

Worship and Faith Group Notes: Wednesday 26th January 2010

The meeting opened with prayer.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Lara Dose.

Present: Fr. Stephen, Jennifer Newton, Leah Lutley, Dorothy Vernon and Joyce Green.

Matters Arising:

Posada: Mary and Joseph visited more places this year. It was suggested that this year during the mid-week slots, the Nursing Homes and schools visited could join in the Posada. It was agreed that this should be considered. Fr. Stephen said very few people had photographed Mary and Joseph during their stay at the various homes and suggested that a cheap digital camera (about £20) be purchased and circulated with the figures, to encourage a photographic record of their journey through Advent. This was also agreed.

Advent: The changes incorporated during Advent were well received. Several aspects were very moving, especially the cards written by members of the congregation. They were not displayed on the branches as originally suggested because some of them were very personal. It was questioned whether people realised the significance of the bare branches and it was suggested that perhaps there could be more explanation this year. The intercessions said facing east from the nave was good.

Everybody welcome: This course book wasn't circulated but is available for Worship and Faith group members to peruse if they wish. Much of the content has already been incorporated in our worship to some degree but the possibility of a 4 week interactive "sermon" course during the summer is to be considered.

Lent: A poster will be put up in church, advertising the Lent Creative Worship Sessions to be held in the Diocese.

Advent Groups: The Advent groups were well attended and stimulated a lot of very interesting discussion. Using the "[Lyfe](#)" method for reading and discussing the Scripture passages was very successful and well received.

Christmas: Due to unforeseen difficulties in purchasing sufficient flowers this year to decorate the church, the use of Poinsettia plants, baubles and greenery was very festive and the church looked lovely as always.

USPG Lent Course 2010: The books have arrived and sessions will be held following the I am Eucharist commencing on 24th February 2010. The photographic exhibition consisting of 12 panels based on the USPG Lent Course will be displayed in church from Sunday 14th February until Ash Wednesday 17 February 2010.

New Business:

Lent: Fr Stephen would like more time to prepare for Lent and suggested a short half hour service of penitence and faith as part of the evening prayer on Shrove Tuesday 16th February 2010. There will be 2 services on Ash Wednesday both with the imposition of ashes at 11am and 7-30pm. There will be hymns at the 7-30pm service. It was agreed that the water should be taken away again during Lent and the possibility of introducing some Plainsong into the service was discussed. This is to be considered. During Lent it was suggested that the piano could be played prior to the beginning instead of the organ. Dorothy would like a way of knowing when Fr Stephen is leaving the vestry as it is difficult to see from the organ.

Stations of the Cross: Jennifer is to prepare the list and different people are to be encouraged to take part in leading the service. These will be held on Sunday 21st & 28th February, 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th March 2010 at 6pm.

Mothering Sunday: Joyce is to ask Gill whether she will be able to purchase the daffodils this year.

Holy Week & Easter Service Plan: Monday 29th March at 10-30am the Chrism Eucharist will be held at Manchester Cathedral. The clergy are encouraged to take members of the congregation to this service. Fr. Stephen is to publicise this more this year. Maundy Thursday a discussion took place regarding whether an Agape meal should be held again this year. Fr. Stephen has some reservations as to whether Maundy Thursday is the most appropriate time for this service. Last year it went well and was quite solemn, although three people expressed concern about it and many more missed the foot washing element of the service. After a full and frank discussion, it was agreed that this year we revert to the Eucharist with Foot washing service on Maundy Thursday and to hold the Easter Agape which is a Christian love feast with a celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday 9th May 2010 at 6pm, based on the Road to Emmaus. It was also suggested that the possibility of alternating the services on Maundy Thursday could be considered but to include the Foot washing during the Agape in future. On Good Friday, the intercessions will be as usual. Easter Vigil on Saturday 3rd April 2010 at 11-30pm, it was agreed that we should try and encourage more people to come to this service.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Tuesday 23rd February 2010 at 8pm in the Rectory. Please note there will be no meeting on Tuesday 30th March 2010. The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.40pm.