

Holy Family Catholic Church

(Freckleton and Warton)

1 Lytham Road, Warton, Preston, PR4 1AD

Parish Council Meeting 006

14th July 2009 at 7.45pm

Agenda:

1. *Opening Prayer*
2. *Welcome to Jim Smeed (St Peter's, Lytham), Kerry Fenton, Bernadette Holliday, Jane Ireland*
3. *Minutes*
4. *Correspondence*
5. *Chairperson's Report*
6. *Ecumenical News*
7. *Subcommittee Reports*
 - a. *Finance and Administration Report*
 - b. *Property Management Report*
 - c. *Pastoral Report*
 - *Children's Liturgy*
 - d. *Social Report*
8. *Communication*
9. *AOB*
 - *Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux*
 - *World Youth Day, Spaon*
 - *CAFOD*
10. *Next Meeting*
11. *Closing Remarks*
12. *Closing Prayer*

Father Peter

Bernard

Distributed

Linda

Bernard

father/Colin

John F

John C

Carmel

Kerry/Bernadette

Helen

Father Peter

Father Peter

Parish Council Members Present:

Rev Peter Burns, Parish Priest
Hayley Benyon, CAFOD
John Catterall, Chair, Property Management Team
John Forster, Chair, Parish Finance Team
Linda Forster (minutes),
Denise King
Peter McGuiness

Colin Reed
Carmel Thomas
Bernard Whittle, Chair, Parish Council

Visitor from St Peter's, Lytham, Parish Council:

Jim Smeed

Apologies:

David Allman
Jan Courtney-Whiteside
Michelle Holden
Christina King
Helen McDowell
Sally Sutton

Extraordinary Member of PC

(ie Parishioners who work in Parish, but not members of PC, attending to address their special interest(s))
Kerry Fenton (Children's Liturgy)
Bernadette Holliday (Children's Liturgy)
Jane Ireland (Youth Team)

Observers:

Josie Catterall, Louis and Christine Rigby, Maureen Wilson

1. Opening Prayer

Father Peter opened the meeting by reading Matthew 14: 13-21, *Give them something to eat yourselves*, followed by a Prayer, asking the Lord's help.

2. Welcome

Bernard welcomed Jim Smeed from the Parish Council at St Peter's, Lytham, and hoped that he would feel free to contribute. He also welcomed Kerry Fenton and Bernadette Holliday from the Children's Liturgy Team and Jane Ireland from the Youth Team

3. Minutes

These had been distributed earlier. No changes.

ActionPC001.05:

Explore possibilities for a year planner in Parish Hall.

ACCEPTED in principle – useful when we start to let out the hall

ACTION NOW CLOSED.

Property Management Team

4. Correspondence

Minutes from St Peter's Lytham. Carmel will attend next meeting, the following night. St Peter's Parish Council now meets every other month.

5. Chairperson's Report

All that Bernard wished to say would be covered by items on the Agenda and he would make his remarks there.

6. Ecumenical

There would be a collection of items for Donna's Dreamhouse over the weekend of 5th and 6th September. The members would like a more local charity to support as a joint venture between the churches. The group proposed to call itself 'Covenanted Churches in Freckleton and Warton' and were waiting for the agreement of the clergy. Colin would like more support from Holy Family, preferably from Freckleton as he was from Warton. Bernard volunteered to attend the next meeting. Anyone who would like to attend, please contact Colin. The meetings are usually in the evening.

7. Subcommittee Reports

a. Parish Finance and Administration Report

The Independent Auditor has signed off the Accounts for 2008/9. The Current Account stands at £11945. We had two unexpected bills in May. The man who cleans the church, presbytery and hall presented us with a bill of £1600, which is 32 weeks at £50 a week. He has been told that he should submit the bills quarterly in future. Please consider whether £50 a week is reasonable and what other options are available.

The Diocese insists that parishes use Integrated Fuel Management (IFM) to supply heating, lighting, etc and they have deducted an extra £1800 from our account to cover higher costs last year. We have to follow diocesan instructions and use them. I have started to investigate why the additional charges have been imposed. John Catterall and Peter are also looking at which of our parish buildings use

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so much fuel. Application for payment on last year's collections has gone to the Finance Office and the parish should receive about £4000 in the near future.

Number 2 Account has been activated for the Building Fund. Any funds that were ring-fenced for this purpose in previous years, plus any donations specifically for the Church Building Fund are now paid into this account. Application for Gift Aid has been submitted for some of these donations and the rest will be submitted later in the year.

b. Property Management Report

Last year an inspection of the Parish Buildings revealed that there were two major infestations of woodworm. John C and Peter McGuinness treated it at that stage and waited to see if the treatment had worked. The infestation is in the dining room, where several chairs and table have had to be destroyed, and the sacristy, where the vestment cupboards and drawers are affected. The treatment has failed. The furniture in the sacristy will have to be destroyed and new furniture obtained. The eradication of the woodworm is a major priority to ensure that it does not spread to the church and other parish buildings. We have one quote to replace the sacristy furnishings at £3500. Obviously, we will obtain others. We had budgeted for some work on the roof, but this does not need completing this year. The Building Fund will, therefore, remain open. It remains entirely voluntary, but envelopes are available if you want the parish to reclaim tax on any gift. Please see Father P. The Building Fund has been very well supported and we are very grateful to everyone who has given so generously. As well as cash payments, the parish has been very blessed in the number of volunteers who given freely of their time and skills. Many thanks to all.

The Holy Spirit symbol was ordered about 3 weeks ago and delivery is within 12 weeks. Once that is installed, Christina King will take photos of the church with examples of various types of stained glass window for parishioners to select. It was suggested that we could ask the children to design banners for use instead of windows. Any other suggestions to John C, please. Generous donations by parishioners for the lights mean that there is enough money to buy them. As well as the money donated, two parishioners will buy a light each in memory of family members. John C will obtain current prices and also ask where we can see an example in the UK.

