

**PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART, ST IVES**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Steering Group held on**  
**Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009 at 19.30 in the Presbytery**

**Present:** Father Paul, Elizabeth Barker, Patrick Landucci, Jonathon Martynski, Eleanor Redwood, Dot Wade (Chairman), Bridget Wells, Veronica Boland (Secretary)

Fr Paul led the opening prayers.

1. **Apologies** – Michael Sanderson. Michael wishes to thank all those who helped with the Feast of Fun Day.

2. **Minutes of Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> April**

These were accepted as a true record.

3. **Matters arising**

Feast of Fun Day

It was agreed that the Fun Day had been a great success and should become an annual event. Many people had expressed their appreciation and joined in the activities. For next year the following minor points should be noted:

- Ensure there is someone to sell tickets after each Mass.
- Record numbers more accurately, i.e. if people have taken tickets and not paid for them or paid for tickets but not been given them.
- Offer a vegetarian option
- Specify the age for child tickets
- Set a cut-off date for purchase of tickets

Ellen Kemp is writing an article for *The Grapevine* about Fun Day.

The Committee thanked Michael and Rika Sanderson for all their hard work organising the event.

Parish Open Meeting

Again, the numbers attending were disappointingly low and many who attended the 19.00 Mass did not stay on for the open meeting. It was unfortunate that it was at the same time as the RCIA meeting.

Although those attending were not necessarily representative of the entire congregation, everyone has been given the opportunity to attend the meeting and raise concerns or express their views.

It was felt that the meetings should continue and that Tuesday evenings were the preferred time.

Discussions at the meeting were helpful especially with regard to the possibility of a parish mission.

Although the agenda is displayed on the notice board beforehand, it would be helpful to have one available at the meeting.

There are still vacancies for Mass representatives for both the 5 pm Mass and 11 am Mass. The Constitution needs to be checked for regulations regarding re-election.

Dot and Elizabeth, the Mass representatives for 5 pm and 11 am Mass respectively, will appeal after Mass for volunteers to join them as Mass representatives.

### Spirituality and Prayer

9. *Prayer cards and parish prayer intentions for distribution to the housebound so that they can pray for particular parish needs (eg First Communion children, the sick, recently deceased, etc).*

Father Paul now takes a copy of the newsletter when he visits the sick on the first Friday of the month.

15. *There should be 'something for everyone'. How can we provide forms of prayer and worship which might attract those who rarely otherwise come to church? Can we learn from other Christian traditions about this? (eg Harvest Festivals, special blessing services, etc)*

Father Paul is organising a 'Songs of Praise' service in the autumn specifically targeting younger people with a music workshop. The plan is to have something from, say, 3 pm on a Sunday with musicians putting together a service to take place at 6 pm that evening.

19. *It might be good to bring together in each parish the various prayer leaders and people with experience of different forms of prayer.*

Elizabeth knows two people who might help with Mothers' Prayers, which is an international organisation. She will purchase booklets in the summer from Walsingham and look at it again in the autumn.

20. *Better communication is often needed on what forms of prayer services and groups are available in neighbouring parishes (and ecumenically).*

Father Paul raised this matter with the other clergy in the cluster. Their response was that their newsletters are available on websites and Mass times are displayed for this area of the deanery.

22. *How can we engage young people in prayer? This should begin with parents praying with their children from birth. Parenting courses should include guidance on how to pray with children. Prayer should always be part of our sacramental preparation programmes with children (First Confession and First Communion, Confirmation). Our Catholic schools have a vital role to play in teaching children and young people to pray. Our parish liturgies should be celebrated in a way which helps and encourages them. But it is above all parents who are responsible for drawing their children into prayerful relationship with God. How can we better support them in this?*

Father Paul said that although we have the programme for this course, he is not able to run it himself due to other commitments and confirmation classes starting in September. Elizabeth also noted that there is not a free evening for another class. The hall is also booked most evenings. Fr Paul said that if someone is willing to run the course they are welcome to do so. With many parents both now working time would be an issue for many people.

24. *The traditional link between fasting and prayer needs to be rediscovered.*

Following the note in the newsletter inviting questions about aspects of faith, one of the first questions was about fasting and abstinence. Due to lack of space in the newsletter it was decided to feature this in *The Grapevine* and there is an article in the next edition about the Church's teaching on this.

#### **4. Organist**

Farrell is due to leave for university mid-September and the parish will therefore be without an organist.

As discussed previously, an option is to pay for an organist at considerable expense.

A suggestion from Bridget was for an organist 'fund', but the necessary amount may not be raised to pay for the organist and the shortfall would have to be found.

In response to a suggestion by Patrick that we should have two Music Group Sundays, Fr Paul explained that the music group did not feel able to commit to two Sundays per month.

Patrick's suggestion to 'wait and see' how the parish reacts when there is no music was thought to be the best option.

#### **5. Building and Finance**

Patrick reported that the Building and Finance Committee met soon after the previous PSG meeting.

The budget was summarised and distributed by Tony at the open meeting.

There was a discussion at the Building and Finance meeting about prioritising remaining projects.

One of these is the installation of photo-voltaic cells as a means of generating our electricity. (This is in response to the Bishop's wish to see a greener approach to energy usage in the parish.) During peak times such as Sunday when the Church lights are on, this electricity would be self-generating. During periods of low electricity use, any surplus electricity is pumped back to the National Grid and we are credited for this. There is a government scheme for charities and public buildings whereby up to 50% of the cost of installation of the pv cells is paid for by the government. The pv cells are installed on the roof subject to certain restrictions. The hall roof faces south and the Church extension roof faces south west so there would be good coverage. Two members of the Building and Finance Committee are investigating to see if the installation of these pv would be viable.

Father Paul and Rob Crane have polished the Church floor.

The automatic door closer, which was fitted to the inner porch door, was broken because people tried to close the door against the power of the closer. A new one has been fitted and a notice put up asking people to allow the door to close itself and not to force it. A similar notice will be put in this week's newsletter.

Fr Paul thanked Jonathan and Eleanor, who are leaving for university in the autumn, for their attendance and contributions to the work of the Steering Group.

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 19.30 in the Presbytery.

The meeting closed at 20.15.