

**St. Alban's Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes of meeting held
14th January 2010**

Present: Fr. Gerry; Martin Brown; Lorraine Collins; Sandra Endsor; Angela Fairbrother; Susan Lewis; Jim Parlato; Sean Reid

Apologies: Mark Booton; Maggie Holmes; Anne Kearney; Maria Neads; Walter Stone;

Opening Prayer: Meditation led by Fr. Gerry

Minutes of last meeting

Proposed as a true copy by: Angela

Seconded by: Martin

1. Matters arising:

1.1 Confirmation – There at present 12 candidates on the programme. Jim and Sally have invited different members of the parish to ‘guest’ at the group meetings – to add interest to the discussions. They have taken Angela Gillespie’s plans for the programme and adapted it to their own way of working.

The first meeting is planned for the 20th January and the first group session away from the parish will be at the Diocesan Centre, Mackworth.

The group will definitely be joining the congregation at St. Alban’s for Mass on the first Sunday of the month, and Oakwood on the third Sunday. Lavena has suggested that the young people help with serving tea and coffee and Jim thought this a good idea.

Jim also mentioned that there would be a Q & A session on 21st April and would like two volunteers from the parish council to be on the panel.

1.2 Inter-Faith- Fr. Gerry and Sandra attended a day conference entitled “Building a Society for the Future” the Keynote speaker was Dr. Adam Dinham, Director of Faiths and Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths College. London, who spoke of the roles of the community and voluntary sectors and local faith communities in the development of civil society. Prof. Paul Weller – professor of Inter Religious Relations at Derby University spoke on the relationships between religions, the state and society, and what will be the outcome when a different party is leading the country. Finally Riaz Ravat from the St Philips Centre, Leicester talked to us about the practical approaches to inter faith, working for and with local communities and tackling social problems together.

The Arbor-Lights event at Arboretum Park was a success despite the constant rain. The individual displays from different world faiths were positioned around the park and were visited by about 150, mainly local people, but also the Mayor of Derby and some of the local councillors and the press. The Christian display was of the Nativity, which proved a big hit with the children from Christian, Muslim and Sikh families.

1.3 Day Chapel – The ceiling has been insulated by Walter and Shaun. Fr. Gerry reported that the chapel is now much more comfortable to sit and worship in.

Fr. Gerry thought that doing the same in the church hall would be a good idea, especially as the group that uses the hall during the week has had to supply extra heating in the cold weather. We don't want them to find somewhere else and end their rental contract.

Jim agreed to find someone who could do the job for us.

1.4 Altar servers – There are 6 young people who have been enrolled into the Order of St. Stephen and have received their medals. They were prepared by Simon Baldwin and Cheryl Shanks together with Fr. Gerry over three Saturdays. **Thanks were expressed to Simon and Cheryl for their hard work.**

1.5 Land opposite church – The land failed to reach its reserve price at auction and so has not been sold. The owner has appealed against the decision to refuse planning permission. Fr. Gerry has spoken to Cr. Dave Roberts who thought that the council were sure of their position and refusal would not be overturned. (based on over massing i.e. not enough room for bins, parking etc.) With regards to street parking no-one is willing to tackle the Revive Centre because of the NHS/Council involvement. The Fire and Rescue service have o.k'd access in the street. Fr. Gerry is still waiting for Revive to approach him re: using the church car park on a managed system.

1.6 200 Club - Meeting to discuss recruitment campaign not yet held, Fr. Gerry to organise this

2 Christmas Services Review

4pm Christmas Eve – Church was packed the service was festive and welcoming. The children were excited and added to the atmosphere! There were about 420 present (about 100 more than last year).

6.30pm Christmas Eve – Only 250 attended - This was not a youth led Mass this year and preparation was not as good as usual due to the fact that those normally involved were away at university and the current group is a little too young to take on the responsibility for leading the Mass just yet.

8.30am Christmas Day – Oakwood, a low key Mass, (singing carols at this early hour is always difficult, but we persevere!) Fr. Gerry asked that the final prayer is changed for next year.

10am Christmas Day – A quiet family Mass following the usual format.

Saturday/Sunday masses not well attended – too close to Christmas day?

Reconciliation service was taken from Cloth from the Cradle, planned by Sue Brown. Confessions were heard by Fr. Gerry and visiting priests Fr. Mark Brentnall, Fr. Alan Burbidge, and Fr Gabriel Offor and Fr. Bill Naylor

CAFOD Advent Service. Planned by Nottingham CAFOD, led by Bishop Malcolm and Fr. Gerry and attended mainly by local representatives. Marie Malloy had received many comments on how friendly the reception at St. Alban's was on the night.

3. Oakwood

3.1 Christian Unity Service planned for Wednesday 20th Jan, invitations have been sent to St.Philip's, Chaddesden; All Saints, Breadsall; Mayfield Rd Methodists and Spondon Methodists. Martin asked why there had not been an invitation sent to St.Mary's Chaddesden It was decided that the congregation should be invited to the service. Sandra to print letter and Jim will get it delivered for the weekend.

3.2 Something different for Christmas – Two enjoyable sessions led by Alison Adams a member of the Iona community. The first concentrated on the genealogy of Christ, the role of the four women mentioned in that genealogy, and the role of Joseph as 'foster father'. This led to an interesting debate. In the second session Alison led us in several new hymns and carols - with a great deal of skill she managed to get us all singing in tune!

4. CAFOD Group

The group now consists of Walter stone; Shaun & Di Reid; Jean Harvey; Anne Kearney; Angela Fairbrother Sally Parlato and Fr. Gerry. The next meeting will be to discuss **the Lent campaign – “Give it Up” 6th Feb.10.30 – 11.30am**

Fr. Gerry suggested that we have a **Fairtrade wine tasting evening** in the parish centre. The charge would be about £7 per head. The council members thought this would be a good idea. Fr. Gerry to pursue it.

Several members of the council said they would take advantage of the 'CAFOD Free will' offer. (1/7th of the money received by CAFOD comes from legacies and so this is an important part of their fund- raising.)

5. New Term Elections

The current term of office for council members ends at the end of March, so preparations need to be made to hold elections during February and March. Shaun will ask Di to send Sandra the information and forms that she used for the last session and then a timetable for the current elections can be devised.

Those standing down after completing their second term of office are:
Jim Parlato; Susan Lewis; Anne Kearney; Walter Stone; Sandra Endsor.

Those standing down after completing their first term of office are:
Martin Brown; Angela Fairbrother; Maggie Holmes.

Those remaining for a further term are:
Lorraine Collins; Maria Neads; Shaun Reid;.

As headmaster of St. Alban's school Mark Booton will remain as an ex-officio member.

We therefore need **nine new members** for the new council

Spirituality Group

The first in fortnightly meetings was held at Oakwood, a small group people came (possibly due to the bad weather,) discussion was centred on a reading from Jeremiah and how we can use the words to guide our every day lives.

There will be a further two meetings at Oakwood on Wednesdays and three at St. Albans on Thursdays all to start at 7.30pm. These will cover:
Spiritual healing; Today's World; A Lenten Meditation; A Reflection for Lent and a second Spiritual Healing Service.

A.O.B

The council agreed that it would be a good idea to have a collection for the relief of those in Haiti on the weekend of 23rd / 24th Jan.

The following weekend there will be a Missionary priest from the Kiltegan Fathers taking Mass while Fr. Gerry is away. There will also be a collection on his behalf

Next Meeting : 16th February 7.30pm in Parish Centre
Opening Prayer: Martin

Subsequent meeting: 18th March 7.30pm in Parish Centre