

## **Minutes of Parish Forum Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

**Present:** Sion Hall, Janet Hall, Bridget Hilton, Ann Cooke, Anthony Brown, Margaret Donnelly, Michael Bradley, Fr Joh, Teresa Mercer, Fr Kevin, Bernard Mercer, Lou Marsden, Arnold Marsten, Peter White, Susan White, Phil Withers, Carol Riley, Sheila Shore, Betty Collinson, Daphne Marsden, Ena Davies, Marie Valovin, Kathryn Clay, Mary-Clare Davidson, Susan Fellows, Tom Clay, Janet Clegg, Jane Brown, Andrew Brown.

Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting, a special welcome to Phil from Grantham who moved into the Parish yesterday.

1. Fr. Kevin opened the meeting with a special prayer, “Blessing of a Parish Forum”

2. **Apologies:** received Peter Donnelly, Mark Wiggins, Penelope D’Souza, Neil Wallace and Anne Bridges, Ann Precious

3. **Minutes of meeting held on Sept 21st** were accepted as a true record.

### **4. Matters Arising:**

- Bridget said she had not received minutes. Those not in receipt of minutes were asked to include their email address on the attendance list.
- Welcome pack – this is 99.9% completed and, after being checked by Fr. John, 100 will be printed initially for distribution. This is in the form of a flyer not a booklet. First meeting of the welcome group will be held on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 8 people have shown interest. Communications and media committee to put information on facebook and twitter and Janet will do some posters. Fr. Kevin has some further ideas which he and Fr. John will discuss. Thanks to Penelope and Neil for all their work.
- Laudate si – the parish Mission group have been holding sessions to study this document. Laudate si is a world-wide wake up call for humanity to understand the destruction that they are causing to our environment and to our fellow man. Two meetings have been held so far and the next sessions will be on Nov.23<sup>rd</sup>. Meetings are informal and last for an hour. Everyone is encouraged to come.
- Ladies Toilets – these are almost completed and are a huge improvement. There will be a baby changing station installed. Daphne asked that cheques towards the toilets be made out to Ladies Group to enable them to make a full statement of all who have contributed.
- Defibrillator – this is currently in the sacristy waiting to be hung up in the confessional. The meeting felt strongly that this was not an appropriate place as it needs to be visible and easily accessible. Fr. John will refer the matter to the maintenance committee.

### **5. Review of Recent Events.**

- **Mercy Brothers** – this was a sell out and raised £1500 for Cafod and raffle raised £416 for toilets. Cheques to be presented at the next ladies group meeting. Ladies trip to York is full and the Christmas dinner is on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. at the New Drop. in April at the time of the Queen’s birthday, Rose Holgate made a special cake which was photographed and sent to the Queen. A very lovely letter has been received from the Queen thanking the Ladies. Special thanks to Bernard for this and all the photos he takes.

### **6. Dunsop Carol Concert**

This is a long standing event led by the Slaidburn Band. This year it will start at 6.30pm on Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> and will be followed by mince pies etc in the village hall.

### **7. Christmas Fayre.**

It was agreed that this event is not an appropriate one at which to promote Parish Groups. Apologies from Fr. John and Fr. Kevin neither of whom will be able to attend. The hall will be available for setting up table on Saturday at 8.30pm and will be open at 9.30 am on Sunday to set up stalls. Fayre starts at 10.30 am. All raffle tickets to be returned to Janet by 9 am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.

### **8. Christmas Services.**

Saturday 24 Dec. Christmas Eve      **St Michael & St John's Clitheroe**  
Reconciliation - 11.00 to 1200 noon Children's Christmas Mass - 4.00pm  
Carols - 5.30pm                              Christmas Night Mass - 6.00pm  
**St Mary's Sabden**  
Reconciliation - 11.00 to 11.30am Carols - 7.30p  
Christmas Night Mass - 8.00pm

Sunday 25 Dec. Christmas Day

**St Hubert's Dunsop Bridge**              Christmas Day Mass - 9.00am  
**St Michael & St John's Clitheroe**      Christmas Day Mass - 10.00am

Monday 26 Dec. St Stephen's Day

**St Michael & St John's Clitheroe** Mass - 12noon

### **9. Weld Day**

A committee is needed to take charge of the organization of this. Tom and Catherine Clay, Peter White and Bernard Mercer agree to do this. Peter W said that Sabden now have an amplifier which can be used on that day.

