

Worship and Faith Group Notes: Tuesday 27th September 2011

The meeting opened with prayer.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Rev. Lara Dose, Jennifer Newton & Lewis Njoku.

Present: Fr. Stephen, Dorothy Vernon and Joyce Green.

Matters Arising:

Prayer weekend 9th, 10th & 11th September 2011: This was a very good weekend and well attended.

Future Dates: Rev Ros hunt has been invited to preach at St Agnes but is very busy at the moment. She would like to come and will let Fr Stephen know when she is available.

Bible Sunday 2011: We are short of verses this year. Fr. Stephen is to ask the congregation for some more. It was agreed that the verses should be printed in full on the candle holders. The candles this year have been paid for by a donation.

Business:

Sanctuary List: This is well subscribed and the names being printed on the Weekly New Sheet as well as being displayed at the front of the Church is working well. A prayer card is also to be produced.

The Gideons Society: The local Manchester Gideon Branch is to come to speak in the first instance to the Bible cafe group. If this is well received, it was agreed to invite them church to speak to the congregation possibly on Bible Sunday next year 2012.

One Voice Movement: This is one of the charities we have supported this year with our Mission Giving and Fr. Stephen has received a letter of thanks from the Director of One Voice Europe. The possibility of inviting her to come to a service was discussed as it would be possible to have a live link with someone in Palestine and someone in Israel who are working towards peace and reconciliation. The possibility of Advent Sunday was discussed and also whether this would be an appropriate theme for the Advent Groups. Some slight concerns were expressed and it was agreed to discuss this with other groups eg; Living and praying Group. Further consideration will be given to this topic and also the Biblical theme for the Advent Group and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Living and Praying Group: Prayer, pastoral visiting and healing and the links between these were discussed. Fr. Stephen mentioned the possibility of having Healing services more frequently and possibly once a month at the mid-week Eucharist on a Wednesday eg; the first Wednesday of each month. It was suggested that it would be easier to sustain on a weekday. Other possibilities suggested were to have an occasional healing service on Sunday Evening too or possibly after the Eucharist on Sunday morning. We were asked to think and pray about this. Fr. Stephen would like the Pastoral Care Visiting Group to continue to meet every other month in order to give it more reverence and a higher profile and to discuss various ways of doing this.

Open Mind: An Interesting session and the questionnaire was very good and stimulated a good discussion. Perhaps it could be a little more structured in future so that we don't try to cover too much in the time allowed. The Questionnaire is worth following up at a future session and the subsequent discussion to be followed by a period of silent reflection whilst music is played and ending with prayer.

Evening Service Pattern: Evening service is to be held the first Sunday of every month. A possible pattern could be Benediction/ Healing/ Open Mind. The type of evening service will not be specified on next years' almanac to allow for flexibility.

Pew Change: Fr. Stephen informed us regarding the results of the questionnaire. 75% were very positive and of the 25% who were not so positive only 2 people said "never again". Some people suggested a longer experimental period eg; 2 months. General comments included that it was easier to see and hear. Also that it was lovely to see people's faces and it was easier to feel more involved in the service.

Other Business: The subject of children eating and running around during the service was raised and how this could be discouraged as it was very distracting. It was agreed that this was inappropriate and a suggestion was made that a large print type of service sheet might help to keep them occupied and interested. Fr Stephen explained that the children are now given a sheet with a Bible Story and pictures to colour during the service on Sundays when there is no

Junior Church. He agreed to raise various issues appertaining to both adults and children during the sermon on Dedication Sunday.

It was also raised as to whether the Gift Aid from the money from the small change boxes was still recorded. Fr. Stephen said he would ask Colin.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Tuesday 25th October 2011 at 8pm in the Rectory.

The meeting closed with the prayer at 9.45pm.