



Worth Abbey Parish
Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the meeting of 7th July 2010

Present: Fr James, Jill Carter (minute-taker), Martin Harewood, Meg Rew, Rosemary Sanders (Chair), Michael Weston-Burt

Apologies: Rosemarie d'Cruz, Deacon Chris,

Absent: Louise Chamberlain, Susan Jenkinson,

1. **Minutes of meeting on 15/4/10** were approved. It was agreed that the process for the Parish Development Plan had been very successful and the Plan itself was very inspiring, particularly in its aim for the parish to be more strongly associated with the Rule of St Benedict.

2. **PDP Action Plan**

Fr James reported progress as follows:

Appointments:

Christina Fitzsimons has been appointed as Catechetical Co-ordinator (volunteer) and several parishioners have volunteered for training as catechists

In-house training for catechists will start in the autumn

Advertisements have been placed for a paid part-time Youth Officer (2 days per week) to start in September

Rosemary Sanders has agreed to act as Worth Visitors' Co-ordinator

Adult Education

Two seasons of Conferences are being planned for Autumn and Spring, the first on 'Mass and the Liturgy', the second on 'The Old Testament'. The initial 'Conference' will be followed by seminars/discussions on these topics

Profession of Faith – New Group 'Assent'

This is for 11-13 year-olds, to follow on from FOG. Erica Ballard and Marion Killick have agreed to lead it, and it will be promoted at the end of the Summer.

Post-confirmation formation, including a 18-25s youth group, and wider encouragement of participation in Lourdes pilgrimage, Youth Gather, Irundu etc will await the appointment of the Youth Leader – this is an action point planned for 2011/12

Communication

There will be a weekly extract from the Rule of St Benedict in 'In Touch' (once the full edition resumes), and there will be wider encouragement for parishioners to join monastic office when they can once the church refurbishment is complete

Reconciliation is now available at least once a month

Irundu is being more widely promoted

Lectio Divina House Groups have adopted this for their regular meetings

Other action points are scheduled for 2011 or beyond

3. **Future governance of the parish**

The PDP included a suggestion from Fr James that the governance of the parish should be reviewed, in particular whether the PPC should be an elected body or whether its members should be selected by the parish priest. After considerable discussion, it was agreed to maintain the status quo, i.e. parishioners will have the opportunity to stand for election and members of the PPC will be appointed for a two-year period.

There will be a parish meeting on 24 October when all current members of the PPC will be standing down, although some are likely to offer themselves as candidates for re-election.

4. Distribution of parish tithe

It was agreed to follow the recommendations of the Justice & Peace Group, donating modest sums to a wide range of charitable organisations, the largest being £1,000 and the smallest £100. ACTION: cheques to be signed and sent out

5. A.O.B

Abbey Church refurbishment: Fr James reported that the Parish Finance Committee had encouraged Abbot Christopher to extend the appeal for finance to Worth parishioners and it had also been suggested at the time that if the amount raised from individuals amounted to less than £100,000, a further sum of £20,000 would be donated from the surplus in parish funds. Parishioners responded very generously with gifts amounting to £36,000 and it was unanimously agreed that a cheque for £20,000 would be contributed to the building fund.

NEXT MEETING – 3rd November (with new PPC as elected at parish meeting on 24/10/10)