

FORUM MINS FOR EMAIL SEPTEMBER 2015

Present: Fr John, Fr Kevin, Callum Brown, Peter Donnelly, Margaret Donnelly, Ann Harkin, Janet Clegg, Marie Valovin, Daphne Marsden, Lou Marsden, Arnold Marsden, Anthony Brown, Lily Perrin, Andrew Brown, Jane Brown, Sheila Shore, Betty Collinson, Elsie Thomson, Maureen Mercer, Teresa Mercer, Bernard Mercer, Les Collinson, Carol Riley, Susan Fellows, Grace Fellows, Janet Hall, Sion Hall, Teresa Atkinson, Andrew Brown (Sabden), Tony Galea, Tom Clay, Catherine Clay, Ena Davies.

Apologies: Chris Carr, Peter White, Susan White

1. The meeting opened at 7.30 pm with a prayer, led by Fr. Kevin.

2. Peter D. welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special welcome to Fr. Kevin and Callum Brown who was attending the Forum for the first time.

3. **Minutes of meeting held on July 1st.** Anthony Brown asked that item 8b, Trafficking, could be amended using his report. The amended item is an appendix to these minutes. The minutes were then accepted as a true record.

4. **PP Apology.** Fr. John apologized for the old format of unavoidable lengthy agenda.

5. Matters Arising

- Autumn Fayre – meeting has been held and Callum has replaced Fr. Frankie as co-coordinator.
- Sacramental Programme – Prayer Friends are to be discussed at SVP meeting on Tues 22nd Sept. GERALYN, representative from SM&SJ School will be present.
- Parish Draw is now up and running, there are 181 participants.
- Right to Life Walk raised £4000. It is planned for the same time next year and Bishop Arnold will attend.
- Right to Life Members Bill. 118 for, 330 against. Excellent result.

6. Review of Recent Events.

- **Weld Day.** This was a prayerful and sociable Parish celebration. Thanks to all who provided strawberries and cream, wine and ice cream, and all who helped in any way. Bernard Mercer will set up a wireless microphone next year. Also suggested that going to Communion is more organized. Catherine & Tom Clay, Margaret D, Bernard and Fr. Kevin agreed to take responsibility for the organization of Weld Day next year.
- **Cemetery Mass.** Numbers have increased each year. Congregation will be encouraged to move nearer to the altar. A microphone would be helpful but not appropriate because of respect for residents.
- **Lourdes Pilgrimage.** Thanks to Susan Fellows for her help and organization. This was an amazing week and it is reported in the Advertiser this week. Susan will organize a group next year and Fr. Kevin will be going.

7. **Mass of Healing.** 27th Sept, 2pm. 21 returns to date but more expected. Transport to be organized at next SVP meeting. Knights, Ladies and Choir all involved. Cakes needed on the day, to be left in hall in morning. Fr. Waring will be concelebrating.

8. Church Cleaning. More cleaners are needed. Recent difficulties have been resolved. Cleaning is done on Monday mornings and anyone is welcome. School Mums to be approached re. this.

9. Sabden help. Foliage overhanging drive needs attention. Tom Clay, Anthony Brown, Arnold, Les, Sian Hall's father and Andy Brown to undertake this. Two groups to work at convenient times.

10) Hoovering after Sunday Coffee. Now no Sunday cleaner. Coffee teams to be asked to Hoover carpet when clearing up after coffee. Teams to be asked via news letter and personally.

11. Parish Priest Update

a) Field Draining & Tarmacking school road. Miles Fox will ensure that the remaining undrained part of the field that never drains will be done properly. Cost - £800. Maintenance Committee to be informed. Storm damage to road between school and church makes road a safety hazard. This will not be undertaken by the Council or Ed. Authority. School and Parish to pay for this. It will be done during October half term.

b) Electrical Inspection. All buildings have been inspected and are safe however, some aspects do not comply with new regulations. Tony Harkin is to deal with this matter.

c) Reroofing Parish Centre Boiler House. This roof, situated behind the Dower House, is collapsing and contains asbestos. Essential that the work is done.

d) Responsible Giving. After a previous appeal by Derek Pearce, gift aiding increased. Derek has been asked to come and speak about responsible giving and gift aid. He will speak on October 10th and 11th at Clitheroe and Sabden and Paul Durbridge will make the same appeal at Dunsop Bridge.

e) Dunsop Bridge. All going well. Meeting planned in September will now take place after Mass, said by Fr. John, on 4th October. Schools are leading the way in amalgamation. 3 schools now celebrating Masses together and producing Faith Friends newsletter each term. All schools now participating in the French Trip.

12. Calais Migrants. St. James have started collecting clothes, bedding, sleeping bags, hygiene items, utensils, food etc to be taken to Calais for migrants there. Other churches have been asked to participate. Forum agreed that we would organize collection immediately. Tom & Catherine Clay, Les, Bernard, Andy Brown and Fr. Kevin to meet after Forum to plan how this will be done. Help for Syrian Refugees will be coordinated by the Bishops. We need to look after them in their own country, especially fellow Christians. Immigration to be an item on next Forum agenda.

13. Sponsorship of Indian Seminarian. The Parish took this on for 4 years. Knights have contributed £200 for this year, another £300 is needed. It was pointed out that the majority of parishioners are unaware of this commitment so will be informed. Jane and Andrew Brown will host afternoon tea on Oct 4th. Tickets to be sold after Masses. Coffee and tea money collected on Sundays at Sabden and Clitheroe to go towards this.

