

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Steering Group held on 23rd April 2007
at the Presbytery**

Present: Paul Bishop (Chairman), Fr Paul, Ellen Kemp, Dot Wade, Bridget Wells, Angela Periera, Claire, Michael Sanderson and John Bishop.
Michael was welcomed to the Group, representing the 8 o'clock Mass community.

Apologies: Veronica Boland, Brian O'Hare.

1. Fr Paul led the group in an opening prayer.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on March 19th 2007**
The Minutes were approved
3. **Church music**
Farrell Gray will play the organ for us, starting on April 29th at 11 o'clock Mass.
Bernadette Milnes is pursuing the matters raised at the last meeting.
A suitable acknowledgement is to be sent to Meg Hawksworth on behalf of the Group, thanking her for her contribution over the years. *Action Chair*
4. **Visit by the Patriarch of Jerusalem**
The Patriarch will celebrate 11 o'clock Mass on May 6th. Refreshments will be served in the Hall afterwards.
5. **Grapevine**
Veronica will edit and print the magazine, but will not be responsible for seeking contributions. This will be done by the Steering Group, and the item will be a standard item on its agendas. **Action Chair**
The next issue is likely to be at the end of June. Bernadette has sent an article about the recent concert.
6. **Northstowe**
Fr Paul reported on the recent visit by the Bishop and the ecumenical Director Priscilla Barlow, and their discussions with John and Ellen. The main topic was Northstowe and 4 phases of development were identified;

Phase One The time between now and the first substantial tranche of occupancy. This could be 3, possibly 4, years. During this time it will only be possible to keep track of developments, to be ready for Phase Two. The Phase Two leaflet must be prepared and printed during this time.

Phase Two The build up of numbers will require a slowly developed level of support through meetings, coffee mornings and house calls, to perhaps House Masses on a weekday. From the beginning of this period leaflets must be posted through doors, welcoming the newcomers and listing the various Masses and other Catholic support services available in the parish.

Phase Three The size of the Catholic population may eventually make it necessary to organise and sustain a Sunday Mass at some suitable centre.

Phase Four A point may be reached at which the possibility of a new Church will have to be considered.

The time scale for all these Phases is completely unpredictable but will be measured in years, possibly ten or more altogether. There is therefore no need for urgent or precipitate action. Nevertheless it is essential for the Group to keep abreast of developments and to maintain adequate records to provide continuity as membership changes.

7. Parish plan

The Chairman will provide an update in time for the Parish Open meeting.

Action Chair

8. Constitution

This needs updating, particularly following the loss of Papworth. A revised version will be presented at the Open Meeting

Action Fr Paul

9. Open Meeting

Tony Sloan will present the Parish Accounts.

The Group Chairman will review the year, emphasising the many good things which have been accomplished.

An election must be held, appointing a representative of the 11 o'clock congregation, following the standing down of Paul Bishop at the end of his 2 years of service.

10. Next meeting

The Group will meet at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery on Monday June 11th.