

Worship and Faith Group Notes: Tuesday 29th June 2010

The meeting opened with prayer.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Leah Lutley

Present: Fr. Stephen, Rev Lara Dose, Jennifer Newton, Dorothy Vernon, Lewis Njoku and Joyce Green.

Matters Arising:

Corpus Christi: This was a lovely occasion, 45 people attended but only 18 were St Agnes people and this was both disappointing and interesting. The Dean enjoyed the service and sent a "Thank you" to Fr. Stephen.

Sunday Link: There will be a trial period of the new format during the summer.

Father's Day: Fr. Stephen said further discussion is needed and this will be explored more fully at a future meeting prior to Mothering Sunday next year. The "What Dads Add" leaflets have not arrived yet.

Festivals and Holy Days: This was discussed at the PCC Meeting and it was agreed to increase the number of Communion Services from September 2010. Fr. Stephen presented the proposed list for further discussion and clarification. It is good because not only will it give the opportunity for Lara to gain more experience but also the varied times of services will potentially offer increased accessibility to people unable to attend weekday services at the moment. Festivals falling on a Friday will be celebrated on the Thursday evening and Festivals that coincide with other festivals are given alternative dates. Those marked with an asterisk on the list will be celebrated according to 1662 BCP. After a full discussion it was agreed that as May 2011 seemed to be rather busy this may need amending. All the weekday services would be said. The Eucharist will only be celebrated if a total of 3 people including the Priest are present. Lara asked if all the services needed to celebrate the Eucharist or whether it would be possible to arrange some of them for the school groups, who already to visit church, to have a story about the Saint and also explain aspects of the service. It was agreed that Lara could discuss this with teaching staff to see if any classes are free and if it would fit in with the timetable.

New Business:

Pew Change Summer 2009: Results of Survey: Lara has collated the 15 questionnaires that were completed and returned. Some disappointment was expressed that more questionnaires hadn't been returned. Overall the comments were positive, although there was some discrepancy between people's initial reaction to the lay out on entering the church and subsequent comments on the questionnaire. Some very insightful comments were made and it would appear that we have been given a mandate to do it again next year. The ability to experiment isn't available in all churches and St Agnes people are happy to have the opportunity to experiment and are willing to participate. It was felt that the congregation would appreciate hearing the results and it was suggested that this could be done one Sunday instead of a sermon. It was also agreed that sidepersons should be prepared prior to any change of the seating arrangements in future. Fr. Stephen suggested that we should talk to people about it and it was agreed that the Living and Praying and Community and Action Groups would be useful forums for a general discussion.

Sponsored Hymn Sing June 27th 2010: It would have been nice if more people had attended but nonetheless £190-70 was raised for church funds. Lara noted all the hymns that were chosen but some people were frustrated that we couldn't sing all the verses of each hymn. Lara suggested the possibility of sponsoring a hymn on a Sunday and the most popular hymns would be sung in their entirety. There could also be a comment on the Newsletter as to why the hymn had been chosen and sponsored. Fr. Stephen is to identify Sundays in September and October when this could take place.

Sanctuary Lamp: It was decided to remind people that candles can be purchased for the Sanctuary Lamp throughout the year in memory of a loved one.

Godly Play Services: These have been good for the children and we have received a grant for toys etc. The service book is also a colouring book which the children can fill in and take home. This has proved to be very popular.

Schools Tour of the Church: Lara has designed a booklet for the children and a copy was shown to the members. It is very good and there is also to be an interactive version on the parish website.

Future Dates: 15th August: Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The second weekend in September is the weekend of prayer. Last year St Agnes was the only church in the Deanery that celebrated the weekend of prayer. Sunday 26th September is Harvest Sunday and Sunday 3rd October is Dedication Sunday. Bible Sunday is on 24th October but the resources are not out yet. We have never really celebrated Bible Sunday at St Agnes but Fr. Stephen suggested that perhaps we could have "Bible Study" instead of a sermon. There would be one Gospel Reading which could be discussed in small groups using the Lyfe method followed by a period of reflection. Lewis expressed some concern about not having a sermon and other concerns expressed by the group were that 10 minutes may not be enough time for discussion. Another suggestion was a Bible Lyfe Cafe after the service when soup and bread could be served for lunch. It was agreed that this should be taken to the PCC for further consideration.

King James Bible: Next year is the anniversary of the St James version of the Bible. Fr. Stephen suggested asking people for their "Favourite Quotes" and using this version on occasions. Many people are very familiar with this version of the Bible and like the language and remember it from their childhood. 2012 is 350th Anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer.

Other Business:

Jennifer reminded the meeting that in July this year it is the 125th anniversary of St Agnes Church. After some discussion, it was decided to celebrate this on Dedication Sunday in October when there is a Bring and Share Lunch after the service. It was also agreed to invite Bishop Rupert Hoare to preach if he is available.

It was agreed that during Advent we should face East during the Creed as we had done during Lent.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Tuesday 28th September 2010 at 8pm in the Rectory.

The meeting closed with the prayer at 9.55pm.