

Minutes of Parish Council, Parish of The Most Holy Name of Jesus, Oundle, held on Tuesday, 23rd March 2010 in the Flat.

Present: Orla Calotier, Stephen Dalzell, Carol Humpherson, Paul King, Doug Magor, Marlene Rodrigues and Fr Peter Wilson. Mr Peter Waddup attended for the first agenda item.

Apologies: Sean Cruise, Tricia Shingles and Berni Walsh.

Nongoma Project

Mr Peter Waddup gave a presentation on the Nongoma Project. Nongoma lies in the principality of Kwazulu Natal in South Africa. The area is particularly difficult to reach and has often been referred to as a 'forgotten town' due to its remoteness. HIV is rife in the region with many orphans and child heavy families. In many families, children provide the main source of income. There are many issues to be addressed.

The aim of the project would be to establish a link between Oundle and the people of Nongoma, by supporting them financially as well as spiritually. Once the project is up and running, a figure of £2 per month per family in Oundle would be the target figure to aid the project. The link would be established in conjunction with the Shine Foundation, a UK Christian safeguarding organisation, who have worked in Kenya, and are currently supporting Steve Mantle who is living and working in Nongoma.

At this stage, endorsement is being sought from the Churches in Oundle and, in time, lead the project by establishing a steering group. To date, many organisations in Oundle have expressed interest in this initiative, including Oundle Town Council, OCYA and the schools. In addition, ways to promote Nongoma have already started to emerge, such as the 2011 Oundle Carnival and Farmers' Market. It was noted that Andrésey, Oundle's twin town in France, has a similar link with a town in Niger, which has brought much mutual benefit to both towns. For the time being a rural needs analysis is being conducted to establish the real needs of Nongoma and to ensure that aid is channelled in the right direction.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January, 2010 were approved. There were no matters arising.

Update from Oundle School

Fr Peter attended the School's Catholic Chaplaincy dinner in February. The School plans to establish a schedule to allow Fr Peter to attend the boarding houses for mid-week lunch as a informal exchange between Fr Peter and the pupils.

Finance/Buildings

Finance: Fr Peter presented an estimated final account for the 2009/10 financial year. Ordinary income of £42,100 and ordinary expenditure of £37,400 were as anticipated, producing a surplus of £4,700. The only outstanding figures were the Diocesan quotas. The buildings figure of £17,393 included the VAT recoverable amount of £2,000. The Parish was entitled to claim for this amount as the Church is a listed building. A figure of £7,926 would be carried forward to the 2010/11 financial year. Looking at the next financial year, the major outlay would be the anticipated upgrading of the Church lighting of £16,000, This would give the Parish a deficit of £5,576. Also of note is the amount of tax claimed through the gift

Action

aid scheme currently at 28p for a further year, thereafter the rate would be 25p, assuming the income tax rate remains at 20%.

Buildings: A quotation had been received for the replastering of the kitchen ceiling in the Presbytery. Once this work was completed, the kitchen and the meeting room would be decorated in the summer along the lines previously discussed and well as new flooring laid as appropriate.

The Diocesan Surveyor had visited the Parish and undertook to establish the ownership of the Church land. Once this had been established he intended to contact a representative from the Council's Conservation Department to discuss the proposed fencing, hedging and signage.

A proposal for the upgrading of the Church lighting had been received from Anthony J Smith (Gloucester) Ltd. The proposal included rewiring only the main body of the Church, leaving the existing wiring in the Church lobby and sacristy. Estimated cost is £16,000. It was agreed that since this was a large expenditure which would give the Parish a deficit of approximately £5,574 for the 2010/11 financial year, serious consideration would need to be given before embarking on such a project. In the first instance, Mr Neil Blake from the lighting company would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to explain in detail the proposals. Provided the Parish Council was satisfied with the proposals, a sharing of information, both technical and financial, would be presented to Parishioners. Approval of the Diocesan Historic Churches Committee would need to be obtained.

Children's Liturgy

There was no business to report.

Lent and Easter Services

At this stage, everything was in hand. The position of the cross for veneration on Good Friday would need consideration. Two candidates would be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Diocesan Matters – Walking Humbly With Our God

Paul reported that that the 'conversation process' with the Parishes within the Pastoral Area was nearing completion and that the Steering Group's 'ground plan' would be ready by Pentecost. Thereafter, there would be a sharing of information within the wider Parish community.

Any Other Business

Believe – CaFE Course: Arrangements for this course, to start on 15th April for six weeks, were progressing well. An invitation would be sent to Thrapston to take part.

Projector: The purchase of a Parish projector had been delayed on review of our 2010/11 budget.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Tuesday, 15th June at 7.30 pm.