

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 18 NOVEMBER 2004

PRESENT:

Father Michael	Chairperson	Malachy Houlihan	Maintenance
Paula Browne	Youth	Joy McCready	Youth
Jennifer Burridge	Choir	Peter McCready	Choir
Michael Burridge	Altar Servers	Jackie Murray	Senior Citizen Rep
Clare Chiles	Minutes	Bridie O'Brien	Senior Citizen Rep
Frances Graham	Prayer Group	Seamus O'Connor	SVP
Philippa Gray	Music	Paul Relf	Sacristy
Tim Hannifin	Eucharistic Ministers	Sheila Smith	Council of Churches
Arthur Jones	Catechists		

The meeting began at 7.02 pm with a prayer.

APOLOGIES:

Karolina Ashton, Gabriella Browne, Nehemiah Condono, Ben Doherty, David Doherty, Susan Doherty, Hannah Dunne, Norena McCready, Irene O'Brien and Liz Relf.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING:

The sale of the property on Foundry Road has gone through at £61,000, though the latest insurance premium has been sent to us. It will be some time until all the paperwork goes through.

Paul thanked Fr. Michael for the new linen purificators.

Worship/Spirituality

The Prayer Group is low in members and Frances suggested putting her telephone number into the bulletin so that anyone interested could contact her about joining. Meetings are not always held in the Church. The theme of the Charismatic Conference was "I am the Good Shepherd" led by Fr. David Kinery from the Centre of Evangelisation. There will be a retreat in Nicholston House, Gower from 29th April – 1st May following the theme of the Conference "I know mine and they know Me". The Day of Adoration during October had been very successful and Father Michael agreed that during the weeks of Advent, in addition to the Thursday Morning Exposition, there would be Exposition on Thursday evening from 7 to 8 pm starting on 9th December.

The Youth Group is temporarily suspended. £233.39 realised from the Panto has been banked and will be used towards sponsoring Brother Robin this year and it is hoped to sustain this bursary. £480 has been paid by the Youth Group for the first year.

None of our Youth Group is eligible to go to World Youth Day at Cologne as they are all under 18. The Bishop has said no to a CRB checked adult accompanying the children. Father Michael will look further at the requirements and will speak with the Bishop.

A Christmas tree has been ordered with the Forestry Commission.

Paul enquired if the organ would be tuned in time for Christmas and Fr. M. asked Philippa if she would arrange for the organ to be tuned.

Four new silver and gold chalices have been ordered to replace the existing pottery chalices.

The altar servers are holding at 11 am but are dropping at other Masses – this will need to be monitored.

The five members of the Bereavement Group have been meeting since January at the Presbytery. Letters were sent by the group to the recently bereaved connected with the Parish, to invite them to the Annual Mass of Remembrance. Two members of an established group came to give a talk to our group and this was very enlightening. It is hoped that the group will now be able to minister to the recently bereaved in the Parish.

The Music group has one new member but more would be nice to reduce the pressure. Two members had attended the Society of St Gregory Conference and the NMPM conference. There were only two people from Menevia in attendance. It was mentioned that the high costs of attending might prevent people from going but Fr. M. offered to pay towards expenses if it would benefit the Parish.

Education

The Confirmation Group were holding their first meeting this coming Sunday. Concern was expressed that another female catechist would be needed if Belinda left. The Nepal project has so far realised £507.42p: thanks to the launch evening, Harvest produce donations and a raffle. Fr. M. will arrange to send these funds out to Chris Evans who is currently organising a camp, bringing doctors and nurses together to treat and educate females in preference to males.

Baptism education classes were held at the end of September and more classes will be held in December.

Social Concerns

The S.V.P. members are visiting several parishioners each week and some would like to be visited and receive Communion more frequently. Providing transport to Mass prompted a caution from Fr. Michael that all cars must be covered by insurance in case of an accident whilst travelling or getting in/out of the car. It might be possible to claim the mileage back from the taxman if using the car as a business and most insurance companies offer this cover. All drivers and Extraordinary Ministers must be CRB checked as they are dealing with vulnerable adults. It was asked how one knows whether a CRB check is needed and Father replied that anyone dealing with young people and vulnerable adults would need to be checked. These checks take approximately three months and any new parishioner would need to be checked again despite having a certificate from their previous Parish or place of Employment.

The Morriston Council of Churches are holding a competition amongst local schools to design a logo for their stationery and a prayer to circulate around the Churches for Christian Unity. The Harvest Festival at St David's was poorly attended as this year, it started at an earlier time and coincided with several prayer group meetings. The A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday 26th November.

There had been a poor response so far towards the Bazaar and a big appeal would be needed to stir up a response. Posters have been distributed around Morriston and the Evening Post 'Grapevine' and Swansea Sound have been contacted.

Was the Bazaar outdated? There is a lot of competition with Charity shops, etc. Fr. M. replied that the it provides needs for the Community and brings the Parish together.

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Preparations are late starting this year owing to Fr. M.'s extended stay in Florida. An Advent preparation evening will be held on Friday 26th November for making Advent wreaths and for the children to make Christmas decorations for the tree and Church.

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent will be the Anointing of the Sick of the Parish. Help will be needed at the 9.30 am Mass owing to the large numbers who attend this Mass.

An Advent Carol Service will be held on Monday 20th December at 6 pm.

SACRED HEART CENTRE

The asbestos was removed at the end of August but the builders originally booked could not start work.. New builders have been found and they will commence work on 3rd January so as not to interfere with Christmas activities. The work should take approximately 6 weeks. Very many thanks to Paul Relf who was responsible for the Parish being awarded a grant of £30,025.00 from the Welsh Assembly Government. This grant ensures that most costs are covered.

It is hoped that, once refurbished, the Centre will be used more widely during the day and that the disabled facilities will help towards securing more bookings, especially from Further Education next September.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Parish Bazaar on Saturday 27th November at 11.00 am.

A.O.B.

The foam at the bottom of the windows on the sanctuary has become very discoloured and mildewed and urgently needs replacing, hopefully before Christmas. This is due to a construction fault and the windows have been resealed by Tim in the past.

Council members were concerned at the large amount of people who leave Mass after Communion and before the final blessing. Also, talking during Mass. It is setting a very bad example to the Youth. Fr. M. agreed with the concerns and commented that it was a very delicate subject and he would think about how best to address it.

The prayers and thoughts of all the Parish have been with Fr. M. during the past months and it was agreed that it was very good to have him home at Morryston.

DATNM

Thursday, 24th February 2005, at 7.00 pm.

Father Michael thanked all who had attended, and the meeting ended at 8.36 pm with a prayer.