

Present:

Fr William Parish Priest	Simon Knowles Chairman	Frank Gilchrist Secretary
Charlotte Burrell, Youth	Phil Bothamley, Fairtrade	Bob Archibald, Area Rep
Jeff McGillan, Justice & Peace	Viv Thornes, Shrine Group	

1 WELCOME & 2 OPENING PRAYER: led by Fr William Parish Priest (St Mark Ch 2 V 15-17)

3 APOLOGIES: Chris Clissitt, Communications Mathilde Burtin-Bell

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

Minutes of meeting of 18 October 2012 were approved

Fr. Stephen was invited to a Sunday Mass, before Christmas, and there was a presentation after Mass.

The new parish web site is www.stmarysknaresborough.org

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

Simon had been unable to email copies of the reports to PPC before the meeting.

FAIRTRADE (Phil Bothamley)

Fairtrade fortnight is 25 Feb – 10 March. Fairtrade hamper (from Cadburys) to raffle. **ACTION:** Phil, Jeff

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL Report for PPC January 2013

Staff Emily Shaw, the teacher who job shared with Laura Hunt, left at Christmas to take up a full time post. Danny Wilson has been appointed as a replacement.

We have interviewed for additional staff to support a child with significant SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), but we were unable to appoint. We are re-advertising the post.

Building We are still having building work done to provide a therapy room and hygiene suite for the children who have special medical and personal care needs. It is anticipated that this will be finished very soon.

Catholic Life of the School

Fr. William met with Amanda Kelly and I to discuss school Masses. A number of class masses and whole school Masses have taken place. These were well attended by our families and Governors who were invited to join us. The last one of the term was on Wednesday 19th December.

In October, we launched our 'Year of Faith' project, The children are enjoying learning about the inspiring lives of Saints. This is being carried out through lessons in class and through assemblies. Some examples of the children's work can be seen in Church. We will endeavour to change the display each term.

In November we remembered those who have died. We also prayed for peace in countries where there is war and conflict.

We marked the start of Advent by attending Family Mass in Church on Sunday 2nd December.

The children have enjoyed the Advent preparations which included assemblies, collective worship in class, taking home the 'Travelling Cribs', completing the Advent diaries as well as a host of other activities that took place during lessons.

We held a reconciliation service and Fr. William came into school to hear confessions.

The children enjoyed taking part in the Carol Service and the Nativity and these were very well attended by our families.

Year 4 joined the cluster of Catholic schools and took part in 'Hosanna Rock'. Darren Roberts from St. John Fisher has been working with the children on their performances. They also performed it in school for the staff, pupils and families of year 4 children.

Amanda Kelly has started the Sacramental Preparation programme and held the first meeting early in November. Further dates are planned and the children are working through the programme.

Other News

The children enjoyed a Bonfire Lunch on Wednesday 7th November.

We held another SEND Tea and Chat session. We invited various agencies who could offer advice and support to parents of children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

Diane Turner (retired teacher from St. Mary's) helps us with our fundraising for Children in Need each year. She helped the children organise and run a Bun Sale.

The Friends held a very successful Christmas Fair on 24th November raising over £3,500!

On the 4th December, Radio York came to switch on our Christmas tree lights. A number of our children were interviewed and some of them sang for the radio.

Our wonderful cooks provided us all with a fabulous Christmas lunch (Over 200 lunches!). For party day, the Friends had paid for a pantomime for the children. The actors were very entertaining and the children were thrilled.

We had an appeal from a family for a place in year 6. We already have 30 children in year 6 and extra adults for the children who have SEND. They were unsuccessful in the appeal.

On the last day of term, we had a long celebration assembly. Many children received 100% attendance certificates for the autumn term. We also gave out the weekly merit certificates. A large number of children also received 'Great Attitude' certificates.

We have many things planned for the coming term including our year 5 residential trip.

Happy New Year to you from all the staff and pupils at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School.

SHRINE GROUP (Our Lady of the Crag)

(Peter Thornes)

Little has happened at the Shrine since the last PPC meeting which is normal during Winter. The Immaculate Conception Mass had to be cancelled due to commitments for Father William and group members.

There will be an Annunciation Mass on Saturday 6th April at 11.00 at the Shrine. Father William cannot commit at present to Masses later in the year.

