

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES & ST GERARD MAJELLA
LOSTOCK HALL**

Ampleforth Abbey Trust – A Registered Charity

Parish Meeting 11 October 2001

Minutes

1. **Opening Prayer**
Fr Matthew opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
Joe Redmond : Jean Brennand : Winnie Moran : Joe Mann : Sam O’Kane
Maria Swarries : Irene Tinsley : Mary McGarry
3. **Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 29 September 2000**
Was proposed and seconded by Cliff Hughes and Jean Holding as a true record.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes**
Proposed that Jacqueline Kinder would be Secretary for the next Parish Meeting.
5. **Reports from Parish Organisations**
Representatives for parish organisations were thanked for attending the meeting and putting Reports in News and Views. It was said by Joe Green that comments could be passed on to News and Views which is a great Parish link. Reports to be given to News and Views as soon as possible. Fr Matthew thanked everyone for all they did.
6. **Parish Accounts**
Karen Peddie does much valuable work. Accounts should be presented at end of year. Financial standing very healthy. Accounts in state of change – are to be streamlined.
7. **Parish Priest’s Report**
We need to re-examine “Meeting” and “Committee” and to create a Parish Council to meet more often.
Fr Matthew proposed that all parishioners who attend the Parish Meeting should have a vote.
Sister Margaret is fitting into the Parish very well. Has great ability in communicating with children and their parents.
Sacramental Programme now underway. Fr Matthew thanked Margaret Cronin for all her hard work in the past. There is a very positive feel about the whole of the Sacramental Programme. 58 children are involved this year. Many parents attend the meetings.

People longing for a Spirituality. Welcome was very important. Hopefully will build up.

Many Baptisms this year (38 to date)

Only five marriages.

“Faith in the Future” meeting in Longridge – not brilliant. Another questionnaire about the Parish. Diocese need to put something back. Worry about security. Fr Matthew very concerned and worried, but does not want to totally antagonise them. Mr Lowe of Lostock Hall High School very good at getting names and parents. Elaine Brochie has started a night-watchman around the school and church.

Members of the Youth Group too afraid to come to groups. Very antagonised. Children intimidated. Police has been to parents. Need to protect Youth Group. Fr Matthew will try to be around at their next meeting. “Terry” tormented by some of the youth. List of complaints given to police. Church Youth Group not afraid of “Terry”. Joe Green thanked all who brought matters to attention.

Congratulations to the Youth Group Leaders for all they do. It is important to help the youth.

Sister Margaret started Prayer Group on Wednesday afternoon’s in the Presbytery.

Monastery: Fr David O’Brien has now returned to Bamber Bridge. Andrew is now a “Postulant” in the monastery for a few months.

Church Heating and Porch: James Mercer report very complex. Cliff Hughes will help Fr Matthew re Report. Carpeting porch, moving glass doors to offer better facilities. Would like further comments from the parish. It was suggested people look at other churches in the area to see how alterations have been made to their entrances.

Cassidy and Ashton have had their Architect to have a look. Not zooming ahead but it will. It was agreed to have artist’s impressions re the porch, with a possible approach being made to University of Central Lancashire.

Joe Green thanked Fr Matthew for the pastoral care he has brought into the Parish. Bringing a homeliness to parish life.

With reference to “One person one vote” at the parish meeting – this was unanimous. It was pointed out that the final say lay with the Parish Priest with advice of the Parish Council.

8. Proposed Review of Constitution

Fr Matthew wants the following change to the Constitution:

Members : The Parish meeting will consists of the following who must be sixteen years of age or over, with the exceptions of the Altar Server representative and the Youth representative.

1. **The Parish Priest, Priests, religious and Clerics of the Parish**
2. **The Parish Council** – *This in an addition and would have its own Constitution covering elections, nomination and co-optation of members. Discussion about this will be on the Agenda for the Spring Meeting.*

3. **Parish Organisations** – *There will be no change to this important category of members.*
4. **All members of the Parish** – *This is an addition to make ALL parishioners aware of their importance as an active member of our Church.*

Elected Members and Co-opted Members – These together with **Nominated Members to the Parish Council** will be subject to a separate **Constitution.**

The Parish Council would be advisory not mandatory and would be made up of people to advise and help in the running of the Parish.

Committee to be called Council to meet more often, ie two monthly, and report to the Parish Meeting.

Change name of Committee to Council – yes.

Interim Council could be co-opted until January meeting (four elected and four nominated) Existing committee, along with two nominated members, Margaret Cronin and David Walker , to serve until January meeting.

Chairman, Joe Green, will run for a further term of three years.

- 9 **Date of next meeting:** Thursday, 17 January 2002

Constitution of new Council. Nominations for Council : all need to be held.

10. **Concluding prayer and blessing by Fr Matthew.**