

**WORTH ABBEY PARISH  
MINUTES OF PPC MEETING  
MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015**

**Present:** George Fitzsimons (Chairperson), Ana Griffiths, Krysia Smith, Michael Weston-Burt, Barry Wingrove, Sophia Vaughan, Fr Aidan Murray (Parish Priest) and Mandy Horton

**Apologies:** Martin Harewood and Jools Newton

The meeting started with a prayer.

This was followed with introductions and sharing of personal “surprising” information.

**1. Minutes of the last meeting:**

The committee approved the minutes.

**2. Parish Development Plan(PDP) 2015-2020:**

There were three aspects that came out of the last PDP :

- a. Youth – A Youth Worker was employed to draw in the youth; this project was not successful
- b. Praying parish - all agreed this was in place.
- c. Learning parish – the Adult Formation Group has successfully organised Spring and Autumn talks.

Fr Aidan hopes the 3<sup>rd</sup> PDP will give the Parish a way forward. Sophia was involved in the first PDP where groups were set up to look at different areas.

Jill Carter designed the survey and compiled the results.

It will be important to have a cross section of the parish represented.

It was suggested that a feedback questionnaire be given to the parishioners asking how well they feel things have been done.

Other suggestions on how we could go about planning the next PDP:

- a. A day to discuss and plan the next PDP with a facilitator leading the discussion
- b. Steering Group led by Jill Carter with a small group of volunteers
- c. Involving parishioners by personal invitation

There must be interaction between the PPC and the groups throughout the discussions. Sophia, Krysia and Barry are happy to be involved.

**3. Alpha Course:**

Fr Aidan had done some research into the Alpha Course including speaking to Fr Christopher who ran a successful Alpha Course in London.

Please refer to Fr Aidan’s document (Attached)

The Alpha Course had been suggested as a possible way to give basic education on theology to those who found the talks too academic, although it appears to be orientated towards non-churchgoers ('inquirers')

Six people in the parish have been on the Alpha Course of which three have offered to help. Sophia Vaughan has also been on the course in London.

Is this the way forward if we are working towards being an evangelising Church/Parish?

Fr Aidan suggested reading the article in the Catholic Herald about evangelisation.

#### **4. Ecumenism and Christian Unity Week**

Fr Aidan reported that he attended/preached at three ecumenical services during Christian Unity Week (18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January); St Leonard's Turners Hill, St Mary's Balcombe and St Margaret's West Hoathly.

The attendance of these services is disappointing generally although they are much appreciated by the Anglican and Free Church communities.

Is there anything else we can do to promote greater ecumenism within our Parish and is it something that the Monastery should acknowledge within the liturgy?

#### **5. Religious Education Programme**

The next season, Spring 2015 has been planned with notable speakers booked. A few questions arose with regard to the style and format of the talks. Should we be going for more teaching style seminars? Should this be modified for the next two series envisaged on Gaudium et spes and the Churches Social teachings? The matter of the costs should also be taken into account as each speaker costs £200-£250 and advertising costs are around £300.00 per season, making an approximate total of £1,800 – £2,100 per year. There is no specific charge but a suggested donation of £5; the shortfall cost to the parish is © £1,000.

#### **6. Irundu**

Fr Aidan reported that there is currently no Chairperson for the WIF committee but there are committee members. No meeting has been set as yet. There is a need for a Chairperson and a need to establish the remit of the committee if the Parish is going to continue supporting the Worth Irundu Friendship.

Fr Aidan is hoping to go out to Irundu in the summer and has since decided that he will be going out on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August – 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

#### **7. Co-option of people onto the PPC**

Fr Aidan would like to co-opt a few people onto the PPC including a young person and he suggested asking George Abousleiman who serves and is in the school. However, he leaves at the end of this academic year. Another suggestion is Mary Killick who also serves and is currently doing the Confirmation course.

Other people Fr Aidan would like to co-opt include a representative from the 5pm Mass, St Dunstan's and a young family.

## 8. AOB

- a. **Parish Events:** There is a need for a Parish Events Group as there hasn't been any socials in the last year or so. Social events across the board have to be considered.  
George mentioned that Christina would like to organise a bring and share lunch/Summer Party. She has been in touch with Mandy since about dates.
- b. **Diocesan Jubilee 2015** is on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Fr Aidan has suggested cancelling the 9.30am Mass. Both the Abbot and the PPC are being consulted. The Jubilee Celebrations are from 10am with Mass at 3pm in the AMEX Stadium. If the Abbot agrees then coaches will be booked to transport the community and those parishioners who wish to go. For those who do not wish to go, there will be the Vigil Mass and possibly an 8am Mass.  
A "Champion" is required from the Parish to organise the transport etc. Any suggestions will be welcomed.
- c. **Bell ringing:** Everyone has said how lovely it is to have the bells ringing upon arrival for Mass at the 9.30am. Ana Griffiths is going to be one of the bell ringers once the DBS comes through.
- d. **Meeting:** It was agreed that the PPC meetings will go on to 9.30pm.
- e. **Diocesan J & P Talk:** Fr Aidan mentioned the talk that was taking place at DABCEC.
- f. **Next meeting:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March @ 7.45pm  
Apologies from Krysia Smith who will be Irundu and Michael Weston-Burt.