

PARISH FORUM

Minutes of the first meeting of the Parish Forum held on Wednesday 12 March 2008 @ Christ The King Wimbledon Park London SW19

Chair	Father John Naughton	
Facilitator	Tim McHugh	
Present	Michael Jones	Jane Doris
	Margaret Philpot	Bill Doris
	Keith Whiily	Martin Wood
	Katherine Wright	Mildred Lewis
	Spike Clarke	Pam Lewis
	Dick Garden	Paul Mason
	F. Garden	Margaret Peddar
	Moira Buckley	Charles Utley
	Rita Bylan	Magda Khan
	Anne Brody	Noirin Golden
	Brian Newton	Alicia Holliday

Welcome from Father John - short prayer and scripture reading.

Father John opened the meeting by explaining the purpose of the Parish Forum, referring to the Archbishop's Vision Document: Living in Communion. Father John said that a small group (the 'Vision group') had been meeting in the Parish over the past year to discuss the implication of this document for the Parish. This meeting, the Parish Forum was being created in response to this process.

- 1.1. Following a Vision for the Community Living in Communion document received from the Deanery and Bishop Paul a consultation was undertaken through Lent 2007. A series of questionnaires were made available to the parishioners of Christ the King and the responses fed back. Fr John gave special thanks to the Vision Group for organisation and collation of this document: Tim McHugh, Charles Utley, Magda Khan, Edwardo Freddi, Michael Jones, Margaret Philpot, Alicia Holliday.

Father John then handed over to Tim McHugh

- 1.2. The result of this questionnaire was to see how we are as a Christian Community; how we will face the challenges ahead and the formation of a Parish Forum was proposed. The Forum is not a Parish Council, and its objective is not to manage the Parish, but to help strategic planning, to bring together different mass communities, to draw people together and to share thoughts on Parish development

- 1.3. The purpose of the newly formed Parish Forum is to find a mechanism to move forward to try and respond to the needs of the community and all the different aspects to be brought together to build a vibrant community to eradicate difficult communications between the various groups. It was evident from the responses to the questionnaires that although there were a number of active groups within the Parish (such as Justice and Peace), they were operating in isolation. Tim suggested that there was a need to develop a structure through which the various groups would be able to report back, share ideas and plan forward and also encourage wider participation.
- 1.4. The Forum is open to the whole parish but there will be a core group, composed of volunteers from Parish groups. Initially the Vision Group will take this role, but as the Forum develops, the hope and intention is for others to get involved. The Forum will meet every quarter to discuss any issues raised within the Parish and will then report back via the Parish newsletter or separate letters.
- 1.5. One of the tasks of the Forum will be to put together a timetable of events for the Parish. Father John plans the services, but other activities need to be planned as well.
- 1.6. Vision Group will look for ideas from the floor - need to make it something the Parish members wish to participate in.
- 1.7. The Vision Group thought that, as there were about 20 active interest groups in the Parish, a list of all the groups would need to be prepared. Representatives of each group would report back to the Forum, but not at every meeting, as Forum meetings would need to be kept short.
 - 1.7.1. Formation of 5 major groups or interest areas;
 - 1.7.1.1. Administration
 - 1.7.1.1.1. Finance
 - 1.7.1.1.2. Cleaning
 - 1.7.1.1.3. Maintenance
 - 1.7.1.1.4. Flowers
 - 1.7.1.2. OutReach
 - 1.7.1.2.1. Justice & Peace
 - 1.7.1.2.2. SVP
 - 1.7.1.2.3. Interfaith
 - 1.7.1.2.4. Welcomers
 - 1.7.1.3. Formation
 - 1.7.1.3.1. RCIA
 - 1.7.1.3.2. Childrens liturgy
 - 1.7.1.3.3. Catechists
 - 1.7.1.4. Liturgy
 - 1.7.1.4.1. Readings

- 1.7.1.4.2. Special Ministers
- 1.7.1.4.3. Choir
- 1.7.1.4.4. Altar Servers

1.7.1.5. Social

- 1.7.1.5.1. Theatre
- 1.7.1.5.2. Bridge
- 1.7.1.5.3. Children Activities
- 1.7.1.5.4. Bazaar

2. Parish Directory

2.1. Michael Jones said that the various groups would be coordinated by the Forum via designated points of contact and by sharing information. Michael said that the current Parish Directory was out of date and needed to be updated as part of the Forum. Michael had been working on the Directory, but needed help with identifying the people in charge of various groups and also some practical help with formatting etc.

3. The way forward

3.1. It will be important to identify items of interest to the wider Parish for the agenda of Forum meetings. Fr John proposed that Tim McHugh's name will be put in the newsletter as the contact person for the Forum.

3.2. Tim McHugh said that some people felt that the parish was being run by Parish Council, whereas in reality there is no such structure and the whole Parish should be encouraged to participate.

3.3. The original Vision documents mentioned the lack of parish priests as a real problem. It would be necessary for parishioners to look at ways in which they can get involved should there be no resident priest in the future.

3.4. There was general agreement amongst those present as to the concept of the Forum.

4. Looking Forward

4.1. We are approaching 50th Anniversary of Consecration of Church (25th September 1958) and 80th Anniversary of opening of Church, in Autumn 2008.

4.2. It was suggested that a mass with former priests of the Parish would be an appropriate way of celebrating the occasion. A further proposal was that a series of events could be held throughout the autumn, i.e. between 25 September and the Feast of Christ the King, with the Archbishop to be invited for a special mass.

4.3. Wimbledon Park Centenary Celebrations

4.3.1. The Wimbledon Park centenary celebrations were also mentioned. Father John said that all the local places of worship (including St Luke's church and the mosque) were to hold an open day on Saturday 26th April. A poster would need to be prepared and a note put in the newsletter. It would also be necessary to prepare a rota of volunteers to show visitors round.

4.4. High Altar

4.4.1. Fr John raised the issue of the dilapidated curtain above the High Altar. It does not do justice to the Church or the Altar.

4.4.2. As the space had originally been designed for a picture, Father John had been investigating the possibility of commissioning an icon. The image would have to be either a crucifix or the image of Christ the King.

4.4.3. Father John had contacted a nun in Scotland who had drawn icons for a church in Margate. Photographs of some of her icons (with the image of Christ) were shown around. Father John said that the cost of an icon would be substantial and the process would be time-consuming.

4.4.4. A general discussion followed. It was suggested that a letter should be written to the Royal Academy of Arts. Other suggestions included a stained glass window lit from the back or a tapestry. The latter could be a joint parish project, in which everyone could get involved. Another possibility would be a mural, but it would involve preparing the surface as currently there is corrugated plasterboard behind the curtain.

4.4.5. It was decided that a small group would be formed to explore the issue further and that the wider parish should be consulted. Any decision would have to be approved by the Diocese.

4.4.6. Brian Newton volunteered to head this group

5. Conclusion

5.1. It was decided that minutes would be prepared from the Parish Forum meeting and a summary circulated in the Parish, to be sent out after Easter

5.2. It was proposed that the next Forum meeting would be held in June. It was then suggested that the third Wednesday of June would be appropriate, but hall bookings would need to be checked.

5.3. Father John concluded the meeting by thanking those present, especially Tim McHugh for chairing the meeting.

5.4. Father John also thanked Alicia and her team for this evenings catering.

27 March 2008