

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, Church's Together

Charlotte Burrell, Youth

## 1 WELCOME

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

**3 APOLOGIES:** Christine Wray, Head of St. Mary's School

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

Minutes of meeting of 19 April 2012 were approved

## 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 shop is selling Fairtrade goods as usual. Phil explained that Traidcraft had been promoting Fairtrade since the 1970's. Recent years had seen a breakthrough, with Fairtrade being adopted by many multinationals. The UK is the largest Fairtrade market in Europe. However, this success had led to a reduction in sales by Traidcraft, who use their profits to train farmers to be able to meet Fairtrade criteria.

**ACTION:** Phil will put something in the Bulletin to this effect.

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

I can't believe I am writing another end of year report already!

Unlike the last three Summers, school is free of major building work, meaning my business manager and I can have a relatively school free holiday, only coming in for our own work commitments rather than working with builders, electricians, plumbers and architects! It is very likely though that there will be further work and disruption, as we have a child starting at school with severe multiple learning and physical difficulties and his medical and personal needs require us to have a hygiene suite with specific requirements. An expensive and quite major project. Plans and proposals are with the Diocese and the Local Authority presently.

Our wonderful school administrator, Mrs Pat Outhwaite retired in April. She has worked with the school for many years and is a parishioner. We miss her very much, but she visits us from time to time. We have appointed a replacement, but we are reviewing a number of roles in school in response to changes in how schools are expected to work.

This year we had our OFSTED and Section 48 inspection and we were very pleased with the outcomes. Both confirmed that we are a good school and that there are areas that are better than good or are outstanding.

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

The school led the Family Mass at Church on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June, where Fr. blessed the staff and the children sang a special hymn. Our KS2 children attended Church for the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. School has worked hard this year to improve communication with parents. We try to release a newsletter each week, but because of other

commitments this is often sent out every other week. The website is fully functional now, providing our parents and prospective parent a wealth of information. We set up ParentPay to assist in easier payment for trips, school dinners etc. Almost all of our parents are using this system now. We hope to set up a text messaging service soon. A parents evening, teachers share progress grids with parents. This helps to show parents how well their children are doing in relation to their expected progress. Amendments to the annual report will also provide additional information in relation to their own child's expected progress and compared to the national average. In addition to these initiatives we have held parents meetings for phonics, maths calculations, residentials and new parents.

The Catholic Life and Pastoral Care Committee was established this year. There have been a number of meetings which have demonstrated how well the school is doing and areas that can be developed further. We continue to attract children with a very broad range of needs. This presents school with challenges at times. There has been and will continue to be an intensive training programme to meet both the educational and medical needs of the children.

The parent meetings for the children who were preparing for First Holy Communion were well supported. There was a Blessing Cup Meal in school on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May for the families of the children making their First Holy Communion. The children in Year 3 who were not making their First Holy Communion were invited to attend. As usual it was a lovely celebration. The children made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. It was a very special day.

We held our May Procession on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Mary must have been looking down on us, because the weather remained fine.

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May, we had a special Diamond Jubilee lunch and afternoon of activities. Everybody came dressed in red, blue and white. The children thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. There have been the usual sports tournaments and activities which seem to be a real feature in this term. Unfortunately, some of the usual sporting events that we attend have been cancelled because of the appalling weather. We had a brilliant Sports Day on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. It actually stayed dry and comfortably warm. I think Mary was looking down on us again! There are always photos taken of the various teams in school in this term, but because it was the Diamond Jubilee year, we had a whole school photo taken and it looks fabulous.

The Year 6 had their SATs exams the week commencing the 14<sup>th</sup> May. This year was the first year of the Year 1 phonics screening checks. St. Mary's is always over subscribed for places in our Foundation Stage class. This year we had to defend an appeal.

Some of the children have been on school trips this term. Year 3 went to Stump Cross Caverns, Year 2 went to Mother Shipton's Caves and Foundation Stage and Year 1 went to Eureka. Year 4 are going to The Deep. The Key Stage 2 production this year is 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, we had an Islam Day, when our children learnt about the faith and traditions of Islam. The Year 6 leavers' Mass will take place at Church on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30 pm. On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July, our Year 5 children will be visiting St. John Fisher Catholic High School. This is part of the transition to high school. On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July there will be a teddy bears picnic. In the afternoon there will be a water safety talk. Fr. Stephen has very kindly changed his day off so that he can celebrate Mass at school on the last day.

The success of the school both pastoral and temporal was very pleasing.