A quiz night will be held at the Church Hall on Saturday 16th February 2013 to help with fundraising for the Mass congregation/seating area improvements.

Dr. Chris Maunder will arrange a date with Father William for speaking to the Parish about the Shrine group to try and encourage more support.

The chapel will open again on Sunday afternoons from Easter Sunday 2pm – 4 pm.

The group have not seen the report from Gavin Leatherbarrow of DE Ford (Ampleforth's insurers) who carried out a site safety survey on the Shrine site last year. DE Ford have suggested that risk assessments are completed for the site and activities carried out when open. These will be completed before opening to the public this year.

YOUNG PEOPLE of the PARISH

Charlotte Burrell

Children's Liturgy

The children's Christmas mass was successful and well attended. The children did the readings and helped with the singing.

Children's liturgy is continuing to run as two separate groups. Two members of the team are going on a Children's Liturgy training day (fee funded by the Parish) on the 30th January.

St Mary's Young People

Now have a Facebook group, Facebook page and Twitter page. Using it to advertise upcoming events and give general information.

We went on a trip to Ampleforth Abbey for Christmas lunch and to meet one of the monks there in December. This was a very enjoyable trip and we all learnt a lot about monastic life and had a very nice Christmas Dinner! There is a display in the atrium with photos from the day.

The plan is to run an event aimed at 12-18 year olds approximately once a month that will hopefully interest them and get them involved.

Youth Club

Went to the pantomime (part subsidy from Youth Club money) for the January youth club which was very enjoyable. The youth club continues to be successful. We will hopefully have a swimming party in the next few months.

General

YouCat books for Lent – would be a good time to promote them, need to get some ordered. PPC agreed that we needed to buy sufficient books to be sold.

ACTION: Simon will ask Finance Committee to fund purchase of 10+ books (£9.99 each) to sell.

Aglow

- Weekend Retreat for Young Adults aged 16 -35
- Amazing weekend of experiencing God, going further in your faith, and an opportunity to ask the big questions of life.
- Inspirational Talks
- Pray with music with the Live Worship Band
- Adoration
- Workshops
- For booking forms or more information contact the Leeds Diocesan Youth Office - abcleedsdiocese@hotmail.com / 01943 885478, 01943 607 887. Or contact the Youth 2000 National Office - info@youth2000.org.

Brightlights Festival – WYD @ Home

- 26 - 29 July, Aylesford
- Festival for young people aged 16 – 30
- Inspiring talks, workshops and music
- Possible trip being organised by the LDYS.

The children's Christmas Mass had been well attended – standing room only. The children played a major role in the Mass and it was “fantastic”. It was estimated that some 900 people attended the four Masses. (including some attending more than one service).

Plans include: A pancake event on Shrove Tuesday.

Easter Egg hunt after Easter Sunday Mass.

These events should be publicised 3 weeks in advance.

Fr. William had a table tennis table top – which he had put in the Library. Net, bats and balls also available.

JUSTICE & PEACE(Africa)

Bob Archibald

Bob reported that the Google translate was much improved and that they were now more able to send letters in French and translate the responses. Mathilde could probably help to ensure the translations were correct. Most still had to go via (snail) mail. An email had been received from Terry Madden. We wished to ensure that the money went to specific projects. Perhaps we should try to get a "shopping list" of requests. Also photos of projects we had supported. It was suggested that information, photos etc. could be put onto our new web site.

CHURCHES TOGETHER in Knaresborough **ACTION:** Rep required as Phil Geeney has retired

6 PARISH INITIATIVES

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

Parish Newsletter Issue 10 almost complete. It will feature the school and its place in a Catholic community – article kindly provided by Phil Geeney. The other main item is an introduction to Father William – meeting to take place shortly to gather material! It will also briefly draw attention to our revamped website and our move into social media.

Contact database The database refresh has reached its third stage:

1. Requests to confirm data held were sent to all those for whom we hold e-mail addresses during 2012.
2. Between Christmas and New Year paper requests were delivered to all those for whom we hold address & phone number only. A good response so far, and quite a few new e-mail addresses
3. Next weekend I will ask all those who have not received an e-mail or a note through the door to complete a database form as it means that we do not hold their details

We have used the e-mail distribution list to publicise a handful of events in the past and to circulate Parish Council minutes and newsletters. Suggest we make more use of this facility in future, especially as we can use the website to hold detailed information and circulate the relevant link.

