

# **Our Lady & St John, Goring & Christ the King, Woodcote**

## **Minutes of Parish Meeting - 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 at 8pm**

### **1. Opening Prayer**

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Philippa Sewell, Greg Dean and Mr & Mrs Goddard.

### **3. Parish Accounts and Financial Administration (F & GP)**

Fr. Antony introduced Karen Brown as the Accountant for the Parish, who then proceeded to report on the Parish Accounts for 2013 and for the first nine months of 2014. Karen expanded on the figures and categories and reported that during 2013 the Parish expenditure was equivalent to that of the Operating Income of the Parish and that it was only with the additional income of Legacies and Tax Refunds received from Gift Aided Offertory Collections that had produced a Net Income of £10,744 for the year. She also reported that 2014 was progressing in a similar manner, subject to the extraordinary costs of the much needed repairs to the Presbytery. Karen also reported on the Charges paid to the Diocese of Birmingham for their administrative support; this equated to 25% of the Offertory income of the Parish and Karen reported that she is currently in discussions with the Diocese regarding this matter in an attempt to reduce the charge.

Karen also reported on the Unit Scheme held by the Parish that had been built up over a number of years; currently standing at £189,852. She reported that the Diocese had strongly suggested that, in the current climate, the Parish should retain these funds. Parishioners stated that if works are required to the Parish buildings etc. that these funds could be accessed, but the overall consensus was that it was sensible to hold onto the funds for unforeseeable events, such as roof repairs etc.. Questions were opened up to the Parishioners and were answered; trends for Gift Aid and Church Establishment costs etc. and were concluded with a request from Kerry Harding for Karen to keep the Parish informed of her enquiry with the Diocese.

Fr. Antony thanked Karen for her efforts and concluded that he would like to set up a Finance and General Purpose Committee to assist him with the financial and general administration of the Parish. This committee would consist of 6 members including Fr. Antony, Karen Brown, Greg Dean, David Birmingham, David Sexon and David Browne.

### **4. Woodcote Church**

Fr. Antony reported that Christ the King Chapel in Woodcote was now 50 years old and in need of attention. The heating is inadequate, it has single glazing and the external roof appears to be 'sagging' and internally cracking. Gloria commented that there was no insulation and suggested knocking down and rebuilding.

Fr. Antony believed this would be too expensive today and would not be similar to the original £6000 cost in the 1960s. David Sexon put forward that a Structural Engineer was needed to inspect the roof.

### **5. Goring Church**

#### **A. Extension of Car Park**

Fr. Antony suggested that extending the car park with gravel would enable more Parishioners to park and therefore give greater access to the Elderly and the Infirm of the Parish. He suggested that gravel would be more readily accepted by the Local Council than tarmac.

#### **B. Installation of PA / Loop System**

Fr. Antony said that this was something he would like to install at the request of a number of Parishioners. Mrs Hupe requested that Woodcote be included too.

#### **C. Parish Room / Toilet / Kitchen Facilities**

Fr. Antony expressed an interest in the addition of a 'Parish Room' at the rear of the Church. Classifying it as such would serve to allay any fears of local residents of noise, music, alcohol etc.. Richard Knollys informed Father that there were existing plans for such a proposal and that he would produce them for the Parish. Interest was also shown for toilet facilities to be installed for Parishioners. A loose link attachment would receive planning permission easier than a permanent structure, but Fr. Antony requested that access be

achieved without leaving the building. David Sexon put forward that a phased schedule would need to be put in place for such plans and that 3 schemes would need to be put forward and discussed further. He also suggested that roof tiles might also need replacing at Goring.

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **i. Music at Mass**

Fr Antony thanked Parishioners for their invaluable help with the music at Masses and expressed the need for 'new blood' to assist. He also proposed a monthly Children's Mass, perhaps the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month, to increase participation. He suggested that perhaps a change of organ might now be appropriate. Fr Jacob suggested an instrument that helps with the first few chords of a hymn and that this seemed to work very well in other Parishes.

### **ii. Church Cleaning**

It was reported that Frances McIntosh was now organising the cleaning of the Churches.

Fr. Antony took this opportunity to thank Parishioners for this and other important work in the Parishes.

### **iii. Relations with Other Churches**

Fr. Antony expressed his delight with the existing relationship with fellow Churches, particularly Rev. Paul Boughton and reassured the Parish that he would continue to give this importance in his Parish work. He suggested that Masses not coincide with the Goring Torchlight procession, which Parishioners were interested in attending. Christmas Masses would therefore be 5pm and around 9pm with a Mass at 8pm in Woodcote. <sup>Kerry</sup>Richard Harding requested that Mass finish slightly earlier so that parishioners could attend the Armistice Service and Fr. Antony suggested that perhaps with no Hymns this might be achieved. Fr. Antony gave his blessing that Parishioners join in with other Christian Services.

### **iv. Relations with the Catholic Schools in the Parish**

Fr. Antony suggested that links with the Oratory and Prep School be encouraged as they were a great resource for the Parish. David Browne also suggested that links should be encouraged with the other schools in the Parish too. Catechism classes were requested as a means to encourage the youth and safeguarding issues were discussed. Complications with personal checks were difficult but achievable. It was suggested that Rita Lonsdale would be an excellent source of knowledge and advice.

### **Other Business**

Fr Antony reported that 50 people were attending the Advent Groups, which was good. He also reported that recent Mass attendance counts for both Churches was quite small compared to the number of villages in the Parish and suspected more families needed to be contacted and brought into the Parish.

Richard Knollys reminded the meeting of the Ecumenical Groups which would begin on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015.

Fr. Antony thanked those that organised and took part in the Women's World Day of Prayer and confirmed his backing for these days in future.

Gloria offered to assist the Parish with the updating of the Parish website, which was gratefully received by Fr. Antony. Mary Ann and Kerry Harding offered to attend the Memorial Service on behalf of the Parish in Fr. Antony's absence, due to his forthcoming operation.

A list of Parishioners' talents was also requested for Fr. Antony and that Parishioners responsible for specific tasks be listed on the Parish Website as a contact reference.

Mrs Hupe requested new Altar Server outfits, particularly for Woodcote.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

It was suggested that no date be specified but that Spring would be an appropriate timespan for the next meeting. Fr. Antony thanked those present for attending and the meeting closed at 9.20pm.