

Minutes of Parish Committee Meeting 15th September 2011

Held in St Teresa's Parish Hall

Present:- Fr Jim, Deacon Willie, Paula Cochrane, Marylin McEwen, Pat Dickson, Ann-Marie Budyn, Joan Smith, Madeleine Callander, Rebecca Cochrane, Peggy Marshall, Terry Harkness, Eileen Woodman, Derek Cochrane, Elizabeth Robertson, Gwen Ferguson, Beatrice Gardner.

1. Welcome, and opening prayer said by all.

Fr Jim explained how this would be the last Parish Committee Meeting and when next we meet it will be as a PPC. The PPC format will be different to that of the PC, in that the agenda will be set by Fr Jim and items may be given to him in writing beforehand for inclusion in the agenda. It will be run on the same lines as the Council of Priests.

2. Apologies received from Elaine King, Nadine Caven, Freda Smith.

3. Minutes of PC meeting 12th May were approved by Marylin McEwen and seconded by Terry Harkness.

4. Matters arising from 12th May, none were identified.

5. Deacon Willie was congratulated on his Ordination and he in turn thanked everyone for support, gifts and cards.

6. New English Translation of the Mass has been well received. Fr Jim praised the congregation on their acceptance and participation. He also thanked the choir and musicians for their work.

7. Schools: St Teresa's has 60 pupils in school and 17 in the nursery. They will celebrate Mass for St Teresa on September 30th. Harvest Hampers are being distributed again this year and new names are being sought to receive them. They have two student teachers at present, both Catholic and local, which augurs well for the future. The updated report from HM School Inspectors is improved and much fairer. Miss Blount and staff congratulated by Fr Jim. There is to be no P7 open evening this year.

St Joseph's College has a very small 1st year but more than 250 in senior school. 12 pupils have returned this year to a 7th year.

The Paris trip for S2 was a great success.

There will be a 'cluster' meeting of St Teresa's, St Andrew's and St Joseph's on Monday which will be attended by Colin Grant of Dept Ed. At this meeting, entitled 'Dumfries Learning Town' Mr Grant's proposals will be discussed. He proposes that children should attend three schools in their educational life. P1-P5, then change to a High School from P5 –S3, another for S4-S6, with no provision for Catholic Education.

CARITAS AWARDS have been introduced and are being well received at St Joe's these were introduced by Pope BenedictXVI for pupils in their last year of education. More information on their website.

8. The Parish Library continues to function well.

9. Parish children/youth. All agreed how good it is to see the young of the parish participate in the liturgy, both reading and Ministers of the Eucharist.

10. The Pilgrimage to Lisieux now has 35 pilgrims signed up. Only one slight alteration to the itinerary has been made.

11. Disclosure Scotland has now been replaced with PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) The contacts remain the same for the parish. John Lawson and Fr Jim.

12. RCIA /Faith Development meetings begin on September 29th. To take place in Baptistry, all welcome. There have been a few enquirers.

13. RCIC. Pentecost Sunday, 27th May, for First Communion/ Confirmation. Fiona Holden, of the Ninian Club will take the meetings in St Teresa's Hall on Saturdays to help prepare the children. Meetings are for all children regardless of which school they attend.

14. Ethiopia, Project 2012. 28th May 2012. In celebration of our Silver Anniversary supporting the clinic, Fr Jim had asked for volunteers to visit the clinic. 7 people from the parish have done so and will be making the trip with Fr Jim. Mrs Woodman explained how much this means to the Sisters who have been inviting us to visit for years.

A great deal of fundraising is to be undertaken by the team and volunteers. All monies will be for Project 2012, which includes 8 persons travelling.

It was noted that some people were unhappy about the way the funds raised will be used for travel expenses. Fr Jim pointed out that this is quite normal and quoted other charities who spend much more on governance costs.

There had been remarks of a personal nature made about some of the volunteers and it was pointed out that this is very unchristian and must stop now.

15. Justice and Peace group will meet in St Andrew's House on 6th October. Rebecca and Pat offered to attend as parish representatives. We should always try to use Fairtrade products in all church activities.

16. Ecumenism. A musical Ecumenical evening is being arranged in the hall. All welcome, no cost. The date has yet to be fixed.

17. Repairs to the outside of the hall are now complete. Internal work is still ongoing. Toilets to be upgraded and include a disabled access toilet. Church toilets also to be upgraded.

18. Forthcoming Diary Dates/ Events

October 1st Quiz Night Project 2012

November 8th and 15th Christmas Photography Packages 5pm-9pm both nights

November 19th Christmas Fayre Church Hall 2pm-4pm

November 24th Coffee Evening St Teresa's School 7.00pm

December 2nd Seniors Concert 7.00pm

December 3rd Body Shop Evening Project 2012

December 15th School Concert (tickets available)

19. Date of next meeting, PPC on Nov 3rd 7.00pm.