

An Observer's Summary of the PPC meeting of 20 March 2009 – Bish Boniszewski

The meeting opened (and closed) with prayers. There was a short reflection, by Pat Taylor, on what we can learn about prayer from Jesus' in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The following items were discussed and various PPC members agreed to take on responsibility for getting agreed things done.

St Wulstan's youth gains representation at Parish Pastoral Council

Frances Doyle was welcomed as a new PPC member.

DVD – Parish presentation of future of our Diocese

At a recent Deanery Pastoral Council meeting, it was learned that the Diocese has issued a DVD as part of the "Walking Humbly with or God" programme that Bishop Peter is developing for the Diocese. A Parish meeting will be organised to show the DVD and return comments as soon as possible.

Noise Problem causes loss of Parish revenue

The parish has received a letter from Wycombe District Council about noise created by a group using the church on Saturdays. The problem has been resolved but will probably create a loss of revenue of around £1,250 per annum. The Parish will send a letter of apology to our neighbours.

St Wulstan's considering hiring out the Parish Room

As a source of revenue to help towards paying off our Parish debt, we are considering hiring out the Parish Room. This is fraught with complications: lettings management, room maintenance, redecoration, breakages, insurance and any restrictions we might impose on which groups can use it. The Diocese will be consulted prior to consulting parishioners after which a final decision will be made.

Existing enquirers will be informed that the Parish is not in a position to pursue hiring at present.

Polish Community Financial Contribution renegotiated

The Polish Community will contribute £2320 per annum, up from £500. The negotiating team was congratulated on achieving a satisfactory outcome for both parties.

Candle money is contributing around £25 per week, of which a significant proportion is believed to come from the Polish community.

Young People to organise Stations of the Cross Experience

On Palm Sunday, between 1pm and 6pm, young people of the Parish will lead a Stations of the Cross Prayer Experience. At each station there will be practical things to do, such as handling a crown of thorns or placing stones on a tomb, as well as prayer ideas. There will be hourly music provided by the young people. Parishioners are invited to drop in at any time to participate and for refreshments afterwards. St Francis' parish will also be informed and invited.

Chloë, on behalf of the youth, was congratulated on envisioning and organising this event.

Second collections during the last hymn to be tried

Parishioners have complained that taking a second collection immediately after communion disturbs prayer. Taking this collection during the last hymn will be given a trial period starting on Sunday 29th March.

Easter Triduum being celebrated at St Wulstan's this year

The Holy Week and Easter services will follow the usual pattern.

The Palm Sunday newsletter will advertise for 12 men to have their feet washed on Maundy Thursday at the Mass of the Last Supper at 8.00pm

Arrangements for Easter flowers (arranging them and paying for them) are in hand.

Joint Easter Card with St Francis'

From Sunday 22nd March, cards will be available and parishioners will be asked to distribute these within our neighbourhood. This is an important activity that invites people, who might not otherwise do so, to attend their local church during Easter.

First Holy Communion for four Parish boys

On 26th April, the four boys will make their First Holy Communion and they and family members will undertake lay roles in the Mass. Gill Duval has kindly agreed to bake and ice a cake for the event.

Parish Annual Meeting – low turnout

A review of the Parish Annual Meeting is scheduled for the next PPC meeting. The Annual Meeting turnout was not as high as hoped, possibly due to a clash with the last Sunday of school half-term.

Monthly after Sunday Masses events in Parish Room

Chloë proposed, and it was agreed, that she would organise a monthly event in the Parish Room for each of the parish groups (SVP, Choir, Prayer Groups etc) to present their organisation, advertise for new members and provide the refreshments. Proceeds will still go to Cafod. This will be arranged for after 9am Mass every month, but also from time-to-time after 12noon Mass.

CAFOD Visit in May

A Cafod team, led by the Diocesan coordinator, will visit St. Wulstan's on 17th May and will present slides in the Parish Room after 9am Mass. OLG may be visited later in the year.

Café-style sessions at St. Augustine's start April

From 17th April, for 7weeks, on a Friday, there will be Café-style sessions with a theme of "Knowing God Better" in the Upper Room at St Augustine's.

Present:

Peter Webb (chair): Malcolm Dodwell (Sec.): Elizabeth Dinnage: Pat Taylor: Gill Duval: Chloë Hudson: Frances Doyle: Brenda Gillson: Fr. Stanislaus Maciuszek (from 8.15 following Mass at OLG)

Apologies: Brian Bennett: Eric Williams: Josie Williams

Observers: Bish Boniszewski: Ferdinand Fru