Parish Council Minutes appeared on the old parish website and we have asked they also appear on the new website. www.stmarysknaresborough.org

Photographs – such as weddings, baptisms would be welcome additions to the web site.

7 SHRINE GROUP SPECIAL REPORT

Simon had met the Economist Fr. Damian and a representative from the Chris Matthewman Chair of Finance Committee probably to discuss these matters. Simon described the position as: The shrine was in St. Mary's parish, which was part of Ampleforth. Whilst Ampleforth owned the site, and insured it (public liability), running & maintaining the shrine was for the Parish. Unfortunately neither Ampleforth nor the Parish had surplus funds to meet the potential capital costs. The priority for St. Mary's had to be the fabric of the church (damp, redecorating etc.).

Viv then described the background and current position. The shrine is 605 years old. The Shrine Group was set up in 1997. Harrogate Borough Council, Ampleforth and many lay people were involved. Methodists

had attended services at the shrine but, in general, attempts at ecumenical services had been less than successful. Over the years the numbers have dwindled. Now there are only five (including Viv who joined in 2008). The site has many issues – drainage, the wall, trees, path, steps, platform. Over the years various discussions have taken place and contractor estimates sought. The Capital required to meet these issues was high. A further complication was that major work at the Shrine requires the permission of English Heritage, Historical churches, HBC, Ampleforth and HBC (Harrogate Borough Council) who have given a grant previously towards the restoration of the Knight carving and the window.

In the interim the Shrine group had undertaken many minor maintenance tasks.

Funding comes from pilgrim donations (often modest – a few £) to fund raising events (e.g. quiz nights). The possibility of an annual second collection at St. Mary's was discussed and whilst this could help with meeting maintenance costs, other funds were required for Capital works. **ACTION:** Phil & Viv

Viv had a quote (£700 + VAT) from a dry stone waller to rebuild the wall that supports the platform. Jeff suggested that he & seven others could put down some sleepers and level the site for chairs.

The PPC emphasised the requirement that in order for the Shrine to open to the public the site must comply with St. Mary's insurance which is covered by Ampleforth Abbey. Any risk assessments for the Shrine area need to be completed before opening to ensure the shrine is safe to open as planned at Easter. Repairs will be in two stages:

1. Maintenance of retaining walls, paths etc.
2. Making safe the trees bearing in mind these may be protected.

Viv reported that there was now a Risk Assessment for the maintenance of the area and that the volunteers who looked after it was sufficient to tick the box. It was felt that these changes would be sufficient to open the site as usual from Easter.

The PPC were grateful for all the work of the Shrine Group and would continue to seek means of raising the capital.

8 PPC FUTURE DIRECTION & DATES for FUTURE MEETINGS

It was suggested that parishioners who are active members of the various groups be encouraged to join the PPC (via an election process). The PPC accepted the concept as proposed by Fr. William of a new election process.

Subsequent to the meeting, Fr. William e-mailed information on a

- suggested structure reflecting the pro-forma of the Leeds diocese
- which would include elected and co-opted members
- an election process

to be achieved before Ash Wednesday.

ACTION: Fr William

February	16	A quiz night in the Church Hall Saturday (fund raising for Shrine)
	12	Shrove Tuesday Pancake event - Youth
	13	Ash Wednesday
March	31	Easter Sunday
April	18	Parish Council quarterly meeting Thursday 19:30 – 21:00

9 AOB

It was noted that the clocks go forward at 02:00 on Easter Day (Sunday March 31st)
A request had been made that there be a morning Mass on new Years Day

ACTION: Fr William

The Annual Report covers the period to March 2013. (It had previously been noted that this could include how much money was raised each year for charitable causes). Ampleforth had asked for an annual report from St Mary's.

ACTION: Simon, Fr William

Fr. William had planned to meet the St. Mary's Singers at a social event (but this had been cancelled).

ACTION; Frank to discuss with Carmel Wake

10. CLOSING PRAYER Fr. William closed the meeting with a prayer at 21:30