

St. Joseph's Parish Council Meeting
Held in St. Joseph's Church - 3rd October, 2010

Chairman: Fr. Ross Thompson. Eleven members attended.

1. Fr. Ross opened the Meeting with a prayer
2. Apologies for Absence: The Committee received with regret the resignations of Theresa Caddy and Andrea McQue. Fr. Ross suggested the name of one of our parishioners and would approach him with a view to coming on the Committee.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting were approved by the Committee

4. Matters Arising

Fundraising at St. Crux The booking system has changed. Hilary had sent a written request to St Crux, but as yet had received no reply. The Guildhall was suggested, but no decision was made.

5. Finance Statement Over all we are not doing badly. There was disappointment that a large proportion of our income was not Gift Aided so we are not getting the tax back. Everyone who has a pledge giving envelope gets a statement each year. Donations are not gift aided. Bob has given a years notice to retire from the Finance Committee. Bob would approach someone in the Parish who might be prepared to take his job on. The Diocesan Auditors visited the Parish and we had an outstanding report. She congratulated the Parish on its Financial affairs. She has taken away our form as a guide to others in the Diocese.

6. Repairs & Maintenance

Major items of expenditure 2010 - New lawn mower at a cost of £180. The cost of repairs and service would have cost far more - £471.

The costs for supply priests were rather high because of Fr. Ross' illness. Salary. All Diocesan staff had 4% increase, so clergy will not have an increase this year.

We are due, this month, to get the legacy of £3,000, left to St. Joseph's by Dulcie Baxter.

Repairs – were on the list given to the Committee. Many of the problems are due to damp, or crumbling brick work and are because the work was done in war time. There is damp in the Sacristy, and our builder does think it would be too expensive to put in another damp course. It would be possible to turn the bricks round at the front of the church which would improve the look. We will have the work done in stages so we do not spend enormous amounts The brick work is the next on the list for repair and maintenance. The cast iron guttering has to be repaired, the joints are worn out. We have to have planning permission if we wish to change to plastic guttering.

Church Decoration. The church is getting dirty and washing makes it worse. We may have it done next year, possibly in stages, eg. The Sanctuary and Lady Altar. Candles make the walls dirty, and though you can get electric candles, they are not really liked. The Sanctuary Light must contain only candles.

The Sacristy lights are so brittle, and very difficult to get to. Enquiries would be made.

A lot of work has been done in the hall. A parishioner cleared all the weeds. Hand washes have been installed in both toilets, and a new sink has been put in the men's toilet. We are waiting for it to be plastered.

7. Reports from Organisations

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society There are seven members, someone has made enquiries, and we are hoping to recruit more members. September was SVP Awareness Month. The National Raffle tickets are available and will hopefully sell out. The Summer Social was on 18th August, and letters

- 2 -

/St. Joseph's Parish Council Meeting – 3.10.2010

and cards have been received saying how much people had enjoyed the evening, which was catered for by the Ladies Group. St. Joseph's SVP is twinned with two Conferences in India. The SVP also now has several new people to visit.

Catechists – Eleven children made their First Holy Communion, they have just had their final session. Altar servers will talk to the children and encourage them to become Servers. They would get training before they served on the altar. The Catechists will start in January with the new First Communicants, there are six candidates on the list.

Confirmation Shirley and Fr. Ross will again take the Confirmation Group from the School this year. Permission has been given by the Bishop to take the age group down to the top year of Primary School. Those who are leaving St. Wilfrid's this year will hopefully be Confirmed in their first year at All Saints. In Advent a possible Confirmation date will be decided.

Ladies Group. The Group has once again had a very busy year catering for the Lenten Lunch, Easter Vigil, Stations of the Cross, SVP Summer Social, Confirmation with the Bishops visit. Canon Harey's Birthday, and the Apple Pie supper is coming up. The Group is getting older and we need new members. We raised money £224 for the SVP £50 went to Matthew Fenech's appeal, £62 to the Papal Visit fund. All proceeds from Maureen's stall go to the Parish and SVP. Socially, we meet for lunch occasionally, we went to a member's Golden Wedding, we visit Canon Harney twice a year, go to the theatre, and occasionally have coffee in one another's houses. Flowers are sent on special occasions. Without the Ladies Group the Fairs would not work, because a lot of stalls would not be manned. Mary Luker joined the Fair committee last year and was a tremendous help.

Childrens Liturgy. There are about fifteen children, but the average is about ten. There are only four parents on the rota. One mum is still on the rota but finds it difficult as she works at the weekend. Some of the young mums have younger children to look after. Kyene organises it, and one of the mums with young children was going to be approached. The Altar Servers are doing really well.

Eucharistic Ministers We need more Eucharistic Ministers, especially people who would go out to the sick. Fr. Ross would approach two people who might become Ministers. Besides those in Amelia House we now have two people at St. Catherines at Shipton to visit.

8. Future Events

Christmas Fair. Saturday, 27th November was decided on. The Meeting felt that decorations made the event more festive.

Large candles were needed for the Advent wreath. The older microphones won't work when we go digital. We are having someone come so that we can get an upgrade of our system in the church. If this is portable it could be taken in and out of the hall and the children wouldn't get an opportunity to play with it.

It was suggested that we should have a special Fundraising Committee.

Roger said he would do another Picture Quiz for the Parish before Christmas.

9. Any Other Business.

There are now only four Deaneries in the Diocese.

It was raised that the Counters rota was not correct and this would be corrected.

Copies of the rotas would be available to keep, although the rotas are on the notice board.

- 3 -

/St. Joseph's Parish Council Meeting – 3.10.2010

A member suggested that parishioners should be given the option of increasing their Offertory contribution, and then, for some second collections, the Parish would make a donation on their behalf. Of course, collections for eg. CAFOD and those which can be gift aided, would not be included in this.

New Liturgy for the Mass - which was in the Papal visit booklet. In Advent Parishes will be receiving packs and there will be a year of catechesis to explain why this change is being made.

Fr. Ross had purchased two chalices for the Parish, which were used in the Mass in Glasgow during the Papal visit.

There was a letter from a parishioner encouraging more people to go into the hall for refreshments after the 9.30 am. Sunday Mass This would be put in the Newsletter.

A request was made for a small teapot for the hall, but there is one in the cupboard which should be big enough for the Sunday refreshments.

It was suggested that Sunday refreshments be served in the Assembly area, but this was thought to be too dangerous with little children running around.

Time & Place of Next Meeting – Sunday, 5th December in the Sacristy.