

Worship and Faith Group Notes: Wednesday 24th November 2009

The meeting opened with prayer.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Lara Dose.

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

Matters Arising:

Sanctuary Lamp: The purchase of candles in memory of a loved one is going well this year.

Intercessions Leaflet: This has been up-dated.

Posada: This is reasonably well signed up for at the moment but a potential problem is that some people could experience difficulty in passing the figures on to the next person. Fr. Stephen said transport could be arranged if necessary. People could also be encouraged to sign up for more than one day.

Advent: Fr. Stephen and Lara have arranged the Eastward facing parts of the service. It was also agreed that the Intercessions could be read from the body of the church facing east. During Lent the Intercessors are Lewis, John, Lara and Jennifer and Fr. Stephen will explain the changes at the beginning of the service. Fr. Stephen is also to put the branches around the church.

New Business:

Everybody welcome: This is a course that the whole church can participate in. There is a Leader's manual and a member's manual but this is rather wordy. Fr. Stephen outlined the format of the course which includes some good ideas and has a nice approach but could be condensed. It could be adapted to suit our needs as we have covered some of the content already.

The check list is rather too detailed. The welcoming section is good. "Belonging to a Church Community" video costs £20. It was decided to circulate the information to members of the Worship and Faith Group in the New Year prior to the January 2010 meeting. The whole church approach was welcomed and the possibility of utilising this course as part of our worship for 4 Sundays next summer is to be considered. The course would be modified to suit our needs.

Confirmation: The service was held on Sunday Evening 22nd November and was a Non - Eucharistic service. Simone Douglas and Kwadwo Kufuor were confirmed. The Confirmation Service took place outside the parish so they are to be welcomed formally on Advent Sunday during the Parish Eucharist, when they will be taking their First Communion following confirmation. They will also be presented with a Bible.

Lent: What does it take to really forgive? A service for young and old will be held at the Church of the Ascension in Hulme on 7th March 2010 led by Bishop Mark, from 4-7pm. There will be a "Bring and Share Tea". This Creative Worship is to be held in various places around the Diocese.

Advent Groups: The Christian Aid programme "O Broken Town of Bethlehem" has a theme which overarches Advent and Christmas and could be used as a basis for our groups. There is a Reading, prayers and reflection based on the core theme or each week. The course is more Scriptural than usual. Joyce will lead the session and Fr. Stephen lead the Scripture passage based on the "Lyfe" method. Groups will be held on Wednesday mornings during Advent after the I I am Eucharist. Dates as follows: 2nd, 9th and 16th December 2009.

Christmas: Beryl Eldridge will collect the money for the Christmas flowers and the church will be decorated for Christmas after the Eucharist on 23rd December starting at 11-30am approx. The Cloth for the Cradle will be incorporated in the Parish Eucharist On 20th December and the Carol Service will be held at 6pm in the evening. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the Carol Service.

Epiphany: Epiphany will be celebrated on Sunday 3rd January 2010. There will be a Healing Service at 4pm. On 10th January 2010 – Baptism of Christ and on 17th January 2010 at 6pm there will be a service for those who have been recently married. Six people have already responded to the Baptism Party to be held on the 6th December 2009.

Dates for "Bring and Share Lunches": Sunday 24th January 2010 - St Agnes Day , Sunday 16th May 2010 – Lara's First Eucharist as a Priest, Sunday 25th July 2010 – Summer and 3rd October 2010 – Dedication Sunday. The possibility of having Harvest Supper was mentioned and will be considered.

Other Business:

USPG Lent Course 2010 is based on the Anglican Church in Ghana and is recommended by +Daniel, Bishop of Kumasi who has visited St Agnes Church. It is very appropriate as some members of our congregation come from Ghana. There is also a photographic exhibition consisting of 12 panels based on the Lent Course to put in church and booklets to give to the public. It was agreed unanimously to use these course materials especially as we already support the Mampong Babies Home through our USPG project commitment.

Kneelers: Lewis asked if members of the congregation could be reminded to put their kneelers back neatly at the end of the service. Fr. Stephen agreed to do this at the end of the service next Sunday.

Date and Time of Future Meetings: Tuesday 26th January 2010, 23rd February 2010, 30th March 2010, 27th April 2010, 25th May 2010, 29th June 2010 and 17th July 2010.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.15pm.