

Present: Simon Knowles Chairman Frank Gilchrist Secretary Eileen Agar, Faith & Light
Phil Bothamley, Fairtrade Jeff McGillan, Justice & Peace Phil Geeney, Churches Together
Charlotte Burrell, Youth Chris Clissitt, Communications

- 1 OPENING PRAYER:** led by Simon Knowles
2 APOLOGIES: Fr Stephen Wright Priest in Charge Bob Archibald, Area Rep
Christine Wray, Head of St. Mary's School

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (of 13 October 2011) were approved.

4 MATTERS ARISING & ACTIONS

Take individual photos of PPC members (after Mass) and get these posted in the Atrium. **ACTION: Simon**

Simon asked the meeting to discuss a number of important wide-ranging matters.

- The Catholic Church was promoting evangelisation – how can we reach those not coming to Church?
- There are many tasks/activities at St. Mary's which needs volunteers to help.
- Some key tasks are done by one or two people. We need to find a way of "sharing the load".

These discussions and actions are summarised under item 9 AOB, below.

5 MEMBERS REPORTS

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

FAITH & LIGHT (Eileen Agar)



We have finally finished. We ended by going to the panto in Harrogate on Saturday followed by a pizza. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. December meeting went very well. We started with a Eucharistic service and then Mary Brooke the regional coordinator presented everyone with a card and some carnations to say thank you for all the work over the last 25 years. A Christmas party followed and while they were having their tea Fr Stephen played his clarinet which everyone enjoyed. After the washing up we sang carols round the tree followed by the giving of

Christmas presents. It was sad when it came to saying goodbye to everyone. Since then our benefactor who pays for us to go to the panto has died. She died New Years Day Rosie one of our special friends had a stroke and is in hospital and one of our helpers Barbara is in hospital and could not go to the panto. Thanks has to go to all the priests who have supported us over the years. It started with Fr Theo (who I still keep in touch with) and also to those parishioners who also helped in anyway. As you will see by the picture above everyone is waving Goodbye.

Simon thanked Eileen for all the fantastic work she has done over the past 25 years and it should be recognised that the Parish are very grateful for her contribution. Eileen has decided not to stay on the PPC.

FAIRTRADE

(Phil Bothamley)

Fairtrade Fortnight 2012 will run from 27th February to the 11th of March.



With the theme "Take a step for Fairtrade", Traidcraft is again providing materials for a **Traidcraft Big Brew**. The focus this year is on helping families and communities to flourish - by our support of Fairtrade. Hopefully we will be able to schedule this event for Sunday 4th March. It would be good to find ways to attract more people to support this.

Fairtrade has a major article in the recent Parish newsletter.

How best to get more to attend and enjoy the "big brew"?

- The use of two large blue "bulletin boards" in the Atrium – with items on for a maximum of two weeks – so it is never old news.
- Produce tickets for the event with the incentive of a chocolate hamper (Jeff to provide) for the winning ticket.
- Use Parish email list to inform of event and link to website to promote Fairtrade.

ACTION: Jeff & Phil B

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Christine Way)

Happy New Year to you all!

We returned in September to what could only be described as a building site. We had training days planned (fortunately) for Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September. We were not convinced that we were going to be able to open, but open we did. Some days we had no water, no electricity and no access to parts of the building. Credit to all the staff and students and battling on through very difficult circumstances. Each day throughout September and October brought a fresh set of building and technical related problems from water pouring through the roof into our computers and server to water rising up through the floor in my office! They were testing times. By November we began to see just how fabulous our new build was going to be and how lovely it would be for our children to have a lovely area dedicated to a library instead of some drafty corridor. We are still not fully open in the new part as we wait for some more technical and ICT related work to be completed, but we anticipate that by the end of January it will be fully open and in use.

All our teachers have settled into their new roles. Mrs Hurdle has moved from Foundation Stage to Y2. Mrs Conroy has moved from Y4 to Y1 and is joined by Mrs Cargill who is covering Mrs Forsythe's maternity leave. Mrs Hunt and Mrs Forsythe returned from maternity leave and now teach in Y5. Mrs Tomlinson has moved to Y4 and Mr Stewardson has moved to Y6. Our teachers are all enjoying their new roles.

The ongoing work has meant that Masses and assemblies in school have been significantly disrupted, but we were delighted to be able to have our first Mass of the year in school on the last day of term before we broke up for Christmas. We look forward to being able to hold more.

