

Worship and Faith Group Notes: Wednesday 8th October 2009

The meeting opened with prayer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Leah Lutley.

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

Matters Arising:

Welcoming and Hospitality: Fr. Stephen is to purchase a copy of the book "Everybody Welcome".

Harvest Thanksgiving: The service went well and there has been some positive feedback. Fr. Stephen is to share with the congregation the policy for food distribution etc.

Licensing of Lay Eucharistic Ministers: C.R.B's are on-going and Fr. Stephen is in touch with Doreen Healey about this.

Business:

Marketing of Choir Practice: Fr. Stephen wondered if the term Choir Practice put people off and another title would encourage more members of the congregation to attend rehearsals. After some discussion, it was agreed to leave any changes until the Spring because of the dark nights. The suggestion that it be put on the Agenda for the April 2010 was also agreed.

Easter /Holy Week: Fr. Stephen suggested that the timing of the Easter Vigil Service needs a proper discussion ie: Saturday 11-30pm Service vis a vis a Dawn Service on Easter Sunday morning. Lara shared with us her experiences of a Dawn Easter Vigil followed by a breakfast and The Easter morning Eucharist. It was agreed that this should be the main agenda item at the January 2010 meeting. We also need to look at the Maundy Thursday Service ie: Agape Meal or "normal" service including the foot washing and the whole of the Easter Season.

Pew Move: There had been mixed reactions to this and we shared our personal likes and dislikes of the experiment during the meeting. It was agreed that the singing sounded better and there was a feeling of closeness but opinions varied and different preferences regarding the Ministry of the Word at one end of the Church and the Sacrament at the other end. Some members of the congregation had suggested that the period of time should be longer than 4 weeks as they were only just getting used to the new layout when it went back to normal. It was decided to use the same questionnaire as last time as there had been a good response. An additional question is to be added regarding what experimenting with the layout in church means to people.

openmind: Fr. Stephen said that we should congratulate ourselves that we have done it and endeavoured to create 'peace through engaging creative worship' – one of our three development plans. Fr. Stephen and Lara outlined proposals for inviting the newly baptised children and their families and the newly married people back to church as discussed at the last meeting. On Sunday 6th December 2009 at 3pm a party with Godly Play will be held for all those children recently baptised and their parents/family. Junior Church members will also be invited to be a part of this. On Sunday 17th January 2010, there will be a "My Big Fat Church Wedding Party" for the couples who have been married at St Agnes Church recently. Each couple will be invited to bring His and Her favourite wedding photo. Cocktails/wine "nibbles" etc would be served and people could socialise in church and share wedding stories. This would be supported by members of the congregation and could lead into the launch of an *openmind* service. The aim is to welcome non - church goers back to church and offer an alternative form of worship.

It was suggested that although we always try to be an all inclusive church, there are occasions when it may be more appropriate to gear certain events towards specific groups or age-groups eg: at the last meeting, an event for 25-40 yrs was suggested and it was agreed that to provide something for young adults would be beneficial. The proposal for the wedding couples would naturally encompass this age-range.

All Saints/ All Souls: All Saints Day – Sunday 1st November 2009 and there will also be a service at 7-30pm on All Souls Day Monday 2nd November 2009. It was suggested that as people do not like asking for lifts to church, a list be put in church on Sunday 25th October 2009 for people to sign.

Sanctuary Lamp: Candles can be purchased for the Sanctuary Lamp throughout the year in memory of a loved one. The cost is £2.00. Fr. Stephen is to explain this to the congregation and announce it for 2 consecutive weeks. Jennifer is to prepare the new list for Sunday 25th October 2009.

Advent: Fr. Stephen suggested we could make Advent more of a season of expectation and this should be reflected in our worship. Possibilities include facing East for the Gloria, Creed and Opening Prayer, using the music "Prepare ye the way of the Lord" from Godspell which is very powerful. Worship to reflect that we are all preparing for something and possibly include a sung responsorial psalm. The Advent Groups to be spiritual and reflective. Posada, more communication is needed and the possibility of including Junior Church this year was suggested. Fr. Stephen to discuss this with Junior Church Leaders.

Yearly Worship Plan: Fr. Stephen has prepared a handout outlining the Worship Plan for 2010. There will be an Evening Service on the first Sunday of each month. It was agreed that the Sponsored Hymn Sing should be rescheduled to avoid Fathers Day as this affected the attendance last year.

He also explained the Rules to Order the Christian Year and gave members a handout.

Other Business: Lewis suggested that the Intercessors should be encouraged to pray for the Queen more often and also pray for the Church family whilst praying for the world wide church and not in the community section. Some members of the congregation had expressed preference for this. It was agreed to revise the guidance for intercessors. There being no other business the meeting closed with prayer at 9-40pm.

Date and Time of next Meetings: Tuesday 27th October 2009, Tuesday 24th November 2009 and Tuesday 26th January 2010 at 8pm in the Rectory.