There followed a long discussion about the Catholic Church, Faith and Community. Many reasons were given for the gradual decline in Mass attendance in the UK over the past decades. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council was seen as a watershed. The 400 years of Catholicism defending against the reformed Churches was ended. Now we were asked to treat the reformed Churches in a positive light, accepting their baptism as valid etc.

St. Mary's was, in many ways, a strong and welcoming community. The social side, building a community was important. The Family, School & Church was key. Phil G reported that the School had a governors group (himself, Emma Tolan, Angela Smith, Fr. Stephen) with a similar remit to the previous PPC "Family

Ministry" Group. Fr. Stephen suggested that we get our ideas in these various areas – such as "Family Ministry" developed, so as to be in a position to discuss with the new priest.

I was felt that we needed new baptism books and, if possible, a booklet on Baptism which could be given to (non-Catholic) parents, godparents. Carmel Bridson had expressed an interest in "Family Ministry", particularly Baptism. **ACTION:** Simon would talk to Carmel & ask her to consider joining the PPC.

It was agreed to spend more time on these aspects at future meetings. Simon reminding us that we are the Pastoral Parish Council (not a Business Group).

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

Masses & Visits to the Shrine Fr Stephen celebrated the Visitation Mass on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The group thanks Father Stephen for his support. Assumption Mass – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August at 12.00. Fr. Tony Lester celebrated a Carmelite Mass at 4 pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May. A video of the Mass with information about the Shrine is now on the York Leeds and Manchester Carmelite You Tube site.

Visits this quarter Mgr. Paul Grogan, Chaplain of Leeds Trinity University College, celebrated Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Crag at 6pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May with a group of students. They are hoping to come again next year.

Saturday 2 June. A group made up of staff and students from the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds, with guide Robert Woosnam-Savage from the Royal Armouries visited the Shrine to learn more about its history. Dr. Chris Maunder gave a talk about the Shrine and its Marian connections, which was well received. This week (w/c 16.07.2012) St.John Fisher Catholic High School plan to visit the chapel as part of their year 8 retreat at Knaresborough House. They plan to use the chapel again in September as part of their year 7 retreats. In August a family from Ireland plan to visit the Shrine for a period of prayer and meditation.

Site A risk manager for DE Ford, Ampleforth Abbey Trust's insurers, visited the site on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April and was concerned about some aspects of public access in particular. However we are still waiting for his report. Viv Thornes met with Jeff McGillan and Chris Clissitt after the Mass on 2<sup>nd</sup> June to discuss the group's concerns about the site. Information was exchanged about history of work outstanding and PPC's constraints. Viv will speak to the group at our next meeting regarding parish help opening the Shrine and the logistics of key access and donations collected. It is hoped that something can be put in place for next year.

Information. A parishioner has kindly arranged to donate £10 a month towards the upkeep of the Shrine.

Building conservation company, Skillingtons, will be returning soon to complete repairs to one of the Chapel window mullions which has developed a crack – we await a definite date.

Email from Chris Clissitt following meeting with Viv Thornes after Mass at the Crag shrine.

Jeff and I attended the visitation Mass at the chapel on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and had a chat with Viv Thornes afterwards. As we understand it, the issues are these:

The retaining wall on Abbey Road is unsafe and needs remedial work. The attached quote (2010) is for £24k Ampleforth say this is a parish responsibility. Note that this matter was referred to the Procurator, Fr Peterburs in April 10, but in the notes of the meeting with Fr George (June 10) it had been passed to the "Economus", Fr Damian, the official responsible for parishes. It appears that the Procurator has spending power and the Economus does not. The meeting notes go on to say that "Consequently, no funding would be made available from Ampleforth Abbey. Any work would have to be met from within parish resources."

We do not believe that the parish has this sort of money but suggest the Finance committee are engaged. We had some discussion about potential grants but understand that the council had already been approached to little avail.

There are some trees which need to be made safe. At the Ampleforth meeting mention is made of 3 trees at the Abbey Road entrance. This work should not be expensive. In the tree survey of 1997 there is not a quote for the entirety of the work, but it does say that remedial work to 9 trees on Crag Lane would cost £750 - £1000 so we do not see that the tree work is unaffordable. The wall is main concern.

We suggest that we seek a further meeting with Ampleforth about the responsibility for the Chapel – if we cannot afford to repair the wall we may have to close it down and face losing an important part of our heritage in Knaresborough.

There was an active debate on these issues. It was agreed that:

- The Shrine was a precious inheritance which we should seek to preserve
- The "ownership" problem was separate to the need to "get something done"
- Further quotes be sought for the wall (can removing soil & rebuilding the wall be done more cheaply?)
- Before trimming the trees could we kill the Ivy by simply cutting the lower "roots"
- The whole site needs to be safe.
- The shrine should be accessible.
- New blood was required to augment the Shrine Group (the preference being for sufficient numbers to not make the task burdensome, but not so many that it diluted the ability of helpers to describe the history to visitors).

