide what information to use and how to raise the profile. Fr. Gerry has invited Marie Malloy from CAFOD to come and talk to our parishioners and help us to set up such a group. We need to make more people aware of CAFOD and FairTrade before that meeting so that those who might be interested are given enough time to think about it. **The possible dates for this meeting are 7th or 22nd October.**

**There will also be a CAFOD Advent Service held at St Alban's
on Friday 11th December at 7pm with Bishop Malcolm attending.**

Sally is also responsible for organising the supply of TraidCraft goods, and for selling same at the 10am Sunday Mass. Joanne helps at this Mass but volunteers are needed for the 6.30pm Saturday Mass. There is a team of four couples/individuals who are on the rota for Oakwood.

The fact that most supermarkets now stock fairly traded items was raised, but Sally said that she had received a letter from the suppliers asking her to continue buying from them.

This is the statement from Traidcraft "Although it is good to shop in supermarkets to show that there is a demand for fair trade, there are a number of benefits to buying from exclusively fair trade companies such as Traidcraft.

Traidcraft exists to fight poverty through trade, and thus by buying direct from us you are contributing to our continued wider work. We seek to continually push fair trade into new areas and our fair trade standards go above and beyond the minimum criteria guaranteed by the Fairtrade Mark.

We thus hope that those keen to support fair trade in its fullest form will continue to buy Traidcraft branded products rather than the Fairtrade products of commercial companies.”

We sell approximately £700 worth per year, so it is worth carrying on.

The council agreed that we should continue, not only to offer support but also to promote the ethos of helping others.

Sally said she has held a tasting session at the Youth Group to help raise awareness among the young people.

The Christmas cards would also be available again this year.

Confirmation

Sally and Jim are also involved with the young people of our parish and are hoping to run a confirmation programme for 2010. The application forms are available now and the closing date for these is 29th September 2009.

Confirmation will be open to years 9,10 and 11.

If not enough young people are interested in the programme some thought will have to be given to those who are interested so as not to discourage them.

One of the problems is keeping youngsters interested once they have been confirmed – they don’t usually carry on coming to Mass or to the Youth Group. Sally and Jim met with Angela Gillespie to discuss what can be done about this. The programme has not been finalised yet, but it hoped to include the Briars team at some point. The intention is for the group to participate in a six month scheme, meeting regularly at the parish centre, and alternately at Sunday Mass where they would leave Mass after the welcome to discuss the readings of the day then rejoin the congregation after the homily. This would make them feel part of the parish instead of being totally isolated in the middle of the week. It would be good to involve more members of the parish in running the sessions, perhaps leading the Sunday discussions, in order to open the youngsters to the rest of the parish.

The next stage is to refine the programme and recruit volunteers (these will get as much support and guidance as is needed, so they don’t have to be experts!)

There will be a second meeting with Angela on 5th October to plan the next stage.

Youth Club will re-commence on 30th September at 7pm and will meet fortnightly

Thanks to Sally were expressed by the council members for attending and giving us an insight into her work on behalf the parish.

It was suggested that we should invite members of different groups in the parish to council meetings to get an idea of the work involved and the problems experienced. This is yet to be discussed and acted upon.

Parish review – Spirituality

Angela reported that the last of the ‘Knowing God better’ sessions went well and the buffet was a success. Approximately 28 people came to the sessions over the six weeks.

The group members met to share a meal together and to look at the evaluation sheets. A meeting was then arranged to plan a follow-up programme, taking into account these evaluations:-

There will be a series of six Tuesday evenings between **29th September and 8th December** at fortnightly intervals. Some bible based others on guided prayer, meditation and finally Advent.

It was decided that a flyer advertising this should be produced and distributed as soon as possible.

Fr.Gerry thanked the group for being creative and for taking responsibility for moving on from the organised, published material.

Buildings

The week-day chapel has been painted out and the electrics are complete. The ceiling still awaits cleaning.

Deanery Council

Parish is represented by Fr. Gerry, Sandra and Angela, who attended for the first time on Monday 14th September. Following the success of our first Deanery Day in May there will be a second day next year with the theme 'Outreach and Mission'. On the ecumenical front, many parishes are working uni-laterally and we need to bring everyone together. Churches Together in Derbyshire may be one way of doing this. There will be a meeting of the Ecumenical sub-group to discuss this in October.

A.O.B

Saturday 5TH December 2009 - Alison Adams will be at the Church on Oakwood during the afternoon (1.30 – 4.30pm) to give us a 'Taste of Iona' with music, singing and worship. This is an ecumenical gathering open to all who interested.

N.B. If any-one has an item for the next agenda please let Sandra know no later than one week before the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday 12th November 2009 at 7.30pm

Opening prayer: Lorraine.

Thereafter: Thursday 14th January 2010 at 7.30pm

Opening prayer: tba

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