

Holy Family Catholic Church

(Freckleton and Warton)

1 Lytham Road, Warton, Preston, PR4 1AD

Parish Council Meeting 005

28th April 2009 at 7.45pm

Agenda:

1. *Opening Prayer* *Father Peter*
2. *Congratulations to Ernie Hunter* *Bernard*
3. *Welcome to Peter Chesworth (St Peter's, Lytham)* *Bernard*
4. *Minutes* *Distributed*
5. *Correspondence* *Linda*
6. *Chairperson's Report* *Bernard*
7. *Ecumenical News* *father/Colin*
8. *Subcommittee Reports*
 - a. *Finance and Administration Report* *John F*
 - b. *Property Management Report* *John C*
 - c. *Pastoral Report* *Sally*
 - d. *Social Report* *David*
9. *Communication* *John C*
10. *AOB*
11. *Next Meeting*
12. *Closing Remarks* *Father Peter*
13. *Closing Prayer* *Father Peter*

Parish Council Members Present:

Rev Peter Burns, Parish Priest
David Allman
Hayley Benyon, CAFOD
John Catterall, Chair, Property Management Team
John Forster, Chair, Parish Finance Team
Linda Forster (minutes),
Denise King
Peter McGuinness
Colin Reed
Sally Sutton
Carmel Thomas
Bernard Whittle, Chair, Parish Council

Apologies

Jan Courtney-Whiteside
Michelle Holden
Christina King
Helen McDowell

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

Peter Chesworth

1. Opening Prayer

Father Peter opened the meeting a reading from Matthew 28v16-20, *Go, make disciple of all Nations*, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

2. Congratulations

On behalf of the Parish Council, Bernard congratulated Ernie Hunter. The award of the Bene Merenti by the Pope was well deserved. It was good to see most of the surviving ex-Parish Priests of the Parish at the Mass, which had been a real parish affair. It must have been quite daunting for Ernie as he knew very little about the presentation.

3. Welcome

Bernard welcomed Peter Chesworth from the Parish Council at St Peter's, Lytham, and hoped that he would feel free to contribute.

4. Minutes

These had been distributed earlier. No changes.

Action PC001.05:

Explore possibilities for a year planner in Parish Hall.

ONGOING

Property Management Team

Action PC003.01:

Add Fundraising to Agenda

This is discussed further in the meeting and will be added to future agendas.

ACTION NOEW CLOSED

Linda

Action PC003.002:

Find out what number of people are allowed in the hall for insurance purposes

The diocesan insurance covers the number of people allowed by the fire service. As any documentation about this seems to have gone missing, the Fire Service contacted, but the enquiry was lost over Christmas.

Post Meeting Note: Fylde Borough Council were contacted, they suggested the Fire Service again. This second approach to the Fire Service resulted in an appointment for the Fire Protection Officer to visit on the 11th February.

ACTION NOW CLOSED.

John F

5. Correspondence

- a) From Mary Waddington, introducing Peter Chesworth and giving the dates of the next Lytham meetings. Anyone wishing to attend, please let Linda know at the end of the meeting.
- b) Colin reed about Ecumenical matters a- added to the Agenda
- c) Father Peter announced that the Building Fund at the weekend contained a donation of £8000, which was gifted aided. He had thanked the donor, who wished to remain anonymous.

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6. Chairperson's Report

When the Building Fund for the lights started in late January, Bernard thought that we may have been able to install the new lights by Christmas. Now, thanks to the donations of many parishioners, it looked like a certainty. He was surprised and delighted by the response, especially as the weekly collections had not been affected. Fit for Mission is about the Mission of the Church, not closing of churches. It is good to see that there is faith in the future of our parish. We should appreciate what we have.

7. Ecumenical

Father Peter apologised that there had been no notice about the signing of the Covenant on the 5th April. This was because he had not seen the wording until the day before the service and he wanted to be certain that he could sign it. An Ecumenical Covenant at Parish level merely commits the parishes to working together where they can, whilst affirming their common faith. A copy of the Covenant was available at the meeting and would be posted on the noticeboard in the post, as well as on the webpage.

Colin then reported on the meetings he new about and the projects suggested for all the projects. See attachment 1.

The parish council felt that they would rather support a local charity. They did feel that we should explore the Harbour House option with St Peter's. We would be happy to help St Pail's collect for Donna's House, but we did not feel that should be the focus. The meeting felt that it would be useful to identify what was happening in each of the parishes and then see if all the parishes could collaborate rather than have different groups. Colin said that he would certainly take the suggestions back to the next meeting.

