

OUR LADY OF KIRKSTALL, Parish Council, 25th Jan. 2011, Assumption club.

Attendance – Fr Pat Smythe (Chair), Eddie Aitken, Peter Churley, Peter Dowson, Susan Teggart (Assumption), Tony Allinson, Jane Cavadino, Christine Firth, John Howley (Holy Name), Samman Appuhamy, Helen McShee, Paul Shuttler, Maureen Teed (St Mary's).

1. Welcome and opening prayer – led by Fr Pat.
2. Appointment of officers – it was agreed that Fr Pat should act as Chairman up to and including the Summer term meeting; thereafter, the Chair person could either be provided by the host church, or – for continuity and for the following up of issues – the position could be held by one person for the academic year (three meetings) and rotated round the three churches on this yearly basis. The matter was left for further reflection. For this and future meetings the host church would provide the secretary.
3. Agenda – the items proposed by Fr Pat were agreed; after discussion, it was decided that in future there would always be a report from the Finance and Property Committee, which would be asked to hold its meetings a week or two before the Parish Council meetings.
4. Minutes of the OLK PC meeting on 2nd Nov. 2010 – accepted as a true record. Any matters arising would be dealt with in the remaining agenda.
5. OLK Gospel Music evening – this has been arranged for 31st March '11 at 6.30pm at St Mary's. The intention of this event is to bring congregations from the three churches together as well as providing a devotional and enjoyable evening, and the three primary schools in the parish (this includes Sacred Heart school, now under our pastoral supervision) are each providing singers and music. After the concert in the church, refreshments will be provided in St Mary's junior school next door.
6. OLK Exchange of Musicians/Singers – St Mary's singers are to form the choir at a Saturday evening Mass at Holy Name towards the end of February. It is hoped to extend this interchange to the other churches in the parish.
7. OLK Mass in Kirkstall Abbey (item 6b on 2/11/10 PC meeting) – whether this is possible has still to be ascertained, though the Bishop has expressed an interest in concelebrating with our priests: he is available on Sun. 26th June. It was suggested that Sun. 10th July might be more suitable as this follows the Kirkstall Festival on 9th July when abbey church seating, tables etc. would be in place. It was agreed that the matter should be taken forward by a team representing our three churches – Tony Allinson (HN), Peter Dowson (A), Paul Shuttler (SM) volunteered to lead the team, and further volunteers would be recruited via the bulletin. Assumption Church Pastoral Committee had suggested that Cllr Bernard Atha (a Kirkstall Ward councillor) should be approached – no reply received to date – and that the Cistercians from Mount St Bernard's Abbey, Coalville, should be invited.
8. OLK Spirituality Programme, Lent – following an initiative from the HN group, an extensive programme is in place, and they have asked that this should be a regular item in future agendas. Group members will be handing out leaflets detailing the programme on the weekend of 29/30 Jan. in each church, plus mentions in the bulletin. Principal items include Mgr Hypher's 'Celebrating God's Word in the Eucharist' days, Stations of the Cross (Fr Pat) in all churches, Dr Souflas of Rampton Hospital (16 Mar., Assumption, 7.30pm) and Raabi Charning on the Jewish Passover (14 April, HN, 8pm). The HN Spirituality Programme Planning Team invite members of all three churches to join them.
9. OLK Celebration of Holy Week – Fr Pat had consulted each Church Pastoral Committee, and the following programme had been agreed: Palm Sunday (16/17 April) – as normal; Maundy Thursday (21 April) – A, Mass of the Last Supper, 6.30pm + watching organised by church Council; HN, Mass 8pm + watching in church hall; SM, Mass 7.30pm + watching. Good Friday (22 April) – Solemn Liturgy of the Passion in each church 3pm (Fr Peter Kravos at A.). Easter Vigil (Sat. 23 April) – HN and SM

only, times to be announced. Easter Day (24 April) – as normal. The idea of a ‘Holy Week Pilgrimage’ moving between all three churches was discussed (favoured by Assumption Council despite problems of space in smaller churches) and it may be given a trial in 2012.

10. OLK as a Fair Trade parish – A and HN were Fair Trade parishes; SM Church Pastoral Committee has agreed to undertake the requirements for their church; OLK will apply for a certificate for the whole parish.
11. ‘Treasures Revealed’ – a scheme where Leeds churches of all denominations open their buildings to the public on a specified day. HN has done this successfully in the past, and SM Church Pastoral Committee have also agreed to take part this year. The brochure is to be printed shortly and John Howley (HN) agreed to facilitate the two applications. Additional publicity (shops, libraries, other churches etc.) is needed to attract visitors.
12. Sacrament of Confirmation – preparation teams in HN and SM already at work; A candidates to be invited to join to join either course (bulletin entry, Eddie Aitken). The Bishop prefers a Deanery celebration, date still to be decided (probably end May), but it may take place in two churches in Leeds North Deanery on the same day.
13. City of Sanctuary – Leeds City Council’s application to join this national scheme to make asylum seekers welcome is in process. A meeting at SM (school, 3rd Feb., 8pm) has been organised to support this application, led by Rose McCarthy – delegates from all three churches invited.
14. Marriage Preparation - there is an urgent need for couples to join the SM team (spouses McCarthy and McShee) to give this course. Resources are available, and training is offered at the cathedral; the courses are usually given in November. Helen McShee will prepare a bulletin entry.
15. Youth Ministry – Tony Allinson reported on HN discussions regarding youth. The “younger young” were well provided for but the “older young” tended to drift away from the church creating a series of lost generations. This was at least partly due to a lack of help for mid to late teenagers in consolidating their faith at a stage in life when there is a great temptation to lapse. One approach, pioneered by St Theresa’s - Crossgates, All Saints – Otley, and St Robert’s – Harrogate, had been to appoint a paid Youth Ministry Co-ordinator. HN had researched this a little but had not proceeded, principally because of the pending parish reorganisation. Alternative approaches were also available. He asked the other two churches to consider: is there problem – should we try to do something about it - and if so what? Discussion confirmed the urgency of this situation, and emphasised the need for peer encouragement; the success of the SM youth SVP was noted as were the benefits of the Lourdes Pilgrimage and World Youth Day. It was agreed that each Church Pastoral Committee should would consider the issue and report back to this Council. A visit from one of the churches above could be arranged.
16. Any other business – (a) Minutes of individual Church Pastoral Committee meetings – it was felt that it would be useful if members of this Council could see these minutes, and Peter Churley agreed both to check that this was acceptable to each CPC and to circulate the minutes if it was so. (b) Date of next meeting – Tuesday 24th May, Fr Pat agreeing to ensure that the Finance and Property Committee met before this date. Already arranged: HN Church Pastoral Committee May 17th, SM CPC May 10th; Assumption CPC, date to be announced.
17. Closing Prayer – we prayed the ‘Hail Holy Queen....’