

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART – ST IVES AND PAPWORTH

Parish Steering Group

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 9th January 2006 at 19.30
at the Presbytery**

Present: Paul Bishop, Jim Bond, Ellen Kemp, Merlyn Lewis, Lianne McDermid, Elinor McNeill, Clare Mulqueen, Brian O'Hare, Nessa Ward, (Veronica Boland - Secretary)

Apologies: Father Paul Maddison, Nanette Bailey

1. Minutes of meeting held on 7th November 2005 and matters arising.

- (2) Representatives for 9.30 Papworth Mass and a volunteer co-ordinator are still required. These matters will be discussed at the next meeting.

Nessa welcomed two members of the Youth Group to the meeting - Lianne McDermid and Clare Mulqueen, who, with other members of the Youth Group, will represent their group at Steering Group meetings.

- (3) Ellen will write a summary of the Parish open meeting, together with reports of the November 2005 and this meeting of the Steering Group for inclusion in The Grapevine.
- (4) A notice board is to be erected in the Hall to give more parishioners, especially those who are disabled, access to information. **Action: Veronica will purchase notice board.**

The curtains for the hall have been completed.

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting of 7th November.

2. Marriage and Family Life Commission Report (Listening 2004) and Questionnaire

This report was tabled for discussion. An accompanying questionnaire had been completed as far as possible by Father Paul and Elizabeth Barker.

The majority of items in the questionnaire are being dealt with at Parish and Deanery level, the only exception being that there are no support groups in the Parish for children in difficulty, parents in difficulty and single parents.

A discussion took place regarding what this group could do to address this and also the difficulties in identifying people with problems.

On collation of the information from the questionnaires, it should be apparent what support is available in the various parishes and therefore any deficiencies would be identified then.

3. Any Other Business

- (1) Bishop's Parish Visitation Report - 19th/20th November 2005 - was tabled.

Bishop's recommendations:

- (a) A deanery or sub-deanery working group has yet to be established.
 - (b) The reduction of the number of Sunday Masses was discussed including the impact of the probable move of Papworth Hospital to Cambridge, the problems of a rural Parish, and the decreasing number of priests.
 - (c) As far as the committee is aware, no-one in the Parish has been asked to train as a Permanent Deacon.
 - (d) With regard to the development of House Masses (which would also increase communication between parishioners) it had been hoped to begin these early in 2006, but no arrangements had so far been made, so far as the committee is aware.
- (2) Lianne requested financial help from the Parish of £250 towards the annual Youth Retreat. Despite fundraising (for both charity and to finance the Retreat) there was a shortfall. The committee agreed to the request subject to approval by the Finance Committee. **Action: Brian to email Finance Committee members with request.**

Elinor suggested an annual fund for the Youth Group, but it was felt that as their representatives will now attend the committee meetings, requests for funding can be brought to Steering Group.

- (3) Paul enquired if other good causes should be supported in addition to the Holy Land. It was felt that there were worthy causes in the Parish and this matter will be discussed at the next meeting.
- (4) Elinor suggested that the Youth Group should write an article for The Grapevine about their fundraising activities. **Action: Claire and Lianne**
- (5) The Committee thanks Father Paul, Elizabeth and anyone involved in the excellent series of Advent talks.
- (6) Clarification was requested of the proposed information leaflets, and also of how often the Welcome brochure is reviewed and distributed. **Action: Veronica to ascertain and report to next meeting.**
- (7) The agenda for the next open meeting should be set at the 6th March meeting of this committee. At that meeting consideration should be given to the process of the election of new members.
- (8) Merlyn requested that a letter of thanks should be sent to Nina for making the hall curtains. **Action: Veronica**

The next meeting is on 6th March at 19.30 in the Presbytery.

The meeting closed at 20.30.