

Present: Fr George Corrie, Parish Priest Frank Gilchrist, Secretary Eileen Agar, Faith & Light  
Phil Bothamley, Fairtrade Bob Archibald, Area Rep  
Phil Geeney, Churches Together (Acting PPC Chairperson)

**1 OPENING PRAYER:** led by Fr George Corrie

**2 APOLOGIES:** Simon Knowles Christine Wray, Head of St. Mary's School;  
Jeff McGillan Justice & Peace Charlotte Burrell, Youth  
Chris Clissitt, Communications

**3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (of 14 April 2011) were approved.

**4 MATTERS ARISING & ACTIONS**

Action related to Faith & Light no longer required.

Phil Geeney will pass on name of an organisation involved with distribution of medicines

Members of the PPC agreed to post their photographs up on the noticeboard.

More "Social" events could be included on the notice boards – with photos. Weddings, baptisms etc.

Phil Geeney will discuss with Chris Clissitt, Simon Knowles

**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)

We had a lovely meeting in May when we crowned Our Lady's statue. At the June meeting there was only nine of the group present so we decided that since numbers were getting low we would wind the group down and finally finish in January after the pantomime. We all regret this after 25 years of running the group but it is not the same with so few members and helpers. We are all getting older, some of the helpers are in their 80's, and with winter coming on it brings an added difficulty. Transport is also an additional problem. So, we will keep going until Christmas, ending with the Pantomime in January.

Initially numbers were 20 or more with monthly meetings. A lot of people had been helped over the past 25 years, whilst Eileen has been leading this. Fr. George expressed his thanks to Eileen for all her efforts. The PPC joined in with these thanks, and noted that things change and evolve. The Faith and Light activities should be seen as a wonderful initiative which is coming to a natural end.

**Fairtrade** (Phil Bothamley)

**St. Mary's Catholic Primary School** (Christine Way)

The year has flown by again!

The end of term is very busy as usual but we are also preparing for the next phase of building work. From tomorrow sections of the school will be closed off. The work is due to finish by Christmas.

Here is a summary of school activities and news throughout the term:

We have split the key stages for the assembly which focuses on the Sunday Gospel so that it is more age appropriate.

Mrs Tomlinson takes KS2 and I take reception and KS1.

The parent meetings for the children who were preparing for First Holy Communion were well supported. The families and the children who were not making their First Holy Communion attended a Blessing Cup Meal in school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May. It was a lovely celebration.

The majority of the children made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. A few children made it on different dates.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April we all dressed for the Royal Wedding and had lunch together on the field. We had kings, queens, princesses, princes, bridesmaids, guards of honour, wedding guests and 'the red white and blue brigade'. It was a great day.

May had a real focus on Mary in school. Assemblies and collective worship focused on the Rosary. We had a special Mass dedicated to Mary and we had the May procession to our reflective garden.

June there was a focus on Pentecost and the 7 gifts. We held a special liturgy for each KS and then had a whole school liturgy.

We had a family Mass on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, the Feast of Corpus Christi. The children read beautifully and some of them were very young.

KS2 came to church on the Feast of Ss Peter and Paul, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Year 5 and 6 have also attended Mass at church during this term.

There have been the usual sports tournaments and activities which seem to be a real feature in this term. We also had a brilliant Sports Day on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June. It was a very hot day!

The school has been using the new scheme of work, The Way, The Truth and The Life for a year now. We are developing assessment and I have attended training at Hinsley Hall recently.

The Year 6 had their SATs exams the week commencing the 9<sup>th</sup> May. We were also selected for science testing.

The school held a Eurovision song contest. The children had to learn a song in French and then sing it for the whole school.

The school is taking part in Knaresborough in Bloom and Yorkshire in Bloom. One of our parents who is also a Governor and our children who are in the gardening club showed the judges round. The judges were very impressed with the knowledge of our children.

The Friends are holding a Family Fun Day on the 9<sup>th</sup> July.

We will be holding a St. Mary's has talent show.

The Key Stage 2 production this year is 'Jungle Book'.

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July there will be a teddy bears picnic and there will be Stardom. This is a large dome that projects planets and constellations on the inside of the dome.

There have been various trips eg., Harlow Carr Gardens and Stump Cross Caverns

Year 4 are having a World War II day.

We will have the usual end of term and leavers Masses.

Another very interesting report covering a wide range, from religious to curriculum and community activities. The PPC felt the report should get wider readership. A note will be put into the bulletin for the two weeks after these minutes go onto to the web site. **ACTION:** Chris Clissit

### **Our Lady of the Crag – Shrine Group** (Peter Thornes)

#### **Mass & Visits to the Shrine**

The Annunciation Mass on 26 March was quite well attended for the time of year.

