



**ST AGNES
LONGSIGHT**

PASTORAL CARE & NURTURE

Coordination Team

Meeting held on Monday 6th March 2006

Present:

Pearl, Edna, Beryl, Stephen (Apologies: Denzil, Doreen)

The meeting reviewed the minutes and suggestions from the previous meeting (January 2006) and then discussed the following items, asking that the PCC consider them.

1. Prayer Tree

The prayer tree works by connecting a group of people who are willing to pray for specific people and/or situations – often at short notice. Congregation members could be invited to be a part of a tree. Each member of the tree would know the name and phone number of their next person in the chain and would pass on prayer requests as necessary so that every member of the tree would be aware that at a certain time on a certain day the group would pray for the specific request. The tree (or trees) would be amended and updated as people joined and left. This form of prayer was felt to be an important way of showing our pastoral care for one another.

2. Prayer Vigils/Times

The forthcoming Peace Week campaign would be a first attempt at a specific prayer time/vigil. This has been organised by the Mission & Action Group.

3. Nurture

The area of nurture in relation to baptisms, weddings and funerals was felt to be a huge area. We decided to concentrate first on the nurture of baptismal candidates and their families and look at weddings and funerals later.

Baptismal Nurture

To help nurture candidates for baptism and to make their parents feel more welcome in church it was felt that parishioners could be linked with families/candidates. These parishioners would be suitably trained to act as friends/companions/sponsors from the parish family. It would be good to have at least 12-15 people trained in this role. They could be involved with:

- § initial baptismal interview/meeting alongside the parish priest
- § baptismal preparation
- § sponsorship
- § giving of the candle at the baptismal liturgy
- § being the official welcomer/friend/inviter for that family at church services
- § baptismal anniversary cards

Along with this befriending idea it was felt that it would be good to provide bags of soft toys/quiet toys for parents to give to children during worship and to look at ways of specifically welcoming and inviting young families/newly baptised to church events and services.

Next meeting: Thursday 11th May, 11am in the Rectory