

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART, ST IVES

Parish Steering Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 15th January 2007 at the Presbytery

Present: Father Paul Maddison, John Bishop, Paul Bishop (Chairman), Ellen Kemp, Merlyn Lewis, Brian O'Hare, Angela Pereira, Dot Wade, Clare, Veronica Boland (Secretary)

1. Introduction by the Chairman
2. **Apologies:** William Holloway, Bridget Wells and Lianne.
3. **Minutes of meeting held on 14th November 2006 and matters arising**

The Minutes were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising:

All action points have been dealt with:

- Welcome sign has been erected in porch and other leaflets re-designed.
- Multi-lingual Mass books are now available.
- Ellen is welcoming people to 5 pm Mass.
- The diary is brought to meeting and events noted for possible inclusion in The Grapevine.
- No-one has yet requested a visit from a link person.
- A note has been added to the Eucharistic Ministers' rota to remind Ministers to take The Grapevine to housebound parishioners. The magazine is now also on the website.
- Intentions book is in use.

4. **Parish Plan**

Papworth

Ellen reported that, as discussed at the last meeting of the Group, Father Paul, John Bishop and herself had met on 4th December 2006 to discuss the critical path for the inclusion of Northstowe into the Parish and to look at the issues this would raise. Ellen had prepared a report for the Group, which had been distributed prior to the meeting. She had sought the views of two Executive Directors at the hospital and reported that:

- It is not expected that staff resident in Papworth will relocate to Cambridge in the event of the hospital moving to the Cambridge Biomedical Centre.
- Plans are in progress to retain staff accommodation and initiatives are being explored to transport staff to the new hospital.

- The outcome of a Department of Health review into the feasibility of the relocation (to take place on 20th/21st December 2006) may take six months. Planning approval thereafter will then have to be sought.
- Funding for the new hospital will be progressed in 2008 and the hospital will relocate to Cambridge in 2013 at the earliest.

Father Paul will keep Father Nicholas up to date with any changes to timetable outlined above.

Northstowe/Longstanton

Bishop Michael did not expect services to be available at Northstowe until completion of Phase 1 of the new town, which included provision of a Community Centre. It was therefore agreed that a venue for Mass in Longstanton would not be pursued at this time.

Ellen had visited South Cambridgeshire District Council offices at Cambourne to determine the time frame for the development of Northstowe, and informed Father Paul and John that an Independent Examination of the Northstowe Area Action Plan (part of the South Cambs District Development Plan) was to take place from 5 December 2006 to 19th January 2007 (with a recess from 20th December - 8th January).

Ellen attended a meeting on 5th December, one of a series held to look at the future of Northstowe.

Ellen tabled a 'critical path' document, which she had prepared for discussion by the group, detailing the various stages and time scales which would eventually lead to a new Mass centre in Northstowe.

Stage 1 (planning)

- Review of Mass times;
- Update of leaflets/website;
- Confirmation of time frame for completion of Community Centre;
- Informing parishioners via open meetings(s).

It was envisaged that the timescale for Stage 1 would be towards the end of 2007.

Stage 2 (A trigger point to be agreed, eg. completion of fiftieth house)

- Revise Mass times in St Ives

Timescale - 2008

Stage 3

- Establish new Mass centre in Northstowe

Timescale - 2009

John noted there could be considerable delay between the completion of the 50th house and the availability of the Community Centre. More details would be available after the report in March.

A discussion followed about the provision of Mass in Northstowe and its implications with regard to Mass at St Ives.

- It may be necessary to make some temporary provision for Mass for the new residents at another venue in the area of Northstowe following the completion of the 50th house and prior to the Community Centre being available for use. (It is known that people are likely to lapse in their faith when first moving to a new area.)
- Early discussion with other users of the Community Centre is necessary to ascertain their needs. (The County Ecumenical Press Officer for Cambridgeshire will be attending the Deanery meeting on 18th January and she may already have had communication with other denominations.)
- The Mass would need to be on a Sunday as there are already several Saturday evening Masses in the area, ie at Cambourne, Bar Hill and Papworth.
- This Mass would attract some of the congregation who currently attend St Ives, as it would be nearer.
- There should be adequate time after Mass for the priest to build a relationship with the new congregation, before leaving to travel to another Mass.
- At present the RE classes begin at St Ives at 10.00 and should be taken into consideration in any change.

