

Present:

Fr Stephen Wright Priest in Charge

Simon Knowles Chairman

Frank Gilchrist Secretary

Phil Bothamley, Fairtrade

Chris Clissitt, Communications

Bob Archibald, Area Rep

Jeff McGillan, Justice & Peace

Phil Geeney, Churches Together

1 WELCOME

2 OPENING PRAYER: led by Fr Stephen Wright Priest in Charge

3 APOLOGIES: Charlotte Burrell, Youth, Christine Wray, Head of St. Mary's School

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING, PROGRESS & ACTION & ANY MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of meeting of 12 January 2012 were approved. A number of actions were discussed. These are summarised under 9 AOB (below).

5 MEMBERS REPORTS

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

FAIRTRADE

(Phil Bothamley)

The Fairtrade Fortnight Big Brew was held on Sunday 4th March after 10 am Mass. A Fairtrade raffle was also held in support of this event. This year we were fortunate to have 6 helpers in selling the raffle tickets, which meant we could cover all the Masses over the weekend. Thank you to Jeff for the excellent donations of the Cadbury's hamper and several boxes of chocolate bars. In addition we had prizes of Fairtrade wine and a 'Fairtrade Breakfast' hamper. The Raffle was very well supported. We also had chocolate for sale in the Atrium.

At the Big Brew, publicity information was available on Traidcraft's work, and the benefits of Fairtrade to producers, their families and communities in the developing world.

A total of £179.20 was raised and sent to Traidcraft in support of their development work with producers. A letter of thanks and a certificate has been received.

Phil reported that the Big Brew had been successful, with six volunteers helping.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Extracts from Diocesan report on Catholic life of St. Mary's School

"St Mary's is a good, inclusive Catholic school with outstanding elements, where there are no barriers to learning. The outcomes for pupils are outstanding and the provision for Catholic education is good. At St Mary's there is a deep commitment to caring for the needs of the whole child and consequently pupils show a high level of care and consideration for each other and for the staff."

"The provision for Collective Worship is a significant strength of the school. It is central to the life of the school and a key part of every school celebration. Family Masses are very popular and invitations sent out garner a good response. Developing children's abilities and confidence to be involved in the planning and delivery of Collective Worship starts at a very young age."

"The Parish priest says Mass in school for special feasts and celebrations and visits classes. He is thrilled with the pupils' involvement in worship and proud of the remarkable job St Mary's staff do in caring for and educating the pupils so well, giving them the tools to engage in Mass appropriately."

"Parish links include the active Liturgy groups, a termly report to the Parish Pastoral Council, Prayers and Pizza, school-led Sunday Family Masses in church, a shared book of prayer requests, the Key Stage 2 nativity play in church and musical events with the parish and Catholic High School."

SHRINE GROUP (Our Lady of the Crag) (Peter Thornes) April 2012

Masses & Visits to the Shrine

2012 Mass dates

The following Mass dates were agreed with Fr Stephen:

Visitation Mass – Saturday 2nd June at 12.00

Assumption Mass – Saturday 18th August at 12.00

Also Fr. Tony Lester will celebrate a Carmelite Mass at 4 pm on Sunday 13th May – all are welcome.

Visits this quarter

Visit from St Joseph's Primary School, Bishop Thornton 23rd February – 9 year 6 children with head teacher (Simon Stockdale) and two adults. They enjoyed their visit and sent a thank you card with a £10 donation.

A visit from Northern Universities Catholic Societies – 20 students from five universities visited the Shrine on 3rd March. Although mainly interested in the architecture of the chapel they also wanted to pray as a group around the outside altar.

Site

Two members of our group and Fr Stephen met with Frank Gilchrist representing the PPC. Our treasurer Chris Maunder explained the background and reasons for our public safety concerns. Due to the cost implications of any remedial work, the PPC would need to approach Ampleforth Abbey Trust.

Since our meeting with Frank, Fr Stephen suggested asking the health and safety advisors for Ampleforth Abbey to visit and provide a report for recommendations and remedial work required. A risk manager for DE Ford, Ampleforth Abbey Trust's insurers, visited the site on Tuesday 10th April and was concerned about some aspects of public access in particular.

Frank Gilchrist had suggested a representative from our group speak to the congregation at a family Mass regarding the Shrine and invite everyone to an open day after our Visitation Mass. Fr Stephen felt a decision on this should be left until after the H & S survey report is received. However members of the Parish Council will be invited to the Mass and a talk afterwards regarding the Shrine site issues.

Information

This season's volunteer rota commenced on Easter Sunday.

The Shrine will be open Sunday afternoons 2 - 4 pm until 30th September - weather permitting.

