

Holy Family Catholic Church

(Freckleton and Warton)

1 Lytham Road, Warton, Preston, PR4 1AD

Minutes

Parish AGM 2009

24th November 2009 at 7.45pm

Present

Rev Peter Burns (Parish Priest), David Allman, Hayley Benyon, Paula Burdess, John Catterall, John Forster, Linda Forster (minutes), Helen McDowell, Austin Manfredi, Peter McGuinness, Catherine Potter, Christine Rigby, Louis Rigby, Carmel Thomas, Michael Thomas, Bernard Whittle (chair), Colette Watson

Apologies: Jan Courtney Whiteside, Michelle Holden, Denise King, Margaret Moony, Colin Reed, Sally Sutton,

1. Opening Prayer

Father Peter opened the meeting by reading the Bishop's letter about the floods and damage in Cumbria and praying for all those affected.

2. Welcome

Bernard welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Paula Burdess (Chaplain, St Bede's) Austin Manfredi (Headteacher, Holy Family School), Catherine Potter (new leader of the Youth Team) and Colette Watson (vice chair of Governors, St Bede's).

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approved

4. Review and Approve Constitution

The Constitution (which includes the structure of the teams and their responsibilities) had been revised to better reflect the Bishop's Guidelines.

Bernard explained the changes. The words 'Proxy votes shall not be allowed.' will be deleted. With this change, the new Constitution (Issue 3) is approved. (Proposed Mike Thomas, seconded Helen McDowell).

5. Resignations

David confirmed his resignation from the Social Team and Parish Council;
Denise King also resigned for family reasons
Kerry Fenton and Bernadette Holliday had previously resigned from Parish Protection work.
Jane Ireland resigned from the Youth Team.

They were all thanked for their contribution to the parish.

6. Election of Officers

In accordance with the Constitution, the following officers were elected:
Property Management: John Catterall (Proposed John Forster, seconded Peter McGuinness)
Social Team: Catherine Potter (proposed John Catterall, seconded Linda Forster)
Liturgy Team: Father Peter Burns (proposed Margaret Moony, seconded Gaynor Powell)
Admin Team: to be appointed. Father Peter is to approach a parishioner.

James Maloney and Hayley Benyon have agreed to take on the role Parish Protection Officers (CRBs).

7. Chairman's Report

Bernard thanked everyone for their support and work over the past successful year. A lot of work had been completed in the church and the diocese had given us permission to install the new lights. The Building Fund had been well supported and Bernard thanked the parish for their generosity. He also thanked a) David Allman, who has now retired from the Social Team, for all his work on the Social Team and all the work he does for the parish, and b) Jane Ireland, who has now handed over the leadership of the Youth Team to Catherine Potter. The parish should be grateful for all the time, freely given. In the next year, we should start working more closely with St Peter's, Lytham.

a. Finance Report

The parish is in a fairly healthy position. The balance in No 1 Account was £16,610 and No 2 Account (Building Fund) was £20,707. Additionally two parishioners had indicated they will donate two lights in memory of family members. The offertory has decreased over the years, although the amount per parishioner is maintained. We should try to maximise out Gift Aid Donations as this does cost tax paying parishioners anything. We will be organising an appeal. There was concern that there seems to be a special collection every other week. Some of these collections are levies, so it does not matter what is given, the parish has to find the difference. At the introduction of planned giving these were supposed to be included, but over the years have been re-introduced. As a parish, we do recognise that it is part of the church's mission to support the vulnerable and the poor. The parish is relatively well provided now, but has been a beneficiary of the Poor Missions Fund in the memory of some parishioners.

b. Property Report

The church and presbytery roofs have been repaired (slates and re-pointing of ridge tiles) and the porch re-roofed. The church has been re-wired and the sound system improved. The church and porch have been re-decorated. The Holy Spirit symbol has also been installed. The lights will be ordered in the near future. We need to consider whether any more furnishing is required for the sanctuary. During the redecoration of the sacristy, woodworm was found in the furnishings and these furnishings there will be replaced in the next week.

This year will see a refurbishing of the presbytery. The breakfast -room has been re-decorated and the carpet is due on the 25th. Work has now started on the lounge, which will be used by the youth team and small meetings. All the old furniture has been removed. The sofas from the breakfast-room will be used in here. The dining room will remain as a dining room, but the chairs

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have woodworm and so does the display cabinet. A new fire was planned, but the chimney has been removed. The fireplace here and in the office will be bricked up. All work should be complete in time for the Bishop's visit in June.