Only 6 people attended the Visitation Mass on 28th May, which was celebrated in the chapel due to the very windy weather. The group thanks Fr. George for his support.

The Carmelite Mass on 5<sup>th</sup> June was well attended by their groups from York, Leeds and Manchester with a number from St. Roberts Church in Harrogate.

#### **Fundraising**

Listed Places of Worship granted VAT reclamation of £1239.08, from the payments made to the specialist restoration company and architect for work on the knight and chapel window during 2009 and 2010.

The group hope to have a quiz night late summer / early autumn using a set of questions written by one of our members.

The chapel is open on Sunday afternoons 2pm – 4pm until 25<sup>th</sup> September this year, weather permitting.

### **Youth**

(Charlotte Burrell)

### Children's Liturgy

Children's liturgy is going well; we are still getting lots of children coming every week. We are currently awaiting Criminal Records Checks to come through for 3 new volunteers. We are hoping these will come through soon as we really need more helpers particularly for the older group of children.

We will have to think about how the changes to the mass in September will impact the Children's Liturgy and how we can introduce this to the children.

### Vivalafun

This is going well. The last youth group for this year was on 10<sup>th</sup> July and we plan to continue next year starting in September and hope to run a trip at some point. Any old CD players/play stations/games etc are welcome!!

### Prayers and Pizza

We've got a nice little group going. We are trying to meet up more regularly and the next one is on the 17<sup>th</sup> July. We generally meet in the Chapel and talk about a certain topic (quite relaxed) and then eat pizza afterwards in the hall! We are hoping to get the young people from the confirmation classes to come along once they have finished their confirmation classes.

Again this might be a good place to introduce the new mass texts to the young people of the parish.

The PPC greatly appreciate the report and this work with young people.

### **Justice & Peace**

(Jeff McGillan & Bob Archibald)

Bob had received a number of photographs from Fr. Francis and will put these on the noticeboard. This may be an opportunity to get more parishioners involved in the envelope scheme.

Bob will follow up (with Jeff) the potential for sending PCs.

Jeff will write to the priest in Burkina Faso.

Fr. Francis is visiting the UK this year and may be able to visit and stay in the spare flat.

Fr. Madden, whose family have returned to live in Knaresborough, will be visiting in August.

### **Churches Together**

Phil Geeney

No activities to report.

Christian Aid and Pastoral Group to be removed from the agenda

**ACTION:** Simon Knowles

## **6 PARISH INITIATIVES**

**Communications** - newsletter / parish guide / contact database/Atrium

(Chris Clissitt)

No report.

**Church Car Park** Simon has spoken to County Contractors on Wetherby Road. Quote for repairs and maintenance is competitive. The PPC asks Simon to proceed as a priority. **ACTION:** Simon Knowles

## 7. Fr George's departure from St Mary's.

Fr. George is moving to St. Mary's Bamber Bridge in the first week of August. It is a large parish, and Fr. George will live in a small (4 monks) community next to the church. His last Sunday with us is likely to be 31 July. There was little time to arrange an appropriate leaving event. Many parishioners are on holiday in August, so it was agreed to hold an event in a couple of months, perhaps on a Friday night, date to be arranged when Fr. George knows his diary commitments at Bamber Bridge.

Fr. Stephen, who is nearing retirement age, will join us as "Priest in Charge" until a permanent arrangement is made. **ACTION:** Phil to ask Simon/Angela about welcoming Fr. Stephen and checking what help he needs.

Fr. George asked that we formally record his thanks to the PPC for their help and support during his 5 1/2 years with us. Phil, on behalf of the PPC, said that parishioners were saddened that Fr. George was leaving us. Church attendance had risen over the past five years. We are now a more lively church, with a wider age group attending. We are very appreciative of the time that Fr. George has been with us and wish him well in his new post.

## 8 FUTURE MEETINGS

7:30 pm Thurs 13 October 2011 & Thurs 12 Jan 2012

## 9 AOB

There was a discussion about social activities. Innovations such as the refreshments on Bed race day were enjoyable and successful. BBQs and St. Andrew's day recently had been less successful. Social events are not co-ordinated. The PPC would welcome any new ideas, to be discussed at the next meeting

Phil thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:40 pm.

## FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS 2011

Saturday	15 October	Wine Tasting (FR. Jeremy) & Singing (St. Mary's singers)