The group's building society account stands at a little over £3,000. VAT refund for the conservation work and an anonymous donation were large amounts received through the year. The group is unsure at this time whether this amount will cover a quote requested for maintenance repairs to the Chapel window.

Frank reported back from his meeting. The group is small and highly motivated. The Shrine is well cared for. Fr. Stephen had also met the Group & reported the concerns on Health & Safety – the trees, retaining wall, paths etc. An expert from Ampleforth had visited and was writing a report on the issues. Fr. Mentioned that costs could be many tens of thousands of pounds. A number of issues were discussed. The site happens to be located in our parish but is of Regional importance. Could funding be obtained more widely – and grants sought (English Heritage?)

Options such as removing all the trees could be cheaper in the long term, but less aesthetically pleasing. It was agreed to await the report before further discussion.

YOUTH (Charlotte Burrell) April 2012

Children's Liturgy

Through Lent we have been doing Children's Stations of the Cross again. We talked through the stations to be covered that week in liturgy and then one of the leaders walked round with the children after mass. This seemed quite popular and hopefully helped the children learn a bit more about the Easter story.

We will be thinking about Mary again during May and will be practicing saying the rosary and encouraging the children to say the rosary at home.

Jeff organised a successful Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday which was enjoyed by all – thank you Jeff!

Prayers and Pizza

We met up every other week during Lent. We have looked at Stations of the Cross and different ways of praying. We are hoping to put together a Youth Mass with music and readings by the young people at some point but the date is still to be decided.

Viva La Fun, Youth Club

Had a successful trip to the pantomime which everyone enjoyed. Alison has organised a swimming party for the children in the next couple of weeks which has had a good uptake so far. We are continuing to meet on a monthly basis.

World Youth Day

Next world youth day is in Rio, Brazil in the summer of 2013. There is a trip being run by Anna Cowell, Youth Worker for Leeds Diocesan Youth Service. The deadline for the trip has passed but if anyone is interested there may still be places available if you want to contact Anna. It is for young people between the ages of 18-35. World Youth Day is when the Pope goes to a specific place in the world and meets with young people. In Madrid last year there were over 2 million young people from across the world! Let me know if anyone is interested.

General

Need to encourage young people to join the Leeds Diocesan Youth Service Facebook page (just type Leeds Diocesan Youth Service in to Facebook) – lots of events and activities on here – we could perhaps advertise this on the youth notice board.

JUSTICE & PEACE(Africa) Bob Archibald April 2012

We have sent money through to Tanzania and Burkina Faso,

As follows; -

£250 sent on 6th January fao Fr. Francis Mwamambo, in Tanzania.

£300 sent on 6th January fao Fr. Niampa Etienne at Titao.

£120 sent on 9th December to Fr. Mathieu Sawadogo, this was from the money raised in Church to support Fr. Mathieu in Mexico.

We have not sent money to Bamm in Burkina Faso as yet , because we are awaiting confirmation of the correct bank account.

I have written to Fr. Niampa in Titao and Fr. Blaise Ouedrago in Bamm, but have not received any reply yet.

I also wrote to Fr. Terry Madden.

The major concern that I have is that my written French is minimal and their English is minimal, which does not bode well for good communication.

We continue to collect through the brown envelopes and are looking to increase the number of people contributing.

There is nothing further to report at this stage.

Bob reported that money had been sent. Computers would be useful. They could be collected & "cleansed". The main problem was around the logistics of getting them out there, avoiding paying "middle men" on import. Fr. Stephen suggested that missionary priests, based in the UK, may be able to help.

ACTION: Bob, Jeff

CHURCHES TOGETHER in Knaresborough

Phil Geeney April 2012

The most recent meeting of CTinK was on 25 January 2012. Items of interest arising were:

2012 Bed Race – both the men's and ladies CTinK teams if selected to participate would donate 50% of sponsorship money to Christian Aid

Queens Diamond Jubilee big Lunch – may go ahead with Gracious Street Methodist Church in the lead. No other Churches felt able to participate in the organization but would help to publicise the event if it was going ahead

A concert during FEVA was discussed and it was agreed that if Gracious Street were prepared to organise such a concert they should underwrite the costs and decide on their own what to do with any profits

Car park charges on Sundays on Fisher Street and Chapel Street car parks had been introduced from 11 Jan 2012 despite protests from CTin K

CTinK Christmas Card had gone down very well but it was noted that they were needed earlier for successful distribution

Nativity Play in the market square had been very successful despite poor weather. Road closures for the 2012 event had already been booked. A collection at the event had raised 243 pounds for Christian Aid

Phil G had attended a recent meeting with Fr. Stephen. Phil noted how dynamic & active the Methodists were – organising events across Knaresborough.

