



# Worship & Faith

St Agnes Longsight

## Worship & Faith Group Notes: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009

The meeting opened with prayer. Fr. Stephen welcomed Lara Dose our curate to the meeting.

**Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence.

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

### Matters Arising:

**Marketing of Choir Practice:** Fr. Stephen suggested leaving this until next month. This was agreed.

**Agape Meal/Easter Vigil:** Fr. Stephen suggested the comments received should be discussed at the October meeting so that we can plan for next year. This was agreed.

**Intercessions:** Fr Stephen commented that the presentation of intercessions for the sick and those who have died has got better and this was agreed.

### Business:

**Welcoming and Hospitality:** according to feed-back, this is generally good but we mustn't get complacent. Fr. Stephen informed us that Church House publishing have produced a booklet entitled "Everybody Welcome". It comprises of five teaching sessions and may become available as a resource. Fr. Stephen is to consider purchasing one of the members' manuals at £3-99. Lara suggested that during the notices, a welcome could be extended to any one worshipping with us for the first time. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

**Harvest Thanksgiving:** This will be on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2009. There will also be Evensong and Benediction at 6pm using the Book of Common Prayer. Discussion followed regarding this years USPG Harvest Resource Material entitled "Don't Worry". The material is free and is very well presented. Good feed- back was received last year and as we support the USPG, it seems to be very appropriate for us to use their materials. This was agreed.

**Licensing of Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Fr. Stephen informed us that in an effort to streamline this process some changes have been made. The training is now to be undertaken by the Parish and not the Archdeaconry Chaplain and the Lay Eucharistic Ministers will be re-nominated and re- confirmed every four years. In future, the Lay Ministers who take Communion to people in their homes will have to be CRB checked. Those Eucharistic ministers who have or are taking Communion to those at home are Jennifer Newton, Lewis Njoku, Denzil Morris and Joyce Green.

**Readings:** During Lent the readings were not printed as an experiment in order to save paper and money and to encourage people to listen to God's word. Negative feed-back was received and most people do appreciate having the readings printed. An alternative, is to purchase the readings already printed but we couldn't afford these and Sunday Link. The print on the pre-printed readings was rather small and after discussion, it was decided to carry on as we are. Lewis suggested putting the reading references for the following Sunday on the weekly news sheet, this was agreed.

**Pew Moving:** Pews will be moved for 4 weeks i.e.; 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> August & 6<sup>th</sup> September 2009. It is three years since we tried it before and the suggestion to try it again has come from members of the congregation. The comment in the feed-back questionnaires that there wasn't a focal point for servers and ministers will be addressed. The Altar and Lectern will be moved into the middle and there will be three rows of three pews on each side.

**Open Mind:** Three services have been held and each one has been successful and went well on the day and good feed-back has been received. However the purpose to encourage non church people to come into the building and experience something different has not been achieved. A possible way forward is following Baptism to offer a child friendly service/party on a Sunday afternoon. To invite Wedding Couples back to an "Open Mind" type of service followed by Cheese and Wine. Lara shared with us her experience of "Wells", a social evening for young adults aged 25 – 40yrs. The priest invited about 8 people to dinner and they also reflected on a passage of scripture which promoted social, intellectual & spiritual engagement. This can be helpful for those searching for faith. It was stressed that this evening would be open to any one irrespective of age. Lara and Stephen are to bring an idea for the next "Open Mind" service to be held in March 2010 to the next meeting.

**Evening Services 2010:** Fr. Stephen proposed that next year there should be a monthly evening service and if necessary the August service could be "lay led". The sponsored hymn sing would slot in. An "Ice Cream Social" was also suggested.

**Advent:** Fr. Stephen drew our attention to Richard Giles books 'Re-Pitching the Tent' which looks at ways in which our church buildings and worship space can be used in imaginative ways, and 'Creating Uncommon Worship' and 'Times and Seasons' which look at orders of service. Fr. Stephen suggested that during Advent some East ward facing things could be incorporated in the services e.g.; during the Creed. Lewis suggested using a cantor and also some unaccompanied singing where appropriate. These suggestions are to be considered as sometimes a chant works better than a traditional hymn and the possibility of a Taizé Sunday is also to be considered.

**Other Business:** Lewis suggested a Parish Outing and it was agreed to take this to PCC, as we need to ensure that we can fill a coach as they are very expensive to hire.

There being no other business the meeting closed with prayer at 9-40pm.

**Date and Time of next Meeting:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 8pm in the Rectory.