

MINUTES OF PARISH FORUM MEETING January 20th2016

Present: Fr. John, Fr. Kevin, Mike Bradley, Peter & Margaret Donnelly, Arnold Marsden, Bernard & Maureen Mercer, Anthony Brown, Les & Betty Collinson, Susan & Peter White, Susan & Grace Fellows, Damien Buggie, Mark Wiggins, Andy Brown, Pat Whitwell, Margaret Waling, Kate & Michael Hargreaves, Amanda Taylor, Meriel Woodworth, Anne Cooke, Janet Clegg, Michael Fox and Tony Galea.

1. Fr. Kevin opened the meeting with a prayer and Mike welcomed everybody to the first Forum of 2016 with a special welcome to those attending for the first time.

2. **Apologies:** received from Daphne & Lou Marsden, Chris Carr, Maureen Mercer, Caroline Muldoon and Anne Harkin..

3. **Minutes of meeting held on Nov. 17th** were accepted as a true record. Item 5, Coffee Morning, should have read Andrew & Jane Brown

4. **Matters Arising:** The Joy of the Gospel sessions will be the subject of next week's newsletter back page and will be highlighted at each Mass by the priest. Members of the "99 group" will be at the back of Church after Masses the following week to answer any questions or enquiries.

5. Review of Recent Events.

- **Christmas Fayre, Sabden:** This was a successful event and raised £2000. The grand drawer suffered because of separate raffles for each Church. The proposal for a combined raffle to be discussed at the next Forum and a decision made.
- **Christmas Fayre, Clitheroe:** Date of 27th November 2016 to be confirmed.
- **Parish Supper:** Janet, Carol and Daphne had had a meeting but felt that there was lack of support and interest. Forum agreed that we should try and arrange this for Spring or early Summer and that a list asking for names of people interested be put at the back of Church with a notice in the newsletter. Margaret D, Susan W and Anne Cooke to do this. Margaret D to speak to Kevin re. Social Centre availability.
- **Joy of the Gospel:** (*see item 4 above*) 2 study sessions have taken place so far with very positive feedback. The next 4 sessions will be on 3rd & 17th February and 2nd & 9th March. Evangelii Gaudeum has turned out to be the road map on which Pope Francis is travelling and he asks us all to have a renewed personal encounter with Christ. These sessions are to help us all towards this.
- **Parish Website:** Parish groups still not putting information on website. Next website meeting (to be arranged) will make a strategy to overcome this problem.
- **Second collections.** There have been complaints about the number of retiring collections that are taken. This year there are already 18 obligatory collections. It is up to each person to decide whether they want to give and to what. Father John to point out to parishioners that these collections are an opportunity to give but they are a choice. Mark W suggested the possibility of a Parish Fund for Charities but as some collections are compulsory, this was not an option. Collections are always in the newsletter the week before they are taken.

6. Christmas Mass Schedule.

Because of Fr. Challoner's ill health, the Christmas Mass in West Bradford was moved from 6 to 8 o'clock. This caused a drop in young families attending. Fr. John suggested that there should be a 4pm Mass which would be a Children's Mass. This would be beneficial to families and would help to relieve the crush at the 6pm Mass. The youth choir would be delighted to do the music at a 4pm Mass. The proposal that the Christmas Mass times should be 4pm Clitheroe, 6pm Clitheroe, 8pm Sabden and 9am Clitheroe (Christmas morning) was carried unanimously.

7. Forum Venue.

Dunsop Bridge is 11 miles from Clitheroe, Sabden is 4. It now makes sense, because of these distances, that we hold future Forums in Clitheroe. This was agreed by everyone.

8. Kises, Meriel Woodward.

Meriel is a single Mum of two who has given up her job to raise £40,000 for needy in India. She described her journey towards making this decision in a moving presentation. Kises was set up in 1999 by an Indian couple who belonged to the lowest caste. They worked successfully with communities on social, educational, agricultural, health and skills training issues. They now have several projects ready to go but desperately need money but raising money is extremely difficult in India particularly for lower caste people. Mrs Suram is working to attract foreign funding and Meriel first got in touch with her via Facebook. Meriel visited Mrs Suram in Vijayawada to see the charity and its work first hand. She was shocked at the difficulties of these communities but was struck by the people's warmth, positivity and desire to help themselves change for the better. Meriel is now looking for opportunities to speak to interested, generous audiences, volunteers to help apply for corporate and grant funding, fundraising ideas etc. She is looking for people to sponsor a family living on the city dump; £120 will cover the basic needs of one family, including a tent, bedding, cooking vessels, clean clothes breakfast and mid day meals. Work on this is starting immediately. Meriel also asks for our prayers for the success of her efforts.

9. Church Defibrillator. (Arnold)

Arnold expressed concern that nobody knows where this is and asked for it to be on the wall outside the confessional with a sign. Fr. John explained that the confessionals are to be redesigned to become more welcoming and allow face to face confession. There will be a special box for the defibrillator with a sign outside the confessional. A note will be put each week in the newsletter saying where the equipment is kept.

10. No Parking lines (Margaret D)

Margaret asked why these lines had been put in front of Church. We had not been made aware of parking problems here and she felt that they made our Church look very unwelcoming. Fr. John said that people often parked in front of Church leaving their car for an extended period of time and blocking access to presbytery etc. Since the lines have been in place this has happened very infrequently and parked cars are asked to move.

11. School Masses (Margaret D)

Request that when there is a School Mass it is noted in the newsletter so that parishioners are aware of the later time.

12. School Mission Statement

School has had a consultation process to put a new Mission Statement in place. The children voted on the statement and the Governors accepted their choice. The new Mission Statement, "Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love and respect one another to be the best we can" was inaugurated at the school Mass on Tuesday.

13. AOB

- **Reconciliation:** Change of times –Sabden, Wed. 16th March at 6 pm, Clitheroe, Tues. 15th March at 6.30 pm. Children from Dunsop Bridge will come to Clitheroe.
- **Jimmy Cricket:** Fri. 29th Feb. There are still some tickets left, these will be on sale this weekend.
- **Combating Human Trafficking** is now part of Caritas Salford.
- **Refugee Response:** Mark Wiggin is now coordinator for this. Conference Training Day to be held at the Cathedral Centre Salford on Wed. 10th Feb. 10 am to 4 pm.
- **Stations, Sabden:** These will be each Tuesday during Lent. Volunteers to lead them are welcome.
- **Lent Talks:** Once again Clitheroe Christians in Partnership will be hosting the Lent Talks each Saturday morning from 20 Feb. to 19 March. The theme this year is “Christianity at work”, exploring through each speaker the challenges of being a Christian in specific working environments and sharing how our faith works for us among the increasing pressures and challenges of the workplace when we are away from the safety net of church and family! The Lent Talks will be held at the St. Michael and St. John’s Parish Hall other than on Saturday 27 February when they will be at the United Reformed Church. Coffee is served from 10.30. Talk begins at 11 am with questions from 11.45 and concluding at 12 noon. Everyone is very welcome!

14. Date and Venue of next Meeting. Clitheroe Wed. 6th April 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9 pm