

ST. FRANCIS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2013

The meeting opened with a prayer for guidance.

Present : Fr. Tom Taaffe, Tony Berkeley, Bernadette Bueno, Jane Gow, Terry Enga, Clare Sherlock, Hugh Gibbons, Peter Hermon, Wyn Vickers, Eileen Mackintosh, Wendy Cullen , Sue Roche.

Apologies: Mary & Michael Looney, Jerry O'Shea, Sue Meese.

Minutes : The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st February 2013 were agreed.

Chairperson's report : Tony introduced Wyn Vickers as a potential co-ordinator to lead the Outreach group as Sue Meese has now stepped down. Once again the co-ordinators were requested to keep in touch with their group heads and co-operate with co-ordinating reports in time for the next meeting.

- **Finance : Co-ordinator Peter Hermon**

Peter presented a Parish Budget report showing income and expenditure against budget from 1Sep 2012 to the end of the financial year. The report also showed budget details of current financial year upto Apr 21st. The provision of a new porch at an estimated cost of c£15,000 was announced. Other projects including Audio upgrade, improved Lighting, a new Stained-glass window, upgrade of the Monk's chapel and side chapels mosaic work were all being specifically sponsored by parishioners. It was agreed budget reports will in future be available to all parishioners. It was suggested that funds raised through the Restoration Fund and details of where the money is being spent will also be made available to the Parish.

- **Education: Co-ordinator Sue Roche**

Children's Liturgy takes a break until Sunday 30th June as First Holy Communion Masses are held. Four parents have come forward to join the children's liturgy team, they are now to be CRB checked.

Confirmation The introductory meeting for all candidates and parents was held tonight at St. Francis School. Meetings for candidates are planned Wednesday evenings 8,15,22 May in the St.Francis Room, and 5,12,19 June in the St.Claré's room. Celebration of Confirmation to be held Sunday 14th July at St Mary's School. This is the final year, as all other Confirmation celebrations will be held in Portsmouth Cathedral.

Safeguarding there is uncertainty regarding whether Paula Liverseidge is still our Safeguarding Office, Clare Sherlock says she will make contact with Paula to confirm.

Come & See RCIA programme Julia Bowden is unable to co-ordinate due to work commitments. Fr. Tom is willing to take over instructing, however another RCIA rep is required, there are currently 2 interested candidates for RCIA.

- **Outreach : Co-ordinator Wyn Vickers**

The meeting welcomed Wyn Vickers who had agreed to stand in as Outreach coordinator pending a decision to take over Sue Meese who is standing down.

Knights of St Columba –The Knights will be working with Fr. Tom to try and recruit more members during 2013. They aim to become more involved once the work in the church is completed, and the parish rooms are available for meetings.

The Bereavement Group The Bereavement group hope to work on designing and printing their own sympathy cards, ideas to follow mid-May. More parishioners are needed to join the group.

SVP An appeal for volunteers was made to help the Ascot conference in its work in Bracknell, a lady has come forward and her details have been passed to Paula Liverseidge for CRB checks to be made. There has been steady income from the baskets in the school entrance after Mass, yet more funds are needed. Mary Looney is planning another Coffee and Cake day at her home in June all parishioners will be invited to attend.

Justice & Peace Group

BRACKNELL FOOD BANK – The organisers are amazed at the week-by-week donations from each Year at St Francis Primary School during Lent. The idea will be commended to all Catholic and CofE schools in Berkshire and beyond as an activity next year. Donations by Massgoers can do with refreshing once we have returned to the Church.

CAFOD The next opportunity will be Harvest Fast Day in September, the head of fundraising at CAFOD has volunteered to come and give a talk at all Masses. Figures in for all parishes in the Pastoral Area over the past 5 years show St Francis parish financial support has been below average, so there's a case for exploring options.

ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF CAMPAIGN is getting ready for the G8 meeting in mid-June. Hugh Gibbons Just1 is the smallest of the 100+ UK organisations behind the campaign and has an email initiative with resources going direct to 3000+ schools in the UK, most of which are Catholic. Hugh is commending the banner idea to all the churches in the area of Portsmouth Diocese. Hugh has ordered CAFOD IF cards for signing by parishioners during May. An ecumenical service has been suggested at St Francis on the evening of June 7th, the day before the IF rally in Hyde Park.

SPIRIT OF ROMERO ACTIVITIES Just before Easter, the new St Francis school choir gave their first public performance conducted by Angela McCarthy. This included Hugh Gibbons new song "Carrying a Candle for the Spirit of Romero" arranged by Ron McAllister. The ambassador from El Salvador, Werner Romero, has asked to visit to see the Romero Cross, and to thank local schools for their interest in Romero and support for CAFOD.

- **Worship : Co-ordinator Mary Looney**

Flowers A meeting is to be arranged to discuss flower arrangements for the Church re-opening.

Eucharistic Ministers There is quite a shortage of Ministers especially for Saturday 5.30pm.

Sacristans The weekend rota needs more support, especially in the event of relief or visiting priests. A suggestion was made that information regarding what a sacristan does be made available and perhaps an announcement be made at Mass requesting help.

Servers Several members seem to have dropped out. Training is needed on return to the Church.

Cleaners Can be contacted through Siobhan Killian as soon as they are needed to clean the Church.

Bidding Prayers Ann Scowcroft has kindly taken over the rota as David Liverseidge has stepped down. Ann would like more volunteers to come forward.

Readers Harry Cockerham is happy with the numbers, but notes the small number of regular adult male readers.

- **Parish Office : Co-ordinator Tony Berkeley**

Co-ordinators must meet regularly with their groups. Reports or news items should reach the Parish Office by Thursday midday, before the Parish Newsletter is printed.

Tony updated all on the work and the new porch to be completed before our return to the Church. Tony talked about the restoration work on the Stations of the Cross and new chairs and proposed that parishioners will be invited to sponsor.

Tony spoke about the sale of Nursery Road Land. The correspondence between the Parish Council and the trustees was read out. Bishop Philip had acknowledged the Council's last letter on the matter, but no response had yet been received from the Diocese. The latest correspondence to the Trustees will be made available to the parishioners. The Diocese are aware that repayment of the Restoration Fund loan was dependent on the sale of the land, and that the Parish was looking forward to this to fund the new Parish Centre. The council were brought up to date that the Church and the Friary needed ongoing maintenance and that plans were in hand to provide a continued Maintenance Fund for future repair work. The Parish will also be working out a strategy to meet future costly items, such as rewiring of the Church and the Friary.

- **Fr Tom**

Fr Tom had been reflecting and **says that** St Francis Parish needed to prepare to survive without a resident priest. We are all spiritually gifted and are on a journey as parishioners, we should use our priestly gifts as we all have them.

Fr Tom advised that Val Grieves had produced a report on Parish Centres which will be made available to all parishioners. Val is to be invited to come to the next Parish Council Meeting and to discuss her findings so we can study, reflect and comment.

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting : 24th July 2013.