### **10. Parish Sunday Walks.**

The first of these has been held successfully and finished at Puddleducks. Walks are about 6 miles and the next one will be in January after Sunday Mass at St. Huberts.

### **11. Refugee Come Dine With Me.**

People are asked to invite a Refugee into their home for a meal. Leaflets have been prepared with Caritas and Our Lady of the Valley Parish will be a pilot parish, if successful it will move into the Salford Diocese and then be introduced nationally. A data base is being prepared to match families. Forms are available for volunteers offering to host a meal. The project will not be limited to the Catholic Church.

### **12. Bishop's Decisions.**

Following the consultation, Bishop John has made the following decisions:

- a) We will have permanent Deacons. Arrangements for this are being discussed, preparation for ordination to the Diaconate will take up to 5 years.
- b) Sacraments of Initiation - Children will begin preparation for Confirmation in Y6 and will follow a programme, the details of which have not yet been finalized, for 2 years. Confirmation will be in Y8 and will be administered by the Bishop. Next year First Communion may be moved to Y4 but no decision made yet.
- c) Almanacs for 2017 will not be produced until Jan/Feb to allow time for the new arrangements to be included as well as the final amalgamation of Parishes.
- d) Baptism – Bishop John wants the whole Parish to be involved and people to be available to help. The Diocese is to adopt our procedure of having the first part

of baptism with the Parish at Mass. Congregation will be asked, “ Do you welcome N..... into the Parish Community?” and “Are you ready to help these parents to hand on the faith to N.....?”. Parents will be expected to come to Mass for 6 Sundays before baptism but there will be consideration of special situations eg. single parents, work commitment. More parishioners need to be involved in baptismal preparation. Godparents’ role is to present the child, with the parents, for baptism and to help them to lead a Christian life. Only one Godparent is required but 2 may be chosen, both must be baptized Christians and one a practicing Catholic. The possibility of having some baptisms during Mass will be discussed.

### **13. Microphones at meeting.**

Sheila Shore addressed the meeting saying that everyone who attended the Forum came voluntarily and wanted to be involved in decisions and know what is happening in the Parish. If some people are unable to hear because of hearing difficulty of a speaker having a soft voice then they had wasted their time. Not using microphones excludes some people. It was decided that a good hand held microphone would be purchased and be tuned into the wireless system. This microphone would be for parish use only. Until this is set up Sabden’s microphone will be used.

### **14. Body Blow.**

Fr. John had received a letter from Historic England relating to the historic significance of our Church building and that it now will be listed. This would create serious maintenance difficulties because of the restrictions that are imposed. Tom Clay pointed out that it was most likely to be Grade 2 listed and that it was important to have more details of what is proposed. Fr. John is in contact with the Diocese in relation to this.

### **15, Parish Groups**

- **Trafficking** – Prayer cards are now in St. John Vianny Deanery. Nottingham Diocese have copied the prayer and it has been distributed to every family in that diocese.
- **Flowers** – The Christmas tree Festival is to be held in Christ Church, Chatburn and this is the 7<sup>th</sup> year we have been asked to participate. Flower ladies have chosen the carol The three Kings to represent the 3 churches in our parish. Please let Jane Brown have any “words” which convey some work carried out in our parish.
- **SVP** – are getting referrals for help from agencies other than our church. eg. CAB, Food bank, enabling them to reach out to the wider community.
- **Prayers** – asked for Diane Ngoza, a refugee from the Congo, who has been in this county for 15 years and is now to be deported. Her appeal against this has been refused.

### **16. AOB.**

**Love Clitheroe** – a monthly worship event for children is to be held at the Clitheroe library Healing Rooms. The first one is on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**17. Dates of next Meetings.**                      **Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017 - 7.30 pm.**                      **Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 9 pm