

Simon Knowles, Chairman of St. Mary's PPC led the meeting. Twenty parishioners in attendance. Fr George Corrie, Parish Priest, was unavailable as he was visiting his mother who is ill. Simon opened the meeting with a short prayer.

The Parish Annual Report and the Annual Financial statement were issued to all present.

Simon went through the Annual Report, which covered the various groups and activities in the Parish. He asked parishioners to make any comments and raise questions as he went through the report, rather than waiting to the end.

St. Mary's keeps a record of total attendance at Mass through the year. Ampleforth request the weekly Sunday Mass attendance figures for October, averaged 280.

YOUNG PEOPLE are very important to the parish, and now attend the PPC. The Children's liturgy was very successful, but more help would enable more parents to have the option to stay in Church. "Vivalafun" and "Prayer & Pizza" groups were becoming established. Young people had also attended the Pope's visit.

#### PASTORAL GROUP

SHRINE GROUP was active, with services through the year. Also the renovation of the Knight and the gardens. Special mention and thanks to Marie Linfoot and Viv Thornes (stepping down as chairman) on behalf of the PPC and the whole parish.

FAITH & LIGHT Group 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There will be an annual collection to assist this work.

CHURCH SHOP is well used. Whilst Fairtrade goods sell well (especially chocolate!) the shop is a valuable source of Christian literature, which is virtually impossible to obtain on the High street.

FAIRTRADE sales are up 28%. The Fairtrade movement has been successful. There is now an international market solely for Fairtrade goods. The funds we raise go to train farmers to meet the Fairtrade standard, so that they are able to sell and trade on world Fairtrade markets. Many international firms now source significant proportions of their goods from fair-trade markets.

JUSTICE & PEACE. Bob Archibald and Jeff McGillan now run this and are re-establishing links with our parishes in Africa.

FAMILY LIFE (Marriage & Baptism preparation) is now run by the Tolan family.

St. MARY'S SCHOOL. The PPC get interesting reports on the exciting and fantastic work at the school.

CHURCHES TOGETHER. Lots of activities in the town. An inter-denominational group called "third place" had been contacted as they had omitted St. Mary's as one of the local Christian churches.

Cleaver Hall (a drug rehabilitation centre in Bradford) came into being largely as a result of an initiative in our parish. A successful fund raising dinner took place at Knaresborough golf club at Christmas.

The Annual Healing Service and Mass took place in November. Five members of the Healing Group were going to a national service in London in May.

Friendship and Leisure Centre in Market place, is supported by St. Mary's, both funding and helpers.

**Q.** How many parishioners are on the PPC?      **A.** Ten.

**Q.** How are they elected?      **A.** Used to be elections, but now leaders of volunteers are on PPC.

- Q. Re-design Church seating so each chair has a kneeler? A. Not easy. Will be discussed at PPC.
- Q. Can we publish the Weekly Bulletin on our web site? A. PPC will action this.
- Q. Can we publish the amount collected by APF each quarter? A. Simon will ask Peter Cundall if he would do it.
- Q. Should we publish APF and try to get more boxes used? A. Yes, just send something in to the Bulletin.

## FINANCE

The Annual finance statement was discussed. The Hall Roof repairs cost £46,463. Simon mentioned the call for “realistic giving”, noting that many of us perhaps give the same amount year after year forgetting to increase our giving to meet the churches rising costs. The income included a legacy. It was noted that the living expenses of Fr. George were very low.

Legacies: Chris Clissitt to put something in the newsletter about legacies, large or small, for St. Mary's

- Q. Should we encourage more legacies? A. Will be considered by Finance Group.

The roof repair had been very thorough, but was slightly more than budget at £46,463.

- Q. Are we now consider windows? A. Will be considered by Finance Group.

There was a general discussion about the upkeep and repair of the Church etc. Simon reported that repayment of the loan (from Ampleforth) for major refurbishment was ahead of schedule. Five yearly reports were made on the condition of the buildings. It was noted that the decoration of the Church was last done when it was refurbished, nearly ten years ago and re-painting may be needed soon. Specific items were raised. The fence between the car park and the garden was in need of repair/re-painting. The car park needs re-surfacing. The patch at rear corner of the Church can now be redecorated as the problem, caused by gutters, is now repaired. These items will be considered by Finance Group.

## AOB

Thanks were expressed to Fr. George, Simon Knowles and the PPC.

Simon thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting with prayer at 8:30pm.

## FUTURE EVENTS

May 2011	Pilgrimage to Fatima
4pm 5 June 2011	Annual shrine mass of the York & Leeds Carmelite spirituality group
22 June 2011	Confirmation
TBA	Quiz Night
TBA	Parish Barbecue
21 May 2011	First Communion