



**ST AGNES
LONGSIGHT**

PASTORAL CARE & NURTURE

Coordination Group

Meeting held on Thursday 11th May 2006

Present:

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

1. Prayer Tree

It was agreed to advertise the prayer tree by explaining how it works to people – both on a leaflet/poster and in the magazine. A ‘starter tree’ to be printed and put at the back of church – Beryl agreed to be the lead name on the first tree. Other trees will be added as necessary.

2. Prayer Vigils/Times

It was felt a time of open prayer might be useful and the suggestion of Tuesdays at 1pm was agreed. It should be made clear that this is separate from Evergreens and purely a time when the church would be open and a group meet to prayer for the parish, the community and general intercessions between 1pm and 1.30pm. Starting from next week, 16th May.

3. Nurture: Bible study group

Some discussion took place about the need for more study groups/Bible discussion groups to take place outside the structured Lent and Advent courses. Many people cannot or do not attend these. Proposal: to meet for a Bible study once a month at a time convenient to those interested and have a brief introduction to a passage and then discuss it informally. Meeting in the Rectory or in people’s homes. Stephen to put a list in church to find out interest.

4. Nurture: Baptism

Furthering the discussion about linking a congregation member with the baptism family it was suggested that this might be best done by younger congregation members – to encourage young families. When the training/idea is agreed we will need to seek suitable people to act as links.

It was strongly felt that we should require baptism candidate’s families to attend church at least two or three time before the baptism service so that the congregation could get to know the family and that they learn more about the church and our parish. Sometimes, and especially because of the nature of the Common Worship baptism service, it was felt that the baptism family took over the normal Sunday Mass rather than the other way round.

Some discussion took place about the awkwardness of this and the difficulty of balancing a serious commitment to baptism with the desire to welcome all people and not put any off. If they were unwilling to come to church before hand then perhaps we should question their interest in baptism and offer thanksgiving services instead. **Suggest PCC looks at the baptism policy and discusses this.**

5. Children’s Toy Bags

The soft/quiet toy bags were discussed and it was felt that the church should buy the items to ensure correct safety of the toys. Four bags to be created – each one containing soft toys, soft cloth books, crayons, paper etc. Bags to be kept at the back of church for sidespeople to look after. Suggestion that we ask Rita Osei if she might like to look after this project. Perhaps have lambs on the bags and call the lamb Agnes!

Next meeting: Monday 3rd July 2006, 11am in the Rectory