



# St Benedict's Parish

## "A Place to Grow"



### ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

#### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014

Present: Karen Derbyshire (Chair)      Alan Thompson (Prayers)  
          Joanne O'Hara (Secretary)      Jim Guthrie  
          Trish Sandbach                      Karen Collins  
          Susan Blackburn                  Fr Gerard  
          Alan Thompson

Also present: Margaret Siberry

#### 1.0 Welcome

#### 2.0 Opening Prayer

Led by Alan

#### 3.0 Apologies for absence

Monica, Rena, Philip, Nermine

#### 4.0 Approve the minutes of the last meeting

Minutes approved.

#### 5.0 ACTA – A Call To Action

Margaret Siberry presented on the work of ACTA in the diocese and throughout the country.

Presentation enclosed.

#### 6.0 In the light of Northern Rail announcing that they intend to charge for car parking at Garforth station, any ideas on how we should manage our own car park.

Northern rail have since changed their plans and are no-longer planning to charge for parking at Garforth train station. There are plans however to develop disabled access at Garforth station.

#### 7.0 Confirmation celebrations – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014

This year we are allowed to celebrate confirmations in our own parish. We have 15 young people on this year's confirmation course. Confirmations will take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014 during 10am Mass. It is Pentecost Sunday so an appropriate day to affirm families and to follow Mass with a parish celebration. It was proposed that we host families afterwards with a barbeque outside. This day will replace our annual St Benedict's day celebration. Another meeting will be arranged to fine tune the event with food, games, etc. A bulletin note will invite parishioners to a short open meeting one evening.

## **8.0 Actions from previous meeting**

### **200 Club**

Funds from last year have been used to purchase Albs and Cinctures. Organising a retreat for altar servers has been looked into. What should future monies be used for? Could we ask for suggestions for this year's money? Half the money raised is paid back in winnings and the other half can be used (approx. £1400) to pay for something specific. It was suggested that we could plant a tree for every child baptised at St Benedict's, a sign of new life. A peace garden in the church grounds was suggested. We could involve our younger parishioners and share this project with school. Could we outreach and plant a water feature here and pay for a 'well' elsewhere?

GK suggested looking into the font running more often. Can we investigate re-pumping and filtering the water and increasing the flow?

### **Live Simply**

The first meeting has taken place and sheets handed out to audit what we do now. Results of the audit need to be looked at, to plan from now to September. We need to action three big things that we are not doing now. What can we do that involves the community or make changes in our own homes, for example installing a water meter, solar panels? JG suggested that when we get a '3 for 2' or 20% offer at the supermarket, that we give the money away that we save.

### **Christmas Masses**

We need to listen to ideas about Christmas Masses without prejudice. Can we start a process of asking for suggestions to changes in Christmas Mass times, explaining the low numbers at Midnight Mass and high numbers at the 6pm Vigil Children's Mass. AT offered to stand up in Mass and ask for parishioners' thoughts and ideas. It was agreed a date would be set to make sure this process doesn't fade out. We should expect these discussions to take two/three years.

KC also raised the general issue of access to Mass on Sundays. We have an ageing population where older people don't want to ask for a lift, lifts go missing, people have lost touch with the church and some people find it hard to come through the door. This problem will be ongoing. We need to find the people who need lifts and the people who can help. It was suggested that we design a list 'I NEED A LIFT', 'I KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A LIFT', 'I CAN OFFER A LIFT'. It was asked if we could look into having a parish internet mass, where you can log in and be with us in spirit.

**AOB** – At the next meeting to look at having a youth ministry and other support ministries, for example bereavement support, family support.

**Date of next meeting** – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 7.30pm

Chairperson – Susan Blackburn

Prayers – Karen Collins