

**PARISH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
ST TERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS CORE GROUP
MINUTES**

14TH OCTOBER 2010

Present: Alex Hunter (chair) Fr Laurence Quin-Morris
Pamela Schwenk Claire Franklin
David Carter Liz Braines (minutes)

Apologies for absence: Clare Briffa

Feedback from PPC:

Meeting was held on 17th September at St Teresa. No rep from St Teresa's core group was present as date was not pre-advised to us (Alex Foreman will be taking over as secretary for this group from Icona Miles). However, Cecilia Cameron attended as PPC member for St Teresa. She has liaised with diocese on ecumenical matters. Liz Braines has been appointed local ecumenical officer for St Teresa and will liaise with Cecilia back to PPC on matters of interest to the PPC. She also took lead on organising Fr Kevin Dring's successful leaving celebrations at St Teresa. Core group offered its thanks to Cecilia.

The constitution of core groups was discussed at this meeting. The model put forward was the core group members would undertake a three year term of office. Two members would be invited to step down at this stage and 4 remain on with 2 new members joining the team. The suggestion of the parish voting for new core group members was discussed and it was decided that parishioners could put forward names of possible core group members to clergy for them to make final decision, as before.

Forthcoming open meeting: Proposals for new centres at Redhill and Reigate will be discussed. Plans have been produced and will be available to view.

Feedback from the community:

A request was received for a 7am or 7pm mass during the week. This is not possible at present but may be reviewed once Fr Andrew is in post. It was noted that there is already a 7pm mass at St Teresa on Friday. Although it's original intention was to serve those who work, it is not well attended and those that do attend are usually at mass on weekdays during the day. Early morning and evening masses during Lent and Advent have been well attend at St Joseph's but it was felt that a regular mass during ordinary times would not necessarily be so well attended.

Notice boards: This item is in hand. Finance committee has plans of proposed new notice boards, which the core team have now seen. Planning permission is being sought by finance committee.

Child protection officer for St Teresa. Jean Tucker is child protection officer for whole parish. Notice board to reflect this.

Children's Liturgy. David Carter organised a very successful meeting with parents on 26th September. He has provided a very professional handout for parents, which was handed out at the meeting and spare copies are available at the back of church. Although a 'launch mass' was discussed at a previous children's liturgy meeting the team now felt this was no longer necessary. Dave will liaise with team and priests for a children's mass after Christmas. Thanks to Dave for taking this forward so successfully.

Nativity: Liz Braines requested permission to recruit volunteers from all churches to assist with Gatton Community Theatre's performance of Nativity on 4th December at St Joseph's. Help needed with selling tickets, refreshments and box office. Members of Gatton Community theatre will perform a scene from the play at all masses on 21st November as a taster. Any profits made will go to Justice and Peace group. No core group involvement needed.

Ecumenical Handbook has now been received from diocese. Items of interest and meetings will be circulated to St Teresa when available. Contact with other churches in immediate area will be made in due course.

Traidcraft. A request had been received from Anna Hobden at Reigate for a volunteer to sell Traidcraft goods on the 4th Sunday of each month in line with Holy Family and St Joseph's. It was noted that we had tried this before at St Teresa with not much success. It was agreed that an item requesting a volunteer would appear in the newsletter. Any goods to sell can be obtained from Anna Hobden on a trial basis if a volunteer to sell came forward.

First Holy Communion. Core group to note that St Teresa has 14 candidates undertaking their first holy communion in June.

Second collections: A request was made that we have too many second collections. Could the parish be a little more selective on non mandatory collections. Fr Laurence compiles a parish-wide list of collections throughout the year. PPC select list of which charities we support in rotation.

Fr Kevin's leaving mass: Thanks to all you made Fr Kevin's send off a success. Special thanks go to Bernard Hodge for sorting out the electrics in the marquee and to the music group who played beautifully.

Offertory Music: Suggested that music continue in background once hymn is finished until offertory is presented.

Skills Audit: Volunteers have been notified and some invited to assist with ministries/areas they expressed an interest. There is a shortage of altar servers. Adults as well as children can undertake this valuable job. There **is** a shortage of caterers for social events. Eucharistic ministers still need to be approached and trained at request of clergy. Also still requirement for readers to come forward and be

commissioned. Fr Laurence to take these ministries forward. Volunteers to be approached for serving coffee after mass.

Re commission of readers: Second Sunday in Advent. Pamela to put item in newsletter that readers will be invited to be re commissioned in St Teresa on this date and all readers regardless of church they regularly attend will be invited to the front for re commissioning.

Cleaning and room booking: Finance committee are looking into this.

Any other business:

Open parish meeting will take place on 26th October at St Joseph's at 7pm. Main topic of presentation will be the building projects at St Joseph's and Holy Family. Plans will be available to view at this meeting. These will be presented to Diocesan finance committee.

Meeting core group members: Members to be available at coffee on 50/50 draw after mass on monthly basis. This is to be announced by priest celebrating mass that Sunday.

Welcome cards: Pamela to liaise with Fr Laurence regarding welcome cards for parish. She has obtain a copy of a welcome card of another church that we could adapt and use.

Sunday Fun day: This went really well on 11th July as part of Merstham Community festival. About 300 people turn up including a good turn out from St Teresa. Merstham Community Facility hope to run this again next year.

It was suggested rails to be put on altar to assist e.g. Fr Seamus getting up and down the steps more easily?

Minutes go core group meetings to be published on website once approved.

Next meeting: Wednesday 24th November at 7.30pm
To feed into PPC meeting 10th December 2010.