Sacramental preparation has commenced and dates have been set for parents meetings, Reconciliation Services, First Holy Communion and the Blessing Cup Meal.

Key Stage 2 attended Mass at Church on Tuesday 1st November and there was a family Mass on Sunday 20th November.

We continue to ensure that there is a fresh focus for prayer and reflection in school each half term and that it follows the liturgical year. Collective Worship was a focus for development last year as we try to help our children develop the skills and spirituality for planning and delivering Collective Worship themselves.

The league tables were produced recently showing that St. Mary's has done very well in Key Stage 1 and 2. School is working hard to meet the needs of all children. We are a very inclusive school and have a very broad range of needs. The profile of the school has changed significantly in the last 5 years. This presents significant challenges for teaching.

The school is trialling a new maths intervention programme for the authority called 'Talking Maths'. This is aimed at the younger children. Early indications are that it is an effect catch up programme. We have provided refresher training for all our support staff and we run a comprehensive programme of catch up programmes in literacy and numeracy across school during the first hour of the day. We have also run gifted and talented sessions in maths. Our gifted and talented children in upper key stage 2 are also signposted to provision at St. John Fisher Catholic High School and King James High School. These have been very well attended and the feedback from the children has been extremely positive.

Mr Stewardson took ill in November and I had to stand in at the last minute to take our Year 6 on their annual residential trip to Bewerley Park. Although it came at a very busy time for me, on reflection I can't think of a better way of spending a week. What great fun we had and the children were fabulous. All the staff who went said that they had been immensely proud of their behaviour and willingness to have a go (and believe me some of the activities made my knees knock!)

Our school Christmas Fair took place at the end of November and it was a great success thanks the hard work of the Friends and staff who helped. You may remember that last year we had to cancel it because of the awful weather.

The teaching unions called a strike on Wednesday 30th November. We fortunately only had to close two classes.

We prepared for Christmas in school with Collective Worship being around the theme of advent. We sent home the travelling crib again. This is very popular with our families. The Nativity play and the Carol Service were wonderful and really helped us feel like Christmas.

A number of our children and staff experienced bereavements in the Autumn term, but most shocking and sad for the school and family was the sudden death of John Haxby, father of one of our Year 6 pupils. We always make a collection for charity at the end of the Nativity. This year we donated it to the 'British Heart Foundation' in memory of John.

Year 4 had worked with Mr. Roberts from St. John Fisher High school on a play for Christmas. They performed 'The Match Girl's Christmas' to the school and their families. It was a lovely production.

As always we try to ensure our children get many opportunities to compete in sport and take part in local competitions and events. Here are a few:

- Bronze Award for Knaresborough in Bloom
- Silver Gilt Award for Yorkshire in Bloom
- The swimming team successfully got through to the Grand District Finals where they came a respectable 8th out of 15 schools.
- We had a great deal of success at the Harrogate High and St. John Fisher Catholic High School Cross Country event where individuals and teams came 1st and others came 2nd or 3rd.
- Some of our children were runners up in the 'Design a Flower Bed' competition.

➤ One of our Y3 children won the 'Design a Christmas Card Competition for your MP'. Andrew Jones came and presented a certificate and a framed copy of the card that he sent out to all his constituents. What a busy term and there are still 2 more to go!

Members of the PPC enjoyed reading this report and the fantastic range of activities. Thank you.

OUR LADY of the CRAG – SHRINE GROUP (Peter Thornes)

On the 15th October and 4th November there were visits by families to the Shrine chapel for prayer and meditation. Fr Stephen celebrated a Mass for the Immaculate Conception on 10th December. The group is grateful to Fr. Stephen. Due to the strong wind and a small congregation, Mass was celebrated inside the chapel. The Carmelite Spirituality Groups from York and Leeds will make their annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Crag on Sunday 13th May. Their priest, Father Tony Lester will celebrate Mass at 4pm after the site is closed to public access. Sunday opening of the Chapel will start this year on Easter Sunday 2pm to 4pm and every Sunday until the end of September, weather permitting.

The group has invited help from the Parish on a number of occasions in the past. It is that regular commitment to opening the chapel which seems to put people off. For the past four years details have been posted on the atrium notice board for anyone willing to volunteer.

When on duty at the Shrine, we are often offered help in one form or another, but few of these materialise.

