

Holy Family Catholic Church

(Freckleton and Warton)

1 Lytham Road, Warton, Preston, PR4 1AD

Minutes

Parish AGM 2008

14th October 2008 at 7.45pm

1. **Present**

Rev Peter Burns (Parish Priest), David Allman, Hayley Benyon, James Cartmell, John Catterall, Jan Courtney Whiteside, John Forster, Linda Forster (minutes), Helen McDowell, Peter McGuinness, Michelle Holden, Denise King, Colin Reed, Christine Rigby, Louis Rigby, Sally Sutton, Carmel Thomas, Rosa Trelfa, Sarah Truscott, Bernard Whittle (chair)

2. **Opening Prayer**

Father Peter opened the meeting with a reading from St Paul's letter to the Philippians and then invited everyone to join in the *Our Father*.

3. **Opening Address**

Bernard explained that Parish Council initiative had first started in October 2007 pick up the issues raised in the *Fit for Mission* proposals for the parish. A working group had met several times to establish a Parish Council. The Study day held at St Peter's Lytham had been very useful.

4. **Open Forum**

Bernard then invited all present to present topics for discussion. This covered preparation First Holy Communion, Catholicity of our schools, linking of the parish, Carol Service, encouraging people to attend Mass and supporting the parish..

The 2008 Annual General Meeting of Holy Family Catholic Parish, Freckleton and Warton, in the Diocese of Lancaster began at 20.50.

5. **Election of President, Chairman, Secretary**

Bernard thanked everyone who had contributed to the work of the past year and also said that while the officers were willing to stand for the forthcoming year, they all hoped that there would be other parishioners ready to take over in later years.

Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue's guidelines for Parish Councils in his Diocese of Lancaster recommend that the Parish Priest is the President.

The meeting formally accepted this and Father Peter Burns was elected as President.

The following officers were also approved:

Chair person: Bernard Whittle

Secretary: Linda Forster

Chair of the Finance Committee: John Forster

Chair of the Pastoral Committee: Carmel Thomas

Chair of the Property Management Committee: John Catterall

Chair of the Social Committee: David Allman

The following also accepted membership of the Parish Council:

Hayley Benyon (CAFOD representative) Jan Courtney-Whiteside, Michelle Holden, Denise King, Helen McDowell, Colin Reed, Sally Sutton.

James Cartmell and Louis Rigby were invited to join the Property Management Committee.

Sally Sutton and Margaret Mooney assist with the Pastoral Committee.

Fourteen members in total. The constitution requires 12 minimum and 20 maximum.

The meetings will take place on the second Tuesday of every third month.

The meetings for 2009 are at 7.45pm as follows:

13th January 2009,

14th April 2009, this Easter Tuesday and may be moved,

14th July 2009

preparatory meeting for AGM 8th Sept 2009

AGM 13th October 2009

Approve Constitution

The Constitution was approved with no amendments.

Finance Report

Canon Law requires each parish to have a finance committee to help the parish priest with the administration of the goods of the parish. The norms are laid down by the Diocesan Bishop. (cf Canon 537). For the Diocese of Lancaster, Bishop Patrick requires the Parish Priest to select at least three of 'Christ's Faithful' to serve the parish on a finance committee.

Bank balance is about £17000.

The tax free allowance for pensioners has increased significantly and this will mean some pensioners will not pay tax. There will be notices in the newsletter and probably announcements from the pulpit asking that Father Peter is informed so that they can be removed from the list for Gift Aided Donations.

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Pastoral Report

This covers a wide range of activities in the parish, demonstrating that the parish is lively and vigorous. Although there are many involved, more hands would be welcome. We also need to encourage young people to take over some of the tasks.

Whilst the links between all schools are important, we must not forget our older parishioners and others in need.

The proposal that the parish should encourage some young people to attend the next World Youth Day in Spain was accepted. The parish would be willing to provide some sponsorship, but the young people should also contribute..

Social Report

This team also covers a large number of activities and co-ordinates the activities of twelve subgroups. The team has met twice this year and will meet before Advent, possibly with the Pastoral team, to arrange events over the Advent and Christmas period. The Events Team aims to meet 3 or 4 times a year.

Details of Activities for the Youth Team and Sally's Angels are available from Jane Ireland and Sally Sutton.

The webpage is now up and running. Helen would welcome further ideas.

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

Both Club Day and the Fun Day were great successes.

The numbers at the Play group are usually low between September and Christmas. The numbers usually increase after Christmas, with two or three to joining.

Property Management Report

The Property Management Team tends to avoid lengthy meetings. Their work consists of an annual inspection of the property and grounds, then arranging repairs to the buildings and grounds, improving security and ensuring that communications are value for money.

There are 20 volunteers to help with the decorating. The work on the electrics will start mid-October. Some concern was expressed about the use of volunteers and whether there had been a risk assessment. The diocesan insurance officer has also been contacted to check that volunteers are covered.

6. AOB

We cannot spend more than £5000 on a project. It is some time since parishioners were asked to review their donations. Attendance at Masses has decreased, but collections are about the same as in previous years. On designated weekends, we could leave out the Fabric Fund box. We also need to obtain GAD envelopes for significant donations. People should be asked to remember the parish in their wills.

The Parish Council will have to look at fundraising activities, if necessary.

7. Closing Remarks and Prayer

Father Peter gave thanks for the tremendous amount of hard work that went on in the parish. It had been an edifying experience for him and spoke of the faith and fidelity of the parishioners. This is a sign of the healthiness of the parish, which is recognised within the diocese. He congratulated everyone for their efforts over the past twelve months. He asked everyone to remember to pray, both in church and at home. He closed the meeting by inviting everyone to join in the *Hail Mary*.

The meeting finished at 10.15pm.