CHRISIAN AID PASTORAL GROUP AREA REPRESENTATIVES

6 PARISH INITIATIVES (reviewed)

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

Parish Newsletter

The 9th edition distributed in January. Take up of print versions not as high as usual, so it appears that the e-mail list and availability on the website is having some effect.

Hope to produce issue 10 in June/July – currently in planning stage.

Contact database

Refresh under way – e-mail requests have been going out this week. This will enable the e-mail distribution list to be used more extensively. It was used to publicise the Fairtrade event in March but I would like more organisers to be aware of this facility so we can make greater use of it, especially to bring items to the attention of people who may have missed the bulletin.

Parish Council Minutes continue to appear on the parish website

Chris reported that database refresh was in hand. The email list was used to advise on the Fairtrade event. Chris can get a record of deaths (to remove from database) from Angela Smith. Newsletter 10 (this summer) will be based around St. Mary's School. Phil G is a governor & would work with Chris on producing an article. **ACTION Phil G & Chris**

7 SVP – New Initiative

An SVP member from Wetherby had asked to speak on the SVP at all the masses one weekend at St. Mary's. After some discussion, it was agreed that Simon would invite him. It was noted that St. Mary's had an SVP group, but this had disbanded a decade ago (because the SVP hierarchy had wanted their work to expand beyond the parish to, for example, visiting prisoners). The group re-formed as a Pastoral Care group, but numbers had dwindled.

8 DATES of FUTURE MEETINGS 7:30 pm Thurs 19 July, 11 October

9 AOB Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting/AGM will be on Sunday 22 April after 10:00 Mass. It was expected to last some 30 minutes and be held in Church being introduced by Simon at the end of Mass. It was recognised that children may need to "escape". The theme should be positive.

Discussion of previous actions:

The leaflet Jeff had produced on **Transport to Church** had had a limited response, but was felt to be a positive start. Jeff noted that there was some reluctance on those who would benefit from a lift but didn't want "to put people to trouble". Jeff will produce another notice, trying to encourage potential users to get in touch.

Simon had taken individual **photos of some PPC members** (after Mass) and hoped to finish the rest soon.

Re-tarmac the drive. The fabrics committee are now leading on this. Phil G had provided a contractor and quote in January, but little had happened. A larger (much higher) quote had been received including white lining etc. Frank reminded the meeting that we had previously agreed to charge residents for access to a number of (marked) spaces. The need for a stock of salt in winter was noted. There was some debate on the relative roles of the PPC, Finance committee and the new fabrics committee (which had been formed to work with the Finance Committee and advise on the fabric of the church)

A quote has been received to resolve the **damp in the toilet**.

The main body of the **Church has not been painted since 2000**. Should this be done before it becomes urgent? Should we seek volunteers and save the (high) cost of having professionals in? The difficulties of scaffolding, insurance etc. were discussed.

Church attendance. A three year programme targeted at increased attendance was discussed. Year one would be the parents of children at St. Mary's. Getting them into the church for events was seen as a way of getting them familiar with the church. Ideas were required from PPC members. Charlotte would be a key person to advise. Also Phil G is a governor. Can we be more welcoming – to all.

Social events.

We do not have a social committee. However, a number of events have been successful..

- The recent “Ghana” concert – organised by Youth of the parish.
- Wine Tasting & song evening.
- Cleaver hall Golf Dinner.
- The Bed Race “tea in the garden” was very successful.

Ideas for social events were discussed – a “gardening day” – with children involved had been suggested.

Volunteers

An A4 “flyer” had been produced listing the areas where help is needed. It was recognised that existing PPC members should try to get others to “volunteer”.

PPC

It was agreed that we should hold elections to the PPC. Nominees should have a Sponsor and Secunder. Elections should be soon – a few months at most. It was recognised that existing PPC members should try to get others to “volunteer to be nominated. We need more female members.

Constitution

There was some discussion on the decision making process (and its clarity) particularly in regard to prioritising expenditure. Fr. Stephen described the mechanism used in the Abbey. Items of greater cost required formal agreement at a higher level. (This was similar to the approach in business). For the most costly items, the whole community would be consulted. Fr. Stephen suggested that the PPC as an elected body should have oversight.

Simon had a copy of our constitution and would email a copy to the PPC, seeking comments – prior to a discussion at the next PPC meeting.

10. CLOSING PRAYER thanked everyone for coming and closed with a prayer at 9:40 pm.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS 2012

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	Parish Council quarterly meeting

Actions not discussed

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

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

Use the blue notice boards.