

Worship and Faith Group Notes: Wednesday 27th October 2009

The meeting opened with prayer.

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: To be discussed at the April 2010 meeting.

Pew Move: The questionnaires will be given out to members of the congregation next week.

Sanctuary Lamp: The list for the purchase of candles in memory of a loved one has been up-dated and is displayed in church.

Intercessions Leaflet: This has also been up-dated to incorporate prayers for the Royal Family and will be given to the Intercessors with the next rota. Fr. Stephen will say a special prayer for the Royal Family on Remembrance Sunday.

Business:

Christmas: The Carol Service has been prepared and will follow a similar format to last year. Information has been received from Christian Aid entitled "O Broken Town of Bethlehem". The Community and Action Group would like to do something about the Palestine/Israeli situation and will consider the possibility of using this resource. The final decision will rest with the PCC based on the Community and Action Group's recommendations.

Posada: The poster has been done for the Posada and the list for people to sign will be put out in church after Remembrance Sunday. The Statue of Mary and Joseph will be put in church each Sunday and participants will be encouraged to take a photograph, if they wish to do so, of Mary and Joseph in their home so that we have a record of the various stages of their journey during Advent.

Advent: Fr. Stephen led a discussion on "**Notes on Advent**" taken from "Times and Seasons" by Richard Giles. Several ideas were presented regarding the re-ordering of the Church during Advent to shake us out of "ordinariness". Giles suggests that each season should have a distinct seating plan but as we have recently experimented with seating arrangements in church, it was decided not to move the pews again. Purple is the liturgical colour for Advent and vestments should speak through the colour alone and not be too fancy.

After a full discussion, the following suggestions were agreed: Each Sunday during Advent the service would commence with a darkened church and the Intro would be "Prepare Ye the way of the Lord" from Godspell. The Advent Prose suggested by Giles is rather lengthy but maybe used on one of the Sundays. The intercessors would stand to say the intercessions from the aisle in the nave facing East during Advent. (This could also be done during Lent). The clergy and servers would face East during the service when this is appropriate. To have an Advent Wreath surrounding the candles this year and to have greenery and pine cones on the windowsills to represent the wilderness and to empty the water from the stoop at the entrance. Some greenery could also be displayed in the porch. Lewis asked whether it would be possible to preach from the pulpit. It was agreed that the pulpit was away from the people but consideration should be given to possible ways in which it could be utilised in our worship on occasions.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Date and Time of next Meetings: Tuesday 24th November 2009 at 8pm in the Rectory. Lara gave her apologies for the next meeting as she will be away.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9-30pm.