There is a meeting of the group on 25th January at 7.30pm and if any member of the Parish Council is available to attend to explain where the Parish Council stands on the work requested in 2010 in respect of public safety, they would be made welcome. Knowledge of the Parish Council's commitment or not to help will allow the group to focus on what will be important to try and achieve in 2012, whilst enabling the Shrine to continue as a place of prayer and worship.

This was discussed at some length. The PPC were keen to support the group and the shrine. The monthly plea for help (see below, item 6 on transport) in February will to seek volunteers to give up (one?) Sunday a year to "man" the Shrine. The safety issue included tree felling, which was expensive (hundreds of £). Ampleforth had indicated it was for St. Mary's to meet the cost. No conclusion had been reached. Frank Gilchrist would attend the meeting on 25 January on behalf of the PPC. **ACTION: Frank, Simon**

YOUTH

(Charlotte Burrell)

Children's Liturgy

The Children's mass at Christmas was very successful. All the children from the Children's Liturgy and some children from St Mary's were involved in the readings and singing. A big thanks to Emma Tolan & Liz Jones for organising all the children and the smooth running of the mass and to everyone else involved.

We are continuing to run Children's Liturgy as normal at the moment and will soon be thinking about lent again.

Viva La Fun

We have an average of 19-20 children attending each month from year 6-8. We have had a pizza making session, a talent show which was very successful and are running a trip to the Pantomime in Harrogate on Sunday 15th January. We are continuing to run sessions every month and any new volunteers are welcome.

Prayers and Pizza

The last event went well. Father Stephen ran it and we had 7 young people. We are hoping to continue this and possibly arrange a retreat at some point (possibly in the summer).

The church was packed for the Children's Christmas Mass (4p.m. Christmas Eve). Emma Tolan & Liz Jones had been to the school to help the Children practice their parts. This includes the innovation of a "reporter" interviewing & seeking eye witness reports from the innkeeper, shepherds etc.

Viva la Fun had a successful "St. Mary's got talent" event. They are off to the panto this weekend.

Alison Jenkinson assists with Viva La Fun and promotes it at the school. She may stand down this summer. Parents and other helpers include Maggie, Simon Stockdale, Nicola Carter, Marguerite Jennings, Mike Addison. A new CD player has been acquired.

The retreat for the older group may be in Lancashire (at or near Fr. George's small monastery).

Fr. Stephen would like to involve all the (7 or 8) altar services & greater involvement from St. John Fisher pupils at Mass – e.g. readings.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Phil Geeney

Churches Together in Knaresborough (CTinK) Report

The last meeting of the CTinK group was held on 19 October. Issues discussed included:

- New bed for the CTinK ladies bed race team. A letter had been sent to all clergy asking for donations. I raise this issue at the Parish finance meeting on 29 November 2011 and secured a Parish donation of 100 pounds which has now been sent to CTinK
- Big Lunch for the Queens Diamond Jubilee in June – first mention of this as a possible project which could be undertaken by CTinK. Grounds of Knaresborough House could be a possible venue. More information on this subject as it emerges.
- Christmas Lights – CTinK involved in providing a choir to sing carols at the switch on of the lights
- Nativity Play – to be held in the Town square on Christmas Eve and all proceeds of the customary collection would be going to Christian Aid

Next Meeting of CTinK is scheduled for 25 January.

P. Geeney had emphasised the difficulty with meeting timings as our PPC meeting takes place before the CTK meetings so information is either very out of date or unknown ahead of the PPC meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS - newsletter / parish guide / contact database/Atrium (Chris Clissitt)

Parish Newsletter

The 9th edition has been completed and is now being distributed. Print versions will be available at Mass this weekend. It features Fairtrade activity in the Parish and an introductory piece on Father Stephen. There is also a Justice & Peace update from Bob Archibald's meeting with Fr Terry Madden.

Contact database

I have spoken to Father Stephen about the database and he is happy with plans for the update. Once the database has been refreshed, I suggest that we use the e-mail list more extensively than in the past. For example it can be used in addition to the weekly bulletin to publicise events such as the "Wine Women and Song" evening last October. This will bring items to the attention of people who don't see the bulletin for any reason.

Parish Council Minutes continue to appear on the parish website

Chris is updating the database.

The nine editions of the Parish newsletter have now featured all the parish groups. Ideas, such as the article on Fr. Stephen are required.

Chris reminded us that things can be issued by email using the parish database. Decision taken after discussion to increase use of the email database to utilise this more effectively. This could be used to facilitate the publication of Parish news to broaden the reach to Parishioners over and above the regular bulletin concerns about which were raised that much of it has become 'wallpaper' and there may be a need to highlight the new items separately in a box.

