

Parish Council Meeting

7 October 2008

Present: Fr Will, Ian, Pat, Ruth, Sandra, Ken, Sean, Sarah, Thelma, Paul, Maria, Edmund & Madelon

Apologies: Martine, Gill & Gerry

Fr Will led the opening prayer

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Parish Team report

Sacramental Programme: baptism sessions are going well. The RCIA programme commences on 16 October and there have been 4 enquiries.

Anointing the sick: a mass of healing will take place on Saturday 8 November at 3PM in the school. Entrance will be on Louisville Road. During the season of advent Fr Will and Fr Oliver will be anointing the residents of the following nursing homes: Rosedene, Trinity Court, Heritage, Ronald Gibson House, Aldrington Road and Katherine Baird House.

Annual Mass census: during the month of October at all the masses counting will take place.

Hire of the old hall: a committee has been formed to supervise hire and maintenance of the old hall.

Midnight mass on new year's eve: Fr Oliver has agreed to celebrate this year and he will draw up a programme for groups participation.

The year of St Paul: during the season of lent talks will be given by Fr Oliver, Fr Will and John Cullen.

Covenant with the poor: Christmas collections from the parish weekend of 9th November for Spires, weekend of 16 November for Wandsworth Prison and weekend of 22 November the needy of the parish.

Outreach:

(i) a speaker from the Passage, Mr Andrew Hollingsworth, spoke at the weekend masses on 27/28 September.

(ii) Rosa Shea spoke on behalf of CAFOD on the harvest appeal on 3/4 October.

(iii) Churches together Balham & Upper Tooting – one world week between 19 and 26 October with service at St Mary's Balham at 5pm on Sunday 26 October.

(iv) Alpha senior course to be held between 26 September and 5 December at 11.15 at Balham Baptist Church.

(v) Pope Paul VI memorial lecture on 14 November at Emmanuel Centre

(vi) churches together cook book is finished and copies will be sold through the church's shop.

Fr Oliver will be on holiday from 2 October to 10 November.

Centenary of the Church (1909 – 2009)

- Life in the Spirit course – about 50 people have signed up for the course. The book accompanying the course will be for sale in the shop.
- A prayer card with the mosaic of St Anselm will be given to all parishioners in advent 2008. Fr Oliver has written the special prayer for it.
- A social evening on 17 January will kick off the centenary celebrations
- Lenten talks on St Paul will take place on 24 February, 4, 11, 18 & 25 March and 8 April (6weeks).
- It is hoped that the mosaic project will be completed and put on the wall by May or June 2009
- Tom Gately is organizing an affordable art fair featuring the work of local artists and parishioners on possibly 9/10 May
- 2009 is also the 90th anniversary of the death of St Anselm. A trip to Canterbury will be planned.
- There will be a pilgrimage to Rome between 25 and 30 May 2009.
- No fixed plans around the charity project in Nairobi where Fleur and Fergus Connee are working
- Parish centenary celebration on 11 July at 6.16 mass. Archbishop Kevin, health permitting, will be present.
- Autumn river boat trip (late September) instead of a ball.
- Concluding centenary celebration on Christ the King on 22 November 2009, which is also youth Sunday.
- Men's group are putting a magazine together. Everyone is welcome to contribute.

Hall hire

Works to the hall have been completed and it is ready to be hired out again which is vital to cover running costs. There will be a hall committee and a good cleaner. All efforts will be made to ensure that the hall is left in good condition.

Social Events

Quiz night on 17 October. Craft evening on 21 November. Edmund noticed that there was no parish Christmas party planned. Fr Will conceded that this was a shame but that the social committee were too busy to also organize a Christmas party. It was suggested to put a notice in the newsletter to advertise for people willing to organize the Christmas party.

AOB

Pat mentioned the custom of graveyard Sunday near 1 November. She normally attends Ficks Marsh where the prayers are led by a priest from St Boniface. Fr Will replied that the people in the parish go to at least 5 different parishes and that it would be too difficult to choose one. However, Pat could advertise the one in Ficks Marsh on the notice board.

Paul asked about the ongoing maintenance costs and whether there were any major expenses in the pipeline. Fr Will replied that there is ongoing painting and general maintenance and that the Health and Safety inspection is due. It was generally agreed that this did not need to be outsourced but that Fr Will would get together with Thelma, Paul and Sean to do a risk assessment. This should include a regular fire drill with the aid of the appointed wardens.

Paul also asked whether the credit crunch was affecting the collections. Fr Will said that everyone needs to be prudent in their spending and that it would be good to get more revenue from standing orders. We need to see the parish as a big family and coordinate our saving and spending. Finally Fr Will mentioned that there may be plans to expand the shop. We all felt that the shop provides a welcome and necessary service.

Date of next meeting: 19 November 2008 at 8PM

Officers: Chair: Paul
Minutes: Sean
Prayer: Gill
Refreshments: Sarah