8. Subcommittee Reports

a. Parish Finance and Administration Report

The budget which had been distributed earlier was accepted. For the rest of the report see Attachment 2. The generosity of the parish meant that we were able to talk positively about installing the lights and we could now move to approaching the Trustees for permission to install. Stephen Moore, Diocesan Financial Administrator had indicated that there should be no problems, given that the money had been collected specifically for the lights. The moratorium has now been lifted.

b. Property Management Report

The sacristy has now been decorated and new locks fitted. Total costs £68. We have received £477.40 that had been paid to MFI prior to its liquidation.

The Holy Spirit design is for suspension so the agents have been approached to see if it can be attached to a wall. They will approach the manufacturers. If it is in stock, delivery is two weeks. John C is watching the exchange rate with the Canadian dollar to ensure we pay the best price.

It is probably better to install 10 lights rather than 8, because 8 would leave a pool of darkness in front of the altar. 200 lux of light is recommended to fall on a prayer book when a person is standing.

Bernard had given the specification to the lighting experts at County Hall, who had made further enquiries. Whilst the lights are expensive, they have the best specification and were certainly fit for purpose.

£10000 had been included in the budget to take the slates of the roof and replace the rusting nails. The state of the roof had been monitored over the winter months and there had been no movement. There will not be any need to re-roof in the near future. Some parishioners had complained about the state of the guttering and barge boards, so there will be checked and remedial work completed.

Next project is the presbytery. It will cost about £5000 to redecorate and replace carpets. There was a serious infestation of woodworm and this will be addressed. John proposed that a group should meet after the 1030 weekend Mass and see what can be done. As this is Father's home, he was asked to consider what changes he wanted and what areas he was prepared to allow the parish to use.

We also need to hire a contractor to remove the flagging and restore that part of the grounds. It is probably contributing to the damp.

The school can have the spare bench at the side of the parish hall for their garden area.

c. Pastoral Report

The Easter celebrations were well organised and attended.

Ten youngsters are preparing for First Confession and Holy Communion.. Some will probably be altar servers. The celebrations following Mass have not been organised yet, but it was hoped that the parents would help.

We still desperately need more volunteers to help with the flowers and Children's liturgy. It's important to find more support, especially from those not involved at present. The Parish Council needs to examine why there are problems and how the teams can remedy this.

The Children's liturgy group is in danger of folding unless more volunteers were recruited.

Father had formed a small group to start an RCIA group in September. He will call it 'Journey on Faith', so that Catholics would feel able to attend and find out more about their faith. He will write to the parents of recently baptised children and First Communicants, as well as asking the school to advertise it and advertising it on the church notices.

d. Social Report

Sally's Angels is flourishing. They all went to the Chill Factor (a photo will be sent THE VOICE) and are doing a sponsored walk for CAFOD. They will also be helping with the next coffee morning. The annual pilgrimage to Femyhalgh is in May.

The Club Day Committee would like extra help. The school is more involved and is organising a competition to decide the theme of the float. The Youth are also helping, with input from Hayley (CAFOD). Playgroup is also working on their input.

Anyone who wants to know more about the material available from CAFOD for all purposes in Christian life should contact Hayley on 01772 632441, as she wants to develop her role in the parish.

The social team have decided on something different for the 5th July; a Treasure Hunt round the parish, followed by raffle and refreshments.

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David announced that after that event he would step down as co-ordinator/chairman of the Social Team.

Bernard thanked David for giving the Parish Council some notice and also for his work supporting the Parish. He appealed to all present to look for a successor for David. This may be the time to start bringing new blood with some fresh ideas.

Father had organised a meeting to discuss the 500 Club, but no-one had attended. He did have four names of people interested, so he would now contact them to organise a meeting.

9. Communication

Helen sent her apologies, but she had had to go away on business. Bernard said that he had tried to organise some time with Helen to discuss the briefing pack and future development of the webpage, but other commitments had prevented this.

10. AOB

- Jane has contacted the Diocesan team who will be organising the trip to the World Youth Meeting in Spain. They intend to start planning in September this year and will contact Jane then.
- John F attended a Parish meeting at St Peter's Lytham. He said the topics covered were the same as our meeting, but they met monthly, so the meetings were shorted. Peter added that he had been interested on our discussion on Communication. Last Christmas and Easter St Peter's had printed 1000 leaflets and delivered them to the houses in Lytham. The Council considered that this may be something that the churches in Freckleton and Warton could do together. All the churches do produce leaflets, but for their own community.
- John F pointed out that the next step on his road to the diaconate is the Candidature Mass at St Thomas More's Church, St Thomas More's Walk, Lancaster, LA1 5PT. 7pm 9th July. He and the other candidates, including Michael Harrison from Lytham, would take the oath of loyalty to the Pope and the Church's teachings. All are welcome, but please let him know as there will be refreshments afterwards.

