

A REPORT ON THE MEETING OF ST LAWRENCE'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL HELD ON 24th MARCH 2011

PARISH DOUBLE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS - 2012

Next year, 2012, is a big year: Her Majesty the Queen celebrates her Diamond Jubilee, and Britain is hosting the Olympic Games and Paralympics. Here at St Lawrence's we mark the 100th anniversary of the first Mass being said in what is now the parish centre and the 80th anniversary of the opening of our church.

Three events have already been scheduled for the beginning, middle and end of this special Year of Celebration:

- **100th Anniversary of First Mass in the Parish Centre on 18th February** 12 noon Mass followed by tea and sandwiches – invitations will be sent to as many past priests as possible *and please invite any former parishioners you are in touch with*
- **Parish & School Mission from 23rd June to 8th July** with an International Mass on 7th July followed by a Party and Games from around the world
- **80th Anniversary of Opening of St Lawrence's Church on 8th December** Special Mass & Evening Event

The PPC considered the ideas put forward at the recent Open Parish Meeting to celebrate these anniversaries.

Suggestions for other events included:

- "Parish Family" Weekend in the Spring, with a talent/music show for 8-13 year olds on the Friday night; Mass at 12 noon followed by Senior Citizen's Lunch and an Evening Social Event (perhaps a Barn Dance) on the Saturday; Special Children's Liturgy for under 8's on Sunday morning
- pilgrimage
- May parade
- parish BBQ to mark the Feast of St Lawrence in August
- Flower Festival
- Harvest Festival & an event with "Dishes from Yesteryear" – old family recipes could then be collated into a booklet, profits from the sale of which could go to CAFOD
- Recitals and concerts

Other ideas:

- It was proposed that we should purchase a bell or if this was not feasible due to cost or timeframe, that we should display the stained glass currently in sacristy within the main body of the church. Fundraising for this would start at the Celebration Mass in February and bell baptised or glass blessed at Anniversary Mass in December (yes – bells are given names!).
- It was also suggested that we should create a "Timeline" for display in parish centre and we know already that the School are very interested in participating in this.
- A parish calendar could be produced with the dates of church, parish and special events marked.

If you have any photos of the church or of parish events (both old and recent) which could be copied for the Timeline or the calendar, please send them in to the Parish Office – mark the back with your name and address so that we can return them to you later.

OTHER ISSUES TOUCHED ON AT THE PPC MEETING INCLUDED:

Twining Project with a parish in Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania: things here were progressing deliberately slowly as it was not quite clear what a parish link would involve, but St Lawrence's School is now forging links with the Gonzaga School in Dar. Gonzaga School has close connections with the Loyola School already twinned with St Paul's Catholic College, Sunbury.

Website: the new parish website (www.sainlawrences.org.uk) was being accessed more and more. The most popular section was News & Events but it was also being used by visitors to the area looking for Mass and by new parishioners to register.

Children's Mass: a special Children's Mass would take place on the Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost, 19th June. Look out for further details!

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PPC are: Graham Baker (Chair), Bridget Brinkley, Claire Cowdery, Chris Holland, Lie-Wah Johnson, Michelle Moore-Saxton, Patti Owen, Tanya Webster, Alice Danladi, Mervyn Rosario, Miles Hamlin, as well as Fr Chris, Sister Mary and Joanna James, the Parish Secretary.

The next meeting will be on 12th May. If you have any issues that you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish Pastoral Council, please write a note to the Chair of the PPC and post it into the Presbytery.