14. Sale of Universe & Catholic Times. Lou Marsden spoke about the value of reading the Universe and Catholic Times. These papers are currently read by older people. They can be ordered at the newsagents as well as bought through the Parish. At present 4 Universe and 2 Catholic Times are for sale each week in Church. Arnold leaves a Universe in Clitheroe library.

15. Autumn Fayre. Meeting has been held and jobs delegated. Refreshments this year are bacon and sausage sandwiches. All setting up will be done on Sunday morning prior to the Fayre. Doors to be opened at 10.30 for 11 starting but refreshments will be available as soon as possible. More raffle prizes needed, Callum and Arnold will distribute raffle tickets after all Masses.

16. Society Reports

- **Trafficking & Anti-Slavery** (Anthony Brown) **Anti- Slavery Week 18th – 24th Oct.**
October 20th “*It’s not Fair*”, funded by Lancaster Foundation, in the Grand, Clitheroe. “*It’s not Fair*” is an engaging, eye opening blend of theatre, storytelling, puppetry and music to raise awareness of trafficking.
Oct 23rd Question Time event on the theme of trafficking at SM&SJ’s Parish Centre. Mike Emberton, Project Director of Medaille; Sue Crawley, Head of Public Protection, Lancs Constabulary; Hannah Flint, Regional Development Executive for the International Justice Mission and Lord Alton will be present.
Oct 24th Chicago gospel singer, Elsa Harris performs at the Grand, Clitheroe, organized by Bill Hampson of Epiphany. Gemma Frankland will do a sponsored sky dive for Medaille Trust on 24th Oct.
Work is being done with the Diocesan Ed Dept in Salford and Middlesbrough setting up competitions in schools that would be an educational experience for pupils and the public. Competitions in a variety of subjects – poetry, music, dance are being explored with publicity to follow.
Working with Lancs Constabulary Public Protection and East Lancs Police to raise awareness via posters and leaflets.
- **Flowers** (Jane Brown) Thanks from Jane to all team members for hard work and friendship, to Andrew Brown for growing and putting up Christmas tree and to all who donated 250 Easter lilies. This has been a busy year. Easter garden was a great success, in May church was decorated with real yellow and cream flowers with donation for a special wedding anniversary, Confirmation flowers were red, yellow and white, First Communion were white and for the Assumption the Lady altar had blue and white arrangements which included a candle from Lourdes. The altar will have red and orange arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. The team have arranged flowers for several funerals and a smaller number of weddings and will have a stall at the Autumn Fayre. Jane has been invited to help arrange flowers at St. Mary’s Langho and the team will exhibit a Christmas tree at Trinity Methodist Church Clitheroe on 4th 5th December. Ideas welcome. The group have lost 4 helpers but gained 2 new young recruits.
- **Safeguarding** (Ann Harkin) The initial “catch up” phase now completed with 20 successful submissions, 4 awaiting additional information and 2 “in progress”. Thanks to everyone for their co-operation and patience. New applications can now be submitted. The role of the Parish Safeguarding Rep is to support the Parish by:
i) ensuring that anyone working with children or vulnerable groups has been “cleared”.
ii) Provide a structured format for Parish activities so that accidents and incidents are reported correctly stating what happened, who was involved and action taken.
iii) Offer a listening ear when someone has concerns about a person being visited.
Ann can be contacted at: anhark456@aol.com
- **99 Group** This is a Diocesan project and members from Proclaim 15 attended a Conference in June. During the Year of Mercy the group will open *Evangelii Gaudeum* to the Parish through a series of meetings facilitating open discussion.
- **RCIA** The next course commences with an informal get together on Sept. 24th. Only one new person is interested at the moment. It was suggested that a notice should be put in the school newsletter.

17. Proposal by Anthony Brown for major discussion at next Forum: Parish Groups and the Year of Mercy. Papers available on this. This will be a main item on next agenda.

AOB. HCPT Sponsored 8 mile walk - Sunday 21st Sept at 1.30pm.
Rossendale Male Voice Choir – Fri. Nov 13th at 7.30pm.

18. Date and Venue of next Meetings

Clitheroe – 18th Nov. 7.30pm

Sabden – 20th Jan. 2016

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Appendix: Amendment to minutes of Forum, July 1st, item 8b. Trafficking - Anthony Brown

- *Anti Slavery Week to 18th to 24th October. There will be a Question Time type event in our parish Hall on the 23rd and Elsa Harris, a Chicago Gospel singer, will perform at the Grand on 24th. We are hoping for school competitions in the Diocese of Lancaster, Middlesbrough and Salford.*
- *Year of Mercy Dec. 8th 2015 to Nov 29th 2016. During this time Fr. John and priests of our Deanery will adopt Trafficking as their Social Justice activity. There will be Mass appeals, a play about modern day slavery by Donna Worthington of Tabor and other things. Anthony will try and involve schools in the 3 Dioceses.*
- *Work with DCI Sion Hall. Our Pope has said: " Every citizen of every country must be aware of human trafficking and join the fight against it." Current activities to achieve this are a series of 4 articles in each of 6 East Lancs newspapers and awareness raising talks.*
- *Website. The Combating Human Trafficking group has a webpage with 8 sub-pages and is under continual development.*