



Community & Action

St Agnes Longsight

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th February 2009

Present: Oswald, Muriel, Denzil, Leah, Doreen, Jean, Stephen.

Groups and Committees at St Agnes

The change of name was noted (following the article in the Parish Magazine). Some felt that community was not a good word as it suggested too local an approach to our work. Faith in Action was felt to be a good title, although that didn't seem right either for local activities. Good discussion – see what PCC makes of it all!

Peace Week: March 7-14

Gang-related firearms discharges have fallen by over 90% in the last year and 2008 was the first year in a decade there have been no gang-related fatalities. Members of the group noted the success of the police, community support officers and Street Pastors. More than ever it is important to build up the community again, to generate good news and celebrate and advocate for our young people. Which is where Peace Week comes in. After some discussion it was agreed to repeat our usual daily open space for peace (9th-13th March). Use same poster, times etc as last year but perhaps we can have a presence outside on the street or in the grounds to encourage people to come and join us. At next meeting think of ways to be more visible during Peace Week.

St Agnes School Year 6 Art Exhibition

Suggestion of an exhibition of Year 6's artwork of African and Afro-Caribbean designs in church, with an official opening, by a VIP, with children and teachers present, parents and local people invited. Refreshments served as well. An opportunity for church to be open for a few days at specific times to encourage children to bring their friends and families and the local community to see their work. Possibly connect with Peace Week? Stephen to check with class teacher.

2009 Annual Whit Walks

After a short discussion it was felt that we should continue to be present at these but we need to make sure more people are aware of the date in good time. Perhaps we can encourage people to commit/sign up to say they will be there as last year only a few people turned up and carrying the banners was a struggle. Consult with PCC and congregation.

Gaza Appeal

Numerous charities and mission agencies have been appealing for help with their Gaza campaigns. We suggest to the PCC that we hold a retiring collection for Gaza to be sent via the multi-agency Disasters Emergency Committee.

Future Themes/Ideas

- Perhaps we need a way to gather opinion/suggestions/questions from people. A box at the back of church? A discussion during the Sunday service? A coffee morning? Each of these has both plus and minus points!
- Suggestion that in the warmer months we hold a general Saturday morning Coffee Morning with some way of gathering opinions, getting people to talk about parish and church issues.
- Community Garden Party – repeat last year's event as a way of involving local people.
- Action/aid/prayer for Zimbabwe.

Next meeting: Wednesday 4th March 2009