



COMMUNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

*The parishes of
Our Lady and the Apostles, St Ambrose, St. Bernadette, St. Joseph,
St Peter, St. Philip and St Vincent de Paul
in Stockport*

A Local Pastoral Area in the Diocese of Shrewsbury

Notes from the Meeting held on Tuesday 9 October 2018 at 7.30 pm at Our Lady and the Apostles, Shaw Heath

Present:

Our Lady and the Apostles: Fr David Long, Hazel Dove, Mary Varley
St. Ambrose: Fr. Geoff O'Grady,
St. Bernadette: Fr. Bill Fitzgerald, Tina Cain
St. Joseph: Fr. Jim Matthews, Deacon Terry Simms
St. Peter: Fr. Peter Sharrocks, Julie Williams
St. Philip: David Smith, Val Savage
St. Vincent de Paul: Rowena Nield
LPA Catechist: Cecilia Allan
LPA Headteacher: Carole Hogan

Apologies:

St. Ambrose: Jonathan Goodfellow
St. Joseph's: Christine Wells

❖ **Welcome**

Fr. David welcomed everyone, and opened the meeting with prayer.

❖ **Notes from the Last Meeting**

These were agreed.

❖ **Matters Arising**

Thanks were expressed to Cath Duffy for all her work in arranging the transport to Adoremus for all the parishes in the LPA.

❖ **Adult Formation 2018-2019—Healing Mission and Talks**

Fr. Geoff had provisionally booked Little Way Healing Ministries to offer a Healing Mission for the Pastoral Area on 21 – 24 March 2019 which would be led by Fr. Laurence Brassill OSA and Pauline Edwards. There were handouts available which gave details of the programme. It was agreed that Our Lady's would be the venue for this Mission. It was the most centrally situated Church and it was also felt there was a great need for healing in the Parish at this particular time. The cost for event would be from £1500 to £2000. Fr. Geoff would contact Fr. Lawrence and Pauline to see if an Introductory Talk could be arranged for Advent.

❖ **Catechists' Meeting**

There would be a meeting for all Catechists in the LPA working with children and their families on Thursday 18 October at 7.30 pm at St. Vincent's. It was felt that it would be good for everyone to get together to discuss their own situations and where we were at the moment. Fr. Peter felt it was time for all our parishes to work in the same way in preparing children and their families for Sacraments as we do with Baptism. There are serious questions to consider around the topics of belonging and of connecting with families. Fr. David said that it was a question of pre-evangelisation not even evangelisation.

❖ **Funeral Ministry**

St. Peter's had already had three lay led Funeral Services and one lay led Committal at Stockport Crematorium. These had been well-received both by the bereaved families and the Parish. They were led by a Team who planned the Service with the families. Rowena would write to all those who had been on the Training course and suggest

that they go to a Committal at the crematorium with their Parish Priest as it had proved difficult to arrange a visit for everyone and also invite them to a Meeting in the New Year.

❖ **LPA Mass 1 January 2019**

The Mass would take place at 12 noon at Our Lady's as usual.

Presiding Priest: Fr. David

Reflection after the Gospel: Sr. Clare/St. Gertrude

First Reading: St. Joseph's

Second Reading: St. Philip's

Bidding Prayer: One representative from each parish

To compose: Fr. Peter

Offertory: Our Lady's and St. Ambrose

Eucharistic Ministers: St. Vincent's, St. Peter's, St. Bernadette's

Welcomers: Our Lady's

Altar Servers: All Welcome

Music: Fr. Peter to ask Dave Fitton

Catering: Food – St. Joseph's, Tea & Coffee – Hazel Dove, Our Lady's

Service Sheet: St. Peter's

It was agreed to have Retiring Collection for Friends of the Holy Land.

❖ **Advent**

It was agreed to have a LPA Reconciliation Service at St. Bernadette's on Tuesday 18 December at 7.30 pm.

❖ **Marriage Care**

John Worth had recently written to all parishes and to remind everyone of the provision of the marriage preparation courses offered by Marriage Care and Celia brought it to everyone's attention again. All parishes sent engaged couples on these courses, but fewer couples were coming forward for marriage. More facilitators are also needed for these courses. Everyone was asked to advertise this in their parish.

❖ **Friends of the Holy Land**

Hazel said the talk by Patrick Revans – Friends of the Holy Land facilitator for Shrewsbury Diocese, arranged by the Social Action Awareness Group would take place at St. Vincent's on Thursday 8 November at 7.30 pm at St. Vincent's, Bramhall. Hazel will send posters to each Parish.

❖ **Footsteps Programme**

This is a programme initiated by St. Peter's which provides interesting speakers in a relaxed and informal setting. Mary Hardiman had begun the programme reflecting on the workers in the vineyard and the next session will be on 25 October when Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy will speak on 'Jesus and Joy: the Surprise of the Gospel'. Future speakers include: Fr. Pat Deegan, Fr. Eamonn again and James Gallogly. Everyone is welcome.

❖ **Young People**

Following the recent Parish Day at St. Vincent's, Rowena raised the question of connecting with young people in the smaller parishes where there are not enough young people to form a viable group and suggested that something could be done as an LPA. It was felt that the Diocesan Youth Team could be of help in this situation and this item would be on the next Agenda.

❖ **Reflection Mornings and Training for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers**

Margaret Lillis would lead a morning for Readers on Saturday 17 November and for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist on Saturday 9 March from 10 am to 1 pm, closing with Mass at 12.30 pm. Fr. David raised the question of LPA Training and he and Rowena would consult about providing some training in the near future.

❖ **Date and Venue for Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be on Tuesday 12 March 2019 at St. Peter's, Hazel Grove at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed with prayer.