11. Next Meeting

Scheduled for 14th July 1945

12. Closing Remarks

Father thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for all their hard work on behalf of the parish. He was encouraged by the fruitful endeavour, which was also reaching out to the community. On the whole he felt all was going well

13. Closing Prayer

He closed the meeting with the *Hail Mary*

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

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ATTACHMENT 1 - Ecumenical:

Report on two meetings with other churches in Freckleton and Warton

The first meeting was looking for "a common cause which we could all participate in, thereby bringing the congregations closer together and promoting Christian fellowship". The following suggestions were made:

Home Start , "the UK's leading family support charity;

Donna's Dream House, "a locally based charity trust providing sponsored free holidays of a lifetime in Blackpool for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families;

Street Life [I must find out something about this!!];

Saturday morning coffee at the Methodist church;

The Old Bank building in Freckleton as a meeting place for various groups.

The second meeting took the form of an illustrated talk about Donna's Dream House presented by Donna's father, Len Curtis.

The outcome of the second meeting was that, for the time being, local churches would be asked to follow the lead of the congregation of St.Paul's, who help Donna's Dream House by collecting particular items that the charity needs. People who attended the service at St.Paul's during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity cannot fail to have noticed the stack of toilet rolls just inside the door. At other times the parishioners put together shoe-boxes full of suitable articles.

At this point I must ask whether the PC wishes us to co-operate with this suggestion; I have to report the decision to a meeting on 12th May. I shall also ask for other suggestions. My own view is that, whether we co-operate or not in this activity, we should consider how we can be of service to people within the villages of Freckleton and Warton. We could make a start by considering how to meet the needs of members of our own parish.

If we embark on inter-church co-operation of this kind, it will be a long-term commitment. The PC will need to sound out other members of the parish.

The present suggestion makes limited demands on our time and money. But this may be the start of something bigger!

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ATTACHMENT 2 - Finance:

Budget:

The proposed budget for 2009/2010 has been distributed, along with the calculation sheets. It has been revised for two amendments approved by Father.

There are two areas of concern to note:

- So far there is no replacement for the 500 Club, so we may not receive the £1000 –I had already reduced this from £2900
- The Receipts from the Diocese includes GAD and interest from our investments with the Diocese. In the present financial situation it is unlikely that we will receive any interest from the Diocese. Receipts from GAD may also decrease. I have reduced this figure by £1000, but it may not be enough.

There is some good news. You will note that in the Budget Expenditure, there is an item of £8000 for the Diocese. Father Peter received notification this morning that this figure will be £6500¹.

Are there any further comments or can we use this as the budget for this financial year.

Main Account:

I am unable to give the full details at the moment, because Father has not seen the Accounts and so, neither have the Finance Committee. The Income and Expenditure Account is ready, but there may be difference in allocation of expenses. The full financial return for the parish is under preparation. Until this is complete and Father has all the details, I am not prepared to release the figures. I can say, however, that the actual carry forward figure for 2008/2009 was £17735, which is close to the brought forward estimate of £17630 on the budget. Over the year we paid off the debt of £7000 to the Diocese and the parish has no debts whatsoever.

This figure includes £4700 from two significant donations ear marked for the Holy Spirit design above the altar. Now that the No 2 Account has been activated this £4700 will be transferred to that account.

No 2 Account: Buildings Maintenance Fund

The moratorium on spending imposed by the diocese has now been lifted, but parishes still need to obtain permission to spend more than £5000 on one item.

We decided some months to reactivate the Number 2 Account for the Buildings Maintenance Fund, but it took some time for the Diocese to approve the request and issue a cheque book and a paying in book. This Account currently stands at £2000 approx, which, with the transfer of £4700 from the main account, gives us £6700 to pay for the altar design of the Holy Spirit and its installation.

You have all heard from the Father of the generous donation to the Building Fund, which together with the £340 collected this weekend, was paid into the Fund earlier this week. The majority of this money is gift aided, which will add about £2400 to the fund at some point over the next year.

Additionally, Father has two promises to pay for lights in memory of family members.

John C is waiting for the exchange rate to improve, but I think we have enough money to approach the Trustees for permission to go ahead.

Please note that this money is being raised for the building fund and there has been no significant drop in the weekly collection.

¹ Based on 25% of the normal Sunday collections 2007/2008 – the latest Financial Returns available to the Trustees.