Many people have commented that they do not feel we have a parish hall; it's a playschool and people are dissuaded from using it. Lack of storage means there is little space for putting equipment away. We could build a store-room for users, but this would have to be set against the financial priorities of the parish. All users, including the Playgroup should tidy up after use.

Next year the guttering and barge boards will need renovating on both the church and presbytery.

David Allman maintains the grounds and has helped with all the electrical work, which was all certified as required by law.

c. Pastoral Report

The pastoral side of the parishes continues to flourish. The sacramental programme had a good mix of youngsters and several altar servers were recruited from the group. The Bishop is visiting the parish in June for Confirmation.

All age groups have some input to the parish.

The Ecumenical link resulted in the signing of a covenant on Palm Sunday.

Traidcraft and CAFOD reflect the parish's generosity to the less fortunate.

Helen was formally thanked for all the hard work and perseverance she had given to the parish in establishing the webpage.

A subcommittee to investigate why people are not coming to church will be set up by Louis Rigby and Carmel Thomas. Colin Reed continues to maintain communications with the Methodists and Anglicans, locally.

d. Social Report

Club Day was a great success, but more helpers are desperately needed. The Treasure Hunt was a new venture and moderately successful. It is important to remember that social activities are for enabling people to mix not just making money

The Children's Mass is followed by a coffee morning, but this is affected by Parish Hall, which people complain is set up for the playgroup. This coffee morning should also be a means of helping young parents mix, not making money. If the former it is successful the latter will follow. John C held a meeting with the parents of youngsters regarding the greater participation of young parents and their children in parish activities. Notes of the meeting were circulated and discussed at the 13.10.09 Parish Council Meeting. These young parents are willing to provide support and consequentially Father is also making changes to the way he celebrates the Children's Mass

8. AOB

a. Young People

As our visitors were all working with our young people, they were asked to explain their work and give advice.

Austin believes that Holy Family school has a strong Catholic school, fostered by its strong links with the school. Father Peter visits the school regularly and is often at the school gate to talk to parents. The Governing body includes several parents and parishioners. The children are encouraged to attend all church services, especially Mass. The school has done its best to implement 'Fit for Missions – Schools'. 66% of the children are Catholics or baptised Catholics and other headteachers are jealous that our school has been able to foster an environment where children and staff mix well within the parish.

John C has recently been attending all 3 weekend Masses with the altar servers he has recently recruited and is in the process of training. He estimates that only circa 15% of the HF Primary School children attend these Masses.

Obviously, there is not the same involvement at St Bede's, although previous parish clergy were governors. One of the roles of the chaplain is invite priest to the school from the five feeder schools. It is difficult to know who is practising or not. There is peer pressure to dissuade youngsters from being too involved. John C confirmed that this had happened with one of our altar servers. He pointed out that one of the reasons he kept going to church was being a member of the church football team. The parish needs to consider what it can do to keep young people involved, for example the camping weekend. The chaplaincy is actively trying to address this matter. The faith journey is good, but doesn't seem to spill out into the parishes. A way needs to be found to change the ethos so that the pressures of secularism are not valued more than the church.

We should use the church for more activities, such as carol concerts and nativity plays, because some parents are unsure or unwilling to cross the threshold of the church.

Father agreed to raise the matter of peer pressure at the deanery meetings.

b. Parish Information Pack

This is nearly finished and Helen was thanked for all the time she had devoted to producing it. Producing it entirely in colour would be expensive, but a colour front page would be fine. The front page should be kept clear of names and telephone numbers, which may change; so enabling us to order in bulk. There is a section in the pack to encourage parishioners to frequently consider the amount they are giving. A copy should be available for each home in the parish and also for the library. Austin will provide details of the school and Linda agreed to proof read the pack before the end of the week. The Parish Council will also consider whether the current noticeboard needs to be supplemented by another with more details.

9. Closing Remarks and Prayer

Father Peter thanked God for all the work and zeal that had contributed to a successful first year. He thanked all those who had worked towards this success. He closed with the Our Father and a blessing
The meeting finished at 9.25pm.