

Present : Fr George Corrie, Parish Priest Simon Knowles, PPC Chairperson Frank Gilchrist, Secretary
Eileen Agar, Faith and Light Charlotte Burrell, Children's Liturgy & Youth Representative
Phil Bothamley, Fairtrade Jeff McGillan, Justice & Peace
Phil Geeny, Churches Together; Chris Clissitt, Communications Bob Archibald, Area Rep

- 1 **OPENING PRAYER:** led by Father at 7.35 pm
- 2 **APOLOGIES:** Christine Wray, Head of St. Mary's School; Sharon Keelan-Beardsley
- 3 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (of 14 October 2010) were approved.
- 4 **MATTERS ARISING & ACTIONS** Taken under relevant sections

30 Hymn books purchased by Fr. George

5 MEMBERS REPORTS

Parish Groups: Faith & Light; Fairtrade; St. Mary's School; Family Life Ministry; Shrine Group; Youth; Justice & Peace; Churches together; Christian Aid; Pastoral Group; Area Representatives.

Faith & Light (Eileen Agar)

Report January 2011.

Not much to report for faith and light. Our numbers seem to be going down but we continue to meet usually every third Sunday. We enjoyed our meeting in December Father George celebrated Mass for us then we had a small Christmas party followed by the giving of Christmas presents after which we had carols. By the time you read this we will have been to the pantomime in Harrogate. We are going Saturday lunchtime followed by a pizza. Hopefully the weather will be fine

Eileen reported that the pantomime had been a success. There are equal numbers of helpers and "clients". Only 1 client is currently from our Parish. There was a discussion about funding. The group send £100 p.a. to Leeds Region (who provide insurance). A generous benefactor (now in Leeds) provides funding each year. The members often need to fund expenses. It was proposed and agreed that an annual second collection be made to obviate the need for helpers to fund shortfalls.

ACTION: Simon Knowles/Fr. George

Fairtrade (Phil Bothamley)

Report January 2011.

An additional amount of £57.30 was sent to Traidcraft Exchange, this was additional money which was collected at the Fairtrade Fortnight 2009 Big Brew which we held in the Church Hall. A letter of thanks was received. The letter indicated that due to shortfalls in funds raised in the current climate, Traidcraft Exchange is facing the prospect of cutting back its programmes assisting poor producers in Asia and Africa.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2011 will be held between 28th February and 13 March 2011. Traidcraft has produced material for a Big Brew event and I have ordered an event pack for us to use.

In the UK we only produce about 12% of honey consumed. Traidcraft has been working with African famers to train them to produce honey to high standards and to meet the Fairtrade certification requirements. With Traidcraft's help up to 2000 farmers will become Fairtrade-certified. The event pack also includes a video about this work and the impact it has had on the African farmers and their families.

I hope to hold the Big Brew after 10 AM Mass on 6 February and hope also so show the video. I will put a notice in the Bulletin.

Phil reported that our profits went to Traidcraft charity, who then funded the training of farmers to enable them met the standards required to sell onto the world fair-trade market. The growing pressure for fair-trade meant that many large companies now sourced at least some of their produce from this market. Jeff mentioned that he works for Cadbury who now buy significant supplies on the world fair-trade market. He could provide some samples at the "Big Brew" day. Perhaps a "Fairtrade hamper" to be raffled and bags of chocolate buttons for the children. This was agreed and that the event should be advertised in the Bulletin.

ACTION: Phil Bothamley & Jeff McGillan

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Report for PPC January 2011**Report January 2011.**

Our job share Y1 teachers, Gemma Forsythe and Fiona Laycock finished at Christmas to start their maternity leave. We appointed a new member of staff to cover their maternity leave, Sophie Chambers. She seems to have settled in very well and we are delighted to have her join us.

We also have two student teachers in school at the moment – Rosie Hancock in Year 4 and Simon Crawford in Year 2. Key Masses and assemblies have now been planned for the academic year ahead. Dates have been set for Reconciliation Services and Confessions. The first Mass of 2011 was on Tuesday 11th January.

We try to ensure that there is a fresh focus for prayer and reflection in school in each Month. More recently we had 'In November We Remember' when we have remembered those we have loved and lost. At the end of November the theme was 'We Are Waiting'. This theme ran through many of our assemblies and collective worships as we moved through Advent. This year, in Advent all children were invited to take home the Travelling Crib. I am delighted to say that the response was extremely good, with most families being involved. I purchased Advent calendar booklets again this year for KS1 and KS2 that were filled with activities, prayers, stories and reflections. The children used these each day and took them home when we broke up for the holidays. It is just another way of keeping the message of Advent and Christmas alive at home as well as at school.

We had a Reconciliation Service on 8th December and then Fr. George visited school on a number of days so that children could go to confession.

KS1 and Reception were splendid in their Nativity this year. It was a particularly testing time with staff ill and pupils ill, but they still managed to produce a wonderful Nativity.

Illness dogged our Carol Service with many of the children unable to attend. Only 70 children out of over 120 children were well enough to participate, however they produced a wonderful service. The readings, singing, musicians and the children in Y3 who made the tableau were all wonderful.

Miss Kelly is continuing with the Sacramental Preparation programme and has organised all the meetings, the date for the Blessing Cup meal and the dates for First Confession and First Holy Communion.

North Yorkshire experienced its heaviest snowfall on the day that our Y6 children were due to go to Bewerley Park. Bewerley Park cancelled the stay for safety reasons and this will now take place in February. Our Y5 children will be going to Malham Youth Hostel again.

