

# **SS Alban and Stephen Catholic Church Parish Assembly 2010**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Everyone is invited.

In May 2008, the first Parish Assembly was held. A day was spent considering the needs of the Parish and planning how we, as a Parish, can develop – six main areas were identified – Adult Faith Formation, Worship, Evangelisation, Welcome, care of the vulnerable and Youth. People have been working on these areas since and have been very successful. The only thing holding these groups back is the need for more volunteers to deliver, develop and create new ideas. This is where you come in. Each group has produced a short report showing their plans for the future and each one would welcome new members helping them develop these and more ideas.

## **Adult Faith Formation**

The Adult Faith Formation (AFF) group was formed to identify and try to meet the needs of faith enrichment in our parish. AFF's primary purpose is to support adults in our parish in deepening their understanding of their faith.

Your feedback to our questionnaire in November 2008, indicated that many people wanted to know more about the church's teaching on current affairs, social and moral issues, scripture and prayer.

Taking this on board we have arranged talks covering a wide range of issues which have been well attended. We have also set up a Wednesday morning Bible Study session. We want to continue all

this into the future, would you like to be involved in the planning of any events?

Our AFF programme continues in 2010. If you would like to be involved in planning the events or developing new ideas please fill in the form below.

## **The Worship Group**

### **WHAT DO WE DO?**

The Worship group are involved in planning and developing the liturgy and worship in our Parish.

To help to develop a deeper understanding of liturgy we have organized prayer/retreat events for different ministries and for the whole parish. We have also tried to encourage communication and co-operation between different groups.

To expand and further develop our group we need wider representation of people so that we can enhance all our masses and worship.

### **Plans for the future**

- expand our worship group by inviting a greater representation of people from the different Masses

- planning for the liturgical seasons
- holding a session where parishioners can come and express their views on worship in the parish
- prayer events of a great variety and possibly talks on worship matters, e.g. the new translation of the Mass
- To maintain a record of all ministries.

### **POET (Evangelisation)**

POET Is the *Parish Outreach Encouragement Team*.

The church exists to evangelise said Vatican II, however it is not always our top priority.

#### **What does POET do?**

Where we can, we work with Churches Together in St Albans (CTSA) because Jesus prayed “May they all be one that the world may know that you sent me”.

We have helped organise or been involved many events including:

- Christmas and Easter Cards to invite people to Church
- Christmas Market Stall & Carol Singing
- World Mission & supporting Tswaraneng.Hospice
- Good Friday Cross united Procession from our Church to the Cathedral
- Churches together Sports day

Future plans include:

- Olympic Mission 2012 presents a great opportunity for us to

reach out to the Olympic family. There is a need for more people to become involved to mark this very special occasion here in a Christian manner. Planning for ecumenical Lent groups in 2012.

POET is currently a small group of people trying to encourage everyone to realise our one and only original mission: “Go into all the world and make them my disciples”

**We need your help to put Evangelisation at the top of our Church’s priorities, for everybody’s sake! Please contact [peter@faithknowledge.com](mailto:peter@faithknowledge.com)**

### **WELCOME**

The welcome group has been working hard since the Parish Assembly in 2008 to make the parish more ‘welcoming’. Teams of welcomers have now been established at most of the masses and we are keen to expand these further (particularly at the 7pm mass). In addition to this we have had regular coffee mornings for new parishioners.

However we are a small group and we are keen for new ideas and team members to help us. We are very limited in what we can do at the moment as we do not have enough members. Would you be able to spare one hour each month to help us?

If you would like to join us please fill in the form below.

## Youth

**“Our Mission is to provide the children and young people with space to grow in the care, friendship and love of Jesus, so they can be active in their community and confident in their faith.”**

Our youth section of the parish has developed dramatically over the last few years, you only have to look at the website to see how much is going on for all ages.

With the arrival of our new youth worker these groups will continue to grow and develop but only with your continued support and participation. We are excited and look forward to working with you and your families in the coming year.

If you would like to become more involved in any aspect of the youth groups please fill in the form below or contact one of the priests.

## Parish Friends

We have been very busy this year particularly on the social front. We organised five tea parties, Christmas lunch both on the Sunday before Christmas and on the day itself. Thank you to all our helpers on these occasions and especially to the elves who distributed the presents at Christmas that had been kindly donated by the students of Nicholas Breakspeare School.

We have also had several film shows, the most successful being ‘Song of Bernadette’ when over 70 guests arrived and a great afternoon was had by everyone.

## WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED UP TO CHRISTMAS

- Summer tea party, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July with entertainment by Saints Aloud.
- Autumn tea party at Maryland on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October with entertainment provided by Vince O’Reilly.
- A mystery tour on 26<sup>th</sup> September for the entire parish.
- Film Shows - showing the films Charade and My Fair Lady
- Christmas Lunch – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December

On top of this we have 24 drivers on our rota for lifts to Mass on Sundays and a small group of parishioners who visit our older parishioners and those who are sick.

Would you like to be involved? We welcome new ideas, and new helpers at all times. We need more members so that we can share out further the work load. Please contact one of the priests or Helen Bassill or Pat Kennedy. We look forward to hearing from you.

The following two groups were not formed at the Assembly in 2008 but are integral with our community and have therefore also sent in a report.

**Parish small groups.**

Our parish small groups have existed in their current form since 2003; from their inception they have attempted to provide a means for people to talk about their faith in a safe and friendly environment and to allow those people to reach out to others in a generous and inclusive manner. Those involved in a group experience many benefits – friendship, support, solidarity, purpose – and many have found the strength to become active in parish and community life as a result, for instance in fund raising, helping others, or finding the courage to be more open about their belief.

If you would like to become a member of a small prayer group please fill in the form below and we shall arrange for someone to contact you.

**Parish Finance**

Parish Finance meets monthly to discuss and consider the finances of our parish. Due to their care and diligence the Parish is currently in a healthy situation. A financial statement is published annually and we invite comments at that time.

Care and upkeep of the Parish premises requires a lot of attention and planning. If anyone is willing to help in anyway please contact Fr Charles.

**There are many other groups in the parish which have not reported here eg KSC,CWL, justice and peace etc – please see the parish directory. There is something for everyone to be involved in. Please do volunteer to help and be a part of this parish community. What talents and gifts do you have which you are currently hiding away – could you volunteer to be a part of one of the above groups or would you like to help with a ministry eg as a welcomer, a reader, a Eucharistic minister?**

**If you would like to volunteer to help in the parish please fill in the form below and hand it in to a priest or through the Presbytery door.**

**Name:.....**

**Email:.....**

**Tel:.....**

**I would like to become more involved in**