

Minutes of the Isle of Wight Pastoral Council 4th December

PRESENT.

Fr Gerard, Fr Brian, Fr David, Fr Michael, Fr Claro, Sister Stella, Sister Bernadette, Maria de la Portilla, David Croucher, Dominic FitzPatrick (Chair), Pete Walkden, Kevin McGuigan, Jack Perkins, Diane Blake, Peter Birks, Yvonne Rowles, Michael White, Alistair Drain (secretary).

APOLOGIES.

Fr Anthony Glaysher, Maureen Brisco, Angela Hewkin, Eve Pollon, Charlie Marlow and Lorraine Blair.

1. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 18th September were approved and signed.

2. Report from the co-ordinating Pastor.

Fr Gerard opened the meeting with a prayer and as co-ordinating pastor for the Pastoral Area, gave an overview of the progress, status and achievements to date. He reminded the Council of the need to keep the Bishop's Plan central to the Pastoral Areas development and to this end, a meeting had been arranged with clergy and Parish Council Chairman for the 13th December. This meeting would examine the role and function of a "leadership team", and consider how this body could work effectively with other bodies and councils now established throughout the Pastoral Area. It is hoped that following this meeting, a clear vision and plan will be prepared in order to share these proposals with the Bishop when he visits on the 27th of February.

3. Matters Arising.

3.1 Support for Isle of Wight Festival Goers 2009.

Fr David outlined his plans to meet with the person that is responsible for co-ordinating the "Solace Tent" at the annual event. He explained that it was run as an evangelical enterprise and was primarily a "hospitality offer" or a "chill zone". When meeting the tent organiser in the coming weeks, Fr David would be outlining what he thought a "Catholic perspective" might add to this facility.

ACTION: Fr David to report back after his meeting.

3.2 Catechist's Meetings.

Dominic had previously circulated details of participants and meetings. It soon became apparent that there would be a number of amendments to the list from some worshipping communities.

ACTION: Council Members to amend their lists where appropriate and return to Dominic as soon as possible.

3.3 Week of Guided Prayer.

Yvonne circulated a handout outlining the proposals for the guided prayer week. The plan had been comprehensively developed by the working group and Fr King. The dates had been confirmed during Lent 2009 and the likely numbers participating in the event would be around 30. There followed discussion as to whether or not this might be expanded to include more participants, but was agreed that it might be better to remain with the existing arrangements and plan a larger event in the future. A suggested cost would be levied of around £25 per person making the event "self funding".

3.4 Newsletter Circulation.

Dominic reported that now a variety of Newsletters were available on the web. This was now proving to be a well used and developing resource for all to use. Council Members that had not already visited the website were actively encouraged to do so.

3.5 Ecumenical Activities Form.

Alistair reported that he was collating returns from all worshipping communities but there were still 2 areas missing (East Cowes and South Wight).

ACTION: Missing returns to be sent to Alistair to enable the Ecumenical Activities Form to be completed.

3.6 Verbum Dei Retreat (14-17 years old)

Sister Maria outlined difficulties she had encountered with liaising with some worshipping communities and distributing advertising material for the young person's retreat running from the 12th till the 14th December. A discussion followed in which it was agreed that efforts must be made to improve communication throughout the Pastoral Area so that future retreats are suitably advertised and co-ordinated to reach as many young people as possible.

ACTION: All Council Members.

3.7 Role and Size of PAPC/Strategy Document.

Dominic introduced this item after having circulated his initial thoughts and feelings on the future role and objectives of the Pastoral Council. He explained that he was seeking feedback from members on how best to develop a strategic role and work with the other bodies and organisations. Fr Gerard said that the stated aim within the Bishop's plan was that each worshipping community should keep its own identity whilst being part of the overall Pastoral Area. Members recognised the dangers of duplication between Parish Councils and the PAPC and the need for good communication and clarity at all times. Fr Gerard said he hoped that some of these issues would be ironed out at the meeting scheduled for 13th December when the "leadership team" and its relationship with the PAPC would be examined.

3.8 Pro-Life Group.

It was reported that Charlie had had no contact from anyone concerning the Pro-life Group. He would advertise it again during January and hopefully generate renewed interest in the New Year.

4. Report from the Working Groups.

4.1 Liturgy & Sacraments

Dominic reported that there had been no meetings however he had circulated papers with the agenda.

4.2 Communication and Formation.

Kevin said that some activities were ongoing and improvements had been made such as the Newsletters on the website, however, communications can always be improved. Fr Gerard offered the services of Ellen in the parish office at Totland and Newport to be of assistance if needed.

4.3 Mission.

Yvonne circulated a paper outlining the work of the team. Areas not already discussed included Fr Michael's involvement in the 375th Anniversary celebration of the sailing of "The Ark & the Dove". There was also the opening of the church in West Cowes each evening during Advent, to allow commuters to pop in on their way home.

5. Island Treasures Group.

Alistair reported on the work of the group. They had been examining and comparing income streams and collection trends between worshipping communities across the Pastoral Area. Following the results of this exercise, they were proposing to share best practice with their respective budgeting and accounting procedures at their next scheduled meeting.

6. Reports from Worshipping Communities.

Members shared updates of significant local events, these included prayer breakfasts and suppers in East Cowes, ecumenical activities in West Cowes, a merger of the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee at Newport and Totland. South Wight had been reviewing its committee constitution and organising a multi cultural Mass, Ryde was running a number of ecumenical events and Quarr Abbey had a Carol service planned for the 21st December.

7. Request for a representative for CFH and the Spirituality Development Group.

Dominic had circulated papers relating to both groups both of which were seeking a representative from the Pastoral Area. Members were requested to forward their suggestions directly to Fr Gerard.

ACTION: All Members.

8. Bishop's Visit on the 27th February.

Discussions relating to the visit had already been covered in previous agenda items.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Meetings for 2009 were arranged as follows:

26th March, 25th June, 17th September, 3rd December

Start time for meeting 7pm prompt

CHAIRMAN