As I said in the previous report, the whole school is using the new RE scheme recommended by the Diocese. In the coming year we want to look at assessment, using the new scheme and establish a programme of teaching in other world faiths. The School Development Plan is also going to look at developing children's own skill, knowledge and understanding of planning a delivering collective worship. We have budgeted to buy new resources to support this.

The Alice in Wonderland Theatre Company visited school in November and the children thoroughly enjoyed the event. The league tables were produced recently showing that St. Mary's has done very well indeed. We seem to be more successful in KS2 than in KS1, but we constantly try to support children meet their full potential. At the end of November we had a training day. Child Protection training was delivered to all staff. There were also sessions on Performance Management, CLLD (Communication, Language and Literacy Development) and feedback from the teachers on the new RE scheme.

The extreme weather has affected school in many ways. Staff and pupils experienced difficulties getting into school or getting home. Decisions to close the school are not taken lightly and only when there is a serious health and safety risk that cannot be managed.

The Christmas Fair had to be postponed because of the weather and the Friends took the unusual decision to hold a scaled down version of it on a school day. This was more successful than we could have anticipated. The children were delighted that they had not missed out on their Christmas Fair or an opportunity to see Santa.

We are continuing to make stronger links with St. Joseph's Trust in Ghana. We have our own Ghana Group which is supported by Monica Root. She liaises with Rachel and Keith Gilson who organise taking resources and donations out to Ghana. The group have found a real context for making links with a school in another country. Our efforts to raise money and provide even the most basic of things, is having a real impact on children's education in another country. At some point, our group will address the congregation at St. Mary's or set up a display to show what they are doing.

Our Lady of the Crag – Shrine Group (Peter Thornes January 2011)

Report January 2011.

4th December – Immaculate Conception Mass celebrated by Fr. George. The group thanks Fr. George for his continued support and assistance. Unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions making footpaths and steps hazardous, the mass was held at church.

The group's December meeting was cancelled due to snow and ice. When the group has met, Mass dates for this year will be decided and shown on the notice board and in our next report.

The York and Leeds Carmelite spirituality group have confirmed their annual shrine mass on 5th June at 16.00.

Children's Liturgy/ Youth representative St. Mary's Youth (Charlotte Burrell)

Report January 2011.

All is going well with the Children's Liturgy, I think the only issue is how to encourage year 3 and upwards not to come anymore and to stay in church instead.

The youth club is reopening at the end of January we hope, subject to hall availability, we will be sending emails to the children who came last year out soon and will be advertising it to the new year 6's. Hopefully planning to do a trip in June/July as apparently they enjoyed this last year.

Prayers and Pizza was successful and we are going to continue running it on a more regular basis. This is a prayer group for year 7 upwards.

I think there are still places on the World Youth day trip to Madrid if people are still interested (need to be 16yrs+).

Justice & Peace Jeff McGillan & Bob Archibald

Jeff and Bob have written to our three African contacts. Only one response was received along with an informative letter from Fr. Francis Mwanambogo. Most people locally are Catholics. They run a catechetical centre and train lay people to work for the church and also a centre for families, with a Primary school (run by a nun). They have large farms for crops and smallholdings with livestock. They need medicines; help with a new building; reliable transport, a car (e.g. to get sick & pregnant women to hospital).

There was a discussion about medicines. Phil Greeley knew of an organisation involved with distribution of medicines, and would try to find out more.

ACTION: Phil Geeney

Churches Together Phil Geeney,

Phil had attended a meeting but little to report apart from the focus seemed on discussion rather than action.

6 PARISH INITIATIVES

Church Shop No report

Home School Parish Links – Report from school above.

200 club There are less than 200 members. Although there are forms in the atrium a more active profile such as approaching people as they leave church may be more successful.

Claver Hall (the Diocese's Alcohol & drug abuse centre in Bradford). The Christmas Dinner Dance) at Knaresborough Golf Club was successful, both socially and raising funds. Tickets and raffle raised over £900.

Report January 2011.

Parish Newsletter

The 8th edition of the newsletter was distributed in the week before Christmas. This was a special edition featuring the experiences and impressions of the visit from the viewpoints of several of our parishioners. Thanks to all who contributed and to Father George, who had the idea for this special edition and persuaded some of our parishioners to write about their experiences.

Distribution consisted of 55 e-mails, 120 print copies publishing on the parish web site. Some print copies remain in the atrium nearly 4 weeks after publication, indicating that current print run is sufficient.

The next edition is planned for early Spring (probably May) and will feature Fairtrade activity in the Parish.

Contact database

3rd version of the contact database completed early November 2010, updated departures and additions over the previous 12 months. Slightly delayed, but the database refresh is about to get underway.

Any other activities None reported

7 CHURCH CLEANING/MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS

Two extra volunteers (Phil Geeney and his wife) had been added to the church cleaning rota. Phil noted the power of personal invitation rather than only a notice in bulletin.

Fr. George reported steady progress with the church hall roof which, weather permitting, should complete by end February. Some walls in Gents & Ladies had been treated for damp and the Chapel will be looked at soon. Much of this work is being done under warranty.

8 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 7:30 pm Thurs 14 April 2011 & 7:30 pm Thurs 14 July 2011

Open meeting for all the Parish to attend will be Tuesday 12 April 2011. Typically some 20 parishioners attend. It was suggested that the event be publicised both in the Bulletin and announced at Masses a couple of weeks before the meeting.

9 AOB Simon thanked everyone for coming. Father led the closing prayer at 9.10 pm.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS 2011

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| 12 April 7.30 pm | PPC – Annual meeting for all parish to attend |
| 14 April 7.30 pm | PPC |
| 5 June at 4pm | Annual shrine mass of the York & Leeds Carmelite spirituality group |
| 14 July 7.30 pm | PPC |
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