6 PARISH INITIATIVES (reviewed)

These items would be discussed at a future PPC meeting in 2012.

Any Other Activities – Transport to Church

Jeff had produced a leaflet (A4, in colour) which asked parishioners to sign up as volunteer drivers or requesting transport to church. Jeff was willing to produce the leaflets, co-ordinate the responses and link drivers with those needing a lift. There was some discussion about CRB checks and insurance issues. If the driver met those being driven then the CRB issue may be OK. (Phil Geeny would ask his school contacts for their views). Overall the PPC felt the need to avoid letting bureaucracy stand in the way of Charity.

ACTION: Jeff

The Leaflet had the banner “Community Matters” and this was felt to be a good heading to use on all similar pleas for volunteers. It was suggested that using a similar leaflet on a single issue seeking volunteers may be more successful than a general plea. It was agreed that we use a similar leaflet next month to seek volunteers for the Shrine. The PPC would discuss the priority for future monthly volunteering leaflets at their next meeting.

7 CHURCH CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Simon has encountered difficulty in finding a Contractor to re-tarmac the drive. Anyone who knows of a contractor, tell Simon. In the meantime Simon will contact the school who have had the playground done recently.

Someone had offered to fund the repair of the blue fence.

A “Fabrics Committee” has been formed to work with the Finance Committee and advise on the fabric of the church. The damp in the rear corner has been solved (gutter repairs). A quote has been received to resolve the damp in the toilet. The main body of the Church has not been painted since 2000 and this should be done *before* it becomes urgent.

8 DATES of FUTURE MEETINGS

7:30 pm Thurs 19 April, 19 July, 11 October

The AGM will be on Sunday 22 April after 10:00 Mass

9 AOB

email PPC with a “mystery churchgoer” Church web site on visit to St. Mary's **ACTION: Charlotte**

Church attendance

There was much discussion on how we can reach those not coming to Church. The initiative on offering transport was positive. Also events of any nature at St. Mary's where non-churchgoers attended. It was agreed to concentrate, at least for this year, on the school. Encouraging children and parents to attend church. Phil Geeny is a governor and will discuss school-church links & involve Emma Tolan and Angela Smith.

ACTION: Phil G

Could we build on such events as the Children's mass on Christmas Eve? A “Chocolate Easter Egg hunt” in the garden after 10:00 Mass on Easter Sunday was proposed and agreed. Put bunting in the garden?

Advertise by email, Bulletin, at Mass, Poster.

ACTION: Jeff & others

Remove barriers to Mass attendance. Make it clear that 10:00 mass on Sunday is for families and children – all children – are welcome.

Invite the Head &/or Deputy to next PPC meeting to discuss closer links.

ACTION: Simon

Jeff suggested St. Mary's have a Facebook page. This idea was well received by the PPC.

Volunteers. More are needed. We need to make clear that volunteers do not need to attend meetings, can work in a way that suits them/they enjoy – alone, in small groups.

Gardeners – could children have a “plant (daffodil) bulbs day?”

Pleas for help in the bulletin were not very successful – the personal touch, with PPC members and others, asking directly one-to-one, would probably be more successful.

Monthly leaflets “Community matters” – concentrating on one issue/idea was agreed as a good forward.

Use the blue notice boards.

We could resurrect the spreadsheet of Groups/Areas of work/tasks which Simon has. Phil would be happy to work on the spreadsheet.

ACTION: Simon to pass spreadsheet to Phil B

New members of PPC

We need some new blood, preferably female, as most current PPC members are male.

Membership numbers should not be too high – otherwise meetings could become ineffective.

Greater attendance at the AGM. Agreed to move the AGM to Sunday (22 April).

To enable families with young children to stay for the AGM, employ a magician to entertain young ones?

10. CLOSING PRAYER Simon thanked everyone for coming and closed with a prayer at 10:10 pm.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS 2012

Friday	20 January	Presentation to Fr. George's after 7:00 p.m. Mass
Sunday	4 March	The “Big Brew” in the Church hall after 10:00 Mass Fairtrade
	February	Fairtrade fortnight
Thursday	19 April	Parish Council quarterly meeting
Tuesday	22 April	After 10:00 Mass. AGM of Parish Council (open to all parishioners)
Saturday	23 June	St. Mary's Singers
Thursday	19 July	PPC Meeting