Decision: Bernard had stated at the beginning of the fundraising that the lights would not be ordered until the money was available. The money had been specifically raised for the lights and the Parish Council endorsed the resolution of the Finance Committee that John Catterall approach the company involved for current prices and see if there are examples locally (with a view to purchasing).

Decision: Letter of Information to Stephen Moore of the Diocesan Trustees, explaining that the money has been raised and that the lights are to be purchased.

ActionPC006.01:

Notices in Newsletter about the woodworm and also about the decision to go ahead with the lights.

Father P

ActionPC006.02:

Acknowledge the generosity of the parish over the past few months

Father P

Father P is putting together a list of what he wants for the presbytery. He has also been asked to decide whether he wants any part of the presbytery to be used by parishioners. It should be noted that another Parish Priest could decide otherwise.

c. Pastoral Report

The annual celebrations in parish life continue and are well supported.

There is some concern about the lack of volunteers for flower arranging and Children's Liturgy.

The Children's Liturgy Team have been struggling for a few months. It is disheartening that so few children turn up after all the work preparing it. At one time Holy Family was asked for help by other parishes. Parents need to be encouraged to bring the children to church. The school recently received an outstanding from the OFSTED (RE) inspection, so it seems strange that that is not reflected in parish life. The Children's Mass improves attendance. Father agreed to make more of the children's work when they returned to the church and asks them what they have been doing. He will also change the sermon at Children's Mass to focus on the children. He also intends to be at the school gates to talk to parents at the end of school.

Decision: John C is to form a working group to look at ways of integrating school and parish work with children and promoting Children's liturgy. From the beginning the Parish Council has wanted the parish to provide a seamless progression for children throughout their young lives. The working team will look at how to achieve this. Anyone who is interested, please contact John.

There is supposed to be 800 Catholics in the parish. At one time there was a parish address list and the quarterly newsletter and raffle tickets were delivered to all addresses. We may need to invite an outside organisation to the parish to undertake a parish census, otherwise we could start by asking current and new parishioners to register. Since Father arrived, there has been an average of one baptism a month. Perhaps parishioners could be involved in baptism preparation. Not everyone is keen on baptisms in Mass.

The Head teacher at the Primary school is keen to co-operate with the parish, but it is not the school's job to tell parents to go to church. It is up to the parish to encourage them. We could try to ensure that the school is focussing on the same topics at the same time as children's liturgy.

ActionPC006.03

Contact the Holy Family Governor for St Bede's (Colette Watson?) to the next Parish Council meeting. Also contact the lay chaplain at St Bede's and ask her to address a future meeting of the Parish Council or AGM

Father P

In the Autumn, *Journey in Faith* will start. Although based on Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, it will be for anyone who wishes to explore their faith.

d. Social Report

David Allman was not at the meeting, but he had announced that he would step down as co-ordinator/chairman of the Social Team. Father P is to approach someone to replace David. We should not underestimate the affect of social activities in the parish. It is hoped to re-start the 500 club in January.

We should also ensure that all events are advertised at our school and St Bede's. We could also invite the lay chaplain to explain the work going on at St Bede's – this now includes allotments.

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Jane has invited this year's leavers from the primary school to join the Youth Team and there has been a good response. Sally's Angels has also had some new faces.

The webpage is being updated weekly and there about 450 hits a month. Bernard and Helen are starting to create a leaflet, explaining what is going on in the parish. Not everyone is interested in the computers and would prefer hardcopies. The Parish Hall is barely used, except for the Playgroup and After School club. We should encourage more use of this facility. The parish Council should consider a Welcoming Team, especially if there isn't a priest to welcome people.

8. **AOB**

a. **The relics of St Teresa of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face OCD (St Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower)**

These will be in Lancaster Cathedral at the end of September. Several people have expressed an interest in going to the Cathedral. The free timeslots are going rapidly and the parish needs to act soon to obtain a reasonable time to visit. Father said that priests had been asked to volunteer as confessors and he was unsure what time would be allocated to him. Jane agreed to make enquiries and make any arrangements that she thought reasonable.

b. **World Youth Day, Spain 2011**

Jane has contacted the Diocesan team and they intend to start planning in September this year. The parish is happy to sponsor two young people, as long as they co-operate with the Diocesan team fundraising and also report back to the parish. .

c. **CAFOD**

Hayley explained about the CAFOD climate justice campaign and distributed postcards to the members present. Father is happy to allow her to distribute the postcards at all Masses and will also bring it to the attention of other Christian ministers in Freckleton and Warton.

- Bernard asked Jim Smeed,, who was visiting from Lytham to comment. Jim said that the Parish Council at St Peter's were very happy to attend Holy Family meetings and was pleased that these visits were being reciprocated. Father Frank Flynn had announced that he would retiring in four years. Lytham PC was concentrating on the organisation of the Council. He was grateful for the copy of Holy Family Organisation and felt that it was important that the two Parish Councils had a similar organisation so that it was easier for any shared parish priest. The nuns at Holy Child Convent had requested a 5 year extension. Bernard thanked Jim for his comments, remarking that it was some time since our joint study day and perhaps it was time we had another shared day.

9. **Next Meeting**

Parish Council 13/10/2009, AGM /10/11/2009(Please note change of date for AGM – the original date clashed with half term.

10. **Closing Remarks**

Father thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for all their hard work on behalf of the parish. He felt that we were making progress. He was aware that the Parish Council jolted him into completing tasks he had forgotten.

11. **Closing Prayer**

He closed the meeting with the *Our Father* and a blessing.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm