

MINUTES OF PARISH FORUM MEETING Sept. 21st 2016

Present: Michael Bradley, Peter White, Susan White, Ann Cooke, Anne Precious, Neil