

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
Department of Christian Life and Worship

SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE - Report to the Department Meeting : February 2009

Membership

Bishop Brian Noble (Chair), Jenny Bond*, Susy Brouard, Mark Davis, Mgr Kevin McGinnell (Secretary), Martin Foster, Fr David O Malley sdb, Sr Diane Reynolds ssa. (*Jenny Bond resigned in December 2008)

Meetings

Since January 2008 the Committee has met three times in the last year, in Milton Keynes, Hinsley Hall (residential), and Shrewsbury.

The Committee has engaged in the following areas of concern and projects :

1. Liturgical Spirituality

This is an ongoing task with the Liturgy Committee, to develop a paper in this area. This links to questions about the place spirituality will have in the catechesis introducing the new translation of the *Missale Romanum*.

2. Consultation 2008 - March 6 - St Andrew's, Waterloo.

Our third meeting of diocesan representatives and promoters of spirituality was led by Abbot Christopher Jamison (Worth Abbey). He was asked to engage people in reflecting on our spirituality, church practice and the interface with modern. The quality of input enriched the conversation and people affirmed the continuation of these meetings. There was good response from across the dioceses.

3. Consultation 2009 - June 3 - St Andrew's, Waterloo

The theme is *Taking the Incarnation seriously - creativity within prayer and liturgy*. It will be facilitated by Mark Davis and other members of the Committee.
Consideration is being given to moving the venue for 2010 outside London.

4. Hinsley Hall Residential Meeting

The overnight gave time for a reassessment on the work of the Committee, reflection on the Consultation and a review of our plans, structures and processes.

Margaret Siberry (CAFOD Diocesan Manager for Leeds) and Maria Clara Bingemer (Pont. University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – theology/Ignatian spirituality) spoke with the Committee about their work in their two very different contexts.

The venue gave the opportunity to invite people from local dioceses to dialogue with the Committee about various local initiatives and how the Committee could serve them more. Bishop John Rawsthorne (Hallam), Josephine Stow, Dannie Firth, Pat Brown, (Leeds) spoke about different projects and expectations. While it was a small meeting it was positive and fruitful. It established a precedent we wish to repeat by holding the residential days in different parts of England and Wales and using the opportunity to speak with people working in spirituality in the local dioceses.

5. Spirituality Coordinator Rôle

We hope to draft a paper with various elements constitutive of such a role at differing levels within the life of the Church. This will be developed in the light of work currently being done by other churches and organisations such as CAFOD.

6. The Committee exchanges minutes and information with CASE and Churches Together in England Spirituality Co-ordinating Group.

Kevin McGinnell
February 2009