It was agreed that on the completion of the fiftieth house one Mass at St Ives would be moved to Northstowe, regardless of the size of the congregation. A fifth point should therefore be added to Stage 1: Look for temporary venue - to cover trigger point indicated at Stage 2 - to provide Mass until it can be established in the Community Centre.

Brian O'Hare reminded the Group of previous discussions to try to link the four Parishes of St Ives, Huntingdon, St Neots and Buckden in order to allow 'cover' for priests who are ill or on holiday.

Father Paul reported that St Neots and Buckden have revised their Mass times to facilitate cover for each other, and that St Ives and Huntingdon could do the same. However, the matter is dependent on other issues including possible rationalisation of Mass times at parishes in Cambridge, and is under discussion by the Deanery.

Ellen and John agreed to continue to manage the plan on behalf of the Group. Following the Deanery meeting on Thursday, 18th January, there would be more information available from the Deanery perspective. The planning group agreed to report back on further developments at the next meeting.

The Dean will be invited to meet with members of the Steering Group to explain the efforts being made to provide Mass in Northstowe and to request a reciprocal effort from the Cambridge City parishes. **Action: Father Paul will offer a meeting with the Parish Steering Group to the Dean.**

It is hoped to have more details of the size of the development after the Inspectors' Report in March when the Parish Plan can be revised. It might then be an appropriate time to report to the Parish at the first open meeting at the end of April or early May.

Ellen was thanked for the considerable amount of work she has undertaken in this matter.

5. Update on Papworth/Northstowe/Longstanton

Father Paul reported that the final Mass at St Francis in Papworth on 7th January had been a sad but dignified occasion, with encouraging feedback from some of the parishioners there.

The church had been boarded up and all combustible materials removed.

A rebate is due on the insurance premium as it is now insured for demolition purposes only.

Tomorrow (16th January) Father Paul is to meet with the Diocesan Surveyor to make arrangements to apply to South Cambs District Council for building of two dwellings on the site. Once this has been obtained the site will be put up for sale.

Father Paul is also to have a meeting with the Director of a church furnishing company with regard to the disposal of more substantial items in the church, with a view to selling them on to suitable places. Some smaller items have already been sold.

Arrangements are in hand for the water to be cut off and the electricity disconnected.

The Diocese wishes the wind down costs (e.g. cost of skip, boarding up etc) to come out of the residual monies from Papworth. The proceeds from any items sold will be banked and kept separately in our records. Any balance left at the end of the winding down process will be added to the sale proceeds and invested at the Diocese.

Father Paul also reported that the Mass on Saturday evening at Pendragon School had been extremely well attended. The statue of St Francis had been passed to Father Nicholas as a tangible link between the old church and the new venue.

Patrick Landucci had provided Fr Paul with a helpful list of things to be done following the last Mass at St Francis' Church, and these have mostly been completed.

A discussion then took place about the problems encountered with the seating in the Sacred Heart church. At present it is difficult to accommodate wheelchair users at the front of the church and space is also very limited at weddings and funerals. **Action:**

Paul Bishop will look into how the seating might be made more flexible in the church.

6. Any Other Business

Minutes will be the only notes produced following meetings of this Group unless otherwise specifically indicated.

Father Paul requested that an agenda item at the next meeting should be a discussion on the provision of music at the 11 am Mass.

In view of the changes within the Parish, it was necessary to define Angela's role on the committee. Father Paul proposed that she be co-opted on to the committee and this was agreed. Angela will provide continuity from the Papworth community and bring her expertise to the matters currently under discussion. It was felt in particular she could provide information bulletins to keep parishioners informed of developments, and continue her editorial role with The Grapevine.

Paul Bishop will speak with William to see if he feels there is a role he would like to undertake on the committee in which case he could also be co-opted. **Action: Paul Bishop**

Merlyn is moving from the area and was thanked for all her work on the committee and in the Parish.

A new 8 am Mass representative will be required and a suitable note will be put in the newsletter.

7. Date of Next Meeting

19th March 2007 at 19.30 at the Presbytery.

The meeting closed at 21.04