Would grants be available?

**ACTION:** Simon will meet the Economist Fr. Damian with a representative from the Finance Committee probably Chris Matthewman – chair to discuss these matters.

## **YOUTH** (Charlotte Burrell) July 2012

Children's Liturgy is going well. We are having a break for the summer over the holidays as a lot of the leaders are away. It will be starting again in September in the new school year. We will put a note in the bulletin so that parents know. If parents want to access resources for children over the holidays they can visit the Sermons4Kids website: [www.sermons4kids.com](http://www.sermons4kids.com). This has a good explanation of the Gospel reading and activities to go with them.

Viva La Fun Youth Club has gone well this year, had a nice number of children. Net funds from June 2012: £367.27. This is being put back in to the youth club to pay for new sports equipment and any trips we might have. Alison has now stepped down as Chair person and Nicola and I have taken over. We need new volunteers to help out and have asked parents of the children who attend to consider it.

General. It would be good to look into buying some YouCat books. These are a youth version of the Catholic Catechism and would be good to have in the shop. Agreed to recommend that we purchase 10 which may require Finance committee to approve. **ACTION:** Simon to check & advise on purchase

Alison had stepped down from running "Viva". More help was required. Parents would be asked (individually in person) to assist. The PPC strongly supported the greater involvement of young people at Mass. Fr. Stephen suggested that young people often came back inspired after visits to Shrines (Lourdes etc.) or major Catholic events. This was a good time to seek their support.

## **JUSTICE & PEACE(Africa)** Bob Archibald July 2012

Waiting for a reply from Burkina Faso. It was surmised that sending letters in English (rather than French) may be part of the problem. If it helped, Frank would ask his daughter, who lives in France & is bi-lingual, if she would translate any letters.

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER** in Knaresborough Phil Geeney July 2012

Phil had been unable to attend yesterday's meeting. Fr. Stephen had attended. The Churches would put information on Christmas services in "Knaresborough Now" rather than distributing Christmas cards. The £100 St. Mary's had donated to help buy a bed for the bed race had not been needed.

**ACTION:** Fr. Stephen would let them know that the money would go to Christian Aid instead. Churches Together organised meetings in Lent on an ecumenical basis. Small groups would meet weekly (afternoons or evenings to suit) in peoples houses and discuss religious texts.

**ACTION:** Phil G would put a notice in Bulletin & consider asking for volunteers at Mass

**6 PARISH INITIATIVES**

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

Parish Newsletter. Issue 10 will feature the school and its place in a Catholic community – Phil Geeney working on the main article and providing information. Intended to distribute over the summer.  
Contact database refresh continues - e-mail update requests now complete. Have decided to deliver paper requests for updates to home addresses rather than leave for collection after Mass – that way I can be sure everyone has been asked to review their details on the database.  
Parish Council Minutes continue to appear on the parish website and Parish annual report was distributed to all on the e-mail list.

**VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT** The “Community Matters” format (used for transport to Church) could be used for seeking volunteers. This could include volunteers for the Shrine Group. **ACTION:** Jeff

**PPC ELECTIONS & CONSTITUTION** Simon distributed a few copies of the constitution. Elections for the PPC would be after the holidays and the arrival of the new priest. **ACTION;** Simon

**CHAPEL CARPET** Fr. Stephen had a carpet which the PPC agreed was well suited to being placed under the Altar in the side chapel. The Altar would be unscrewed and replaced (without screws) onto the carpet. **ACTION.** Fr. Stephen

**7 SVP – New Initiative** A follow-up visit had not yet taken place.

**8 DATES of FUTURE MEETINGS** 7:30 pm Thurs 18 October, Thursday 17 January 2013

**9 AOB** The work on the car park tarmac was well received. Simon reported that there was little problem with parking and relations with our neighbours was good. The idea of marking out the car park, use of permits etc. would be held in abeyance.

Fr. Stephen receives many letters from charities requesting that St. Mary’s hold a second collection for them. The number of 2<sup>nd</sup> collections needed to be limited. It was agreed that Phil B and Fr. Stephen would collate these requests and bring a recommended shortlist to the PPC for approval. **ACTION:** Phil B & Fr. Stephen

**10. CLOSING PRAYER** Fr. Stephen thanked everyone for coming and closed with a prayer at 9:50 pm.

**FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS 2012 - 2013**

Thursday	18 October	Parish Council quarterly meeting
Thursday	17 January	Parish Council quarterly meeting