

Blessed Robert Grissold
Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes of Meeting Held 28th November 2006

Present: Fr Sebastian, Chris Burleigh, Ian Clarke, Joe Martin, Green, Maureen Carroll, Godfrey Chesshire, Margaret Collins, Chris Mitchell, Ann Dodd, Terry Biles

Apologies: Bridie McSorely. Dominic Green, Anne Santos

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Fr suggested that our meetings should be structured around four areas: Faith Formation, Liturgy, Finance, and Charities we are supporting.

Faith Formation

CaFE. Fr hopes to start a Catholic Area for Faith and Evangelisation (CaFE) programme in the new year. The sessions are based around a video and recorded talk, informal discussion, and prayer, and should last approximately 1 and a half hours. Group size should be around 10 people, and sessions would be held fortnightly. Each programme would be six sessions, and there are a number of programmes run. Godfrey and Chris Mitchell agreed to take a look at what would be involved. Fr would like this to start in February.

1st Holy Communion. Ellie Clarke is preparing three older boys for 1st Confession and 1st Holy Communion. These should be completed by Easter, so they are not overlapping with preparation of younger children.

Music. For health reasons Chris Kearl wishes to reduce his commitment. Linda Chesshire has kindly agreed to play for us one Sunday each month. Ian is trying to get a rota to cover the rest of the month. He is hoping to have a children's music and liturgy when there is a 5th Sunday in the month. Ideally we would like to find another organist but they are in demand, and many C of E churches pay their organist. This was considered but it was generally felt that we had too many financial commitments already and could not afford this at the moment.

Christmas. Chris Kearl has planned the Christmas Carol service. Julia Greensall is helping Maureen with the readers, and Nuala Fulham has volunteered to organise the refreshments.

Finance

Finance Committee. Joe reported on the diocesan financial audit. We have started well, but there are some procedural points which we have to tighten. Expenses for events have to be itemised with receipts; separate records must be kept of gift-aided and non-gifted-aided envelopes (most thought this was already being done); we have to undertake a

quinquennial inspection in the Spring. This is likely to cost us around £3000 for maintenance.

100 Club. This will be re-launched in the new year. Chris Burleigh and John McClelland will start to take names in December. For this to be worthwhile we need to sell close to 100 numbers. It was agreed that the charge should be £15 for a year, rather than a monthly figure. Draws will be monthly and 50% of money will be available for prizes. Joe suggested we design a card to give to subscribers so they have a record of their number.

Christmas Raffle. The money needs to be collected in from Sunday 3rd December. The only cost we have had is £35 for the tickets. All prizes have been donated.

Margaret suggested we contact the Greswold Society of North America to see if they might be interested in another visit and maybe to donate something further for the upkeep of the church.

Charities and Social Events.

The Christmas Giving Tree has been put up by Claire McClelland and husband. Children's gifts will be donated to Fr Hudson's, and other gifts will be distributed to the house-bound and elderly in our parish.

Terry and Ann will help Fr to organise a curry evening on 3rd February. Fr will find some Indian friends to cook and perhaps some dancers. This event is to raise funds for the Jesus Youth conference in Newtown later in the year. There will be a raffle.

Chris Mitchell announced that there would be another Parish Meal next year. 24th March was suggested as a suitable date.

The HCPT coffee evening would be held on the 1st Monday in March.

There will be a cake sale after Mass, possibly on 29th April.

A possible 'pudding club' event was discussed. This will be explored further at the next meeting, and might be held in June.

Godfrey agreed to investigate how the new arrangements for occasional licences worked, so we could continue to sell alcohol legally at our social events.

Other

Rotas. Godfrey will appeal for new volunteers for all rotas, but it is expected that current volunteers will continue unless they explicitly withdraw.

Parish Website. Ian is building a parish website for us. He will be looking for content for it.

Notice Board. Godfrey will see if he can find somebody in the village to make corrections to our notice board.

Godfrey read a number of points from a letter from Chris Kearn. Chris is finding it difficult to keep up his organ playing commitment. He also appealed to us to re-introduce reading out the names of all those on the sick list and the recently deceased. It was agreed this was a good idea, but the list needs to be revised as there are a number of names on it who are apparently not known by anybody.

Fr will be away from Christmas afternoon for 16 nights. He is going home for the ordination of a great nephew.

Joe suggested we have a special newsletter for Christmas for all our occasional visitors so they can hear about the parish and be inspired to take part in some of the programme for next year.

Date of Next Meeting. Tuesday 23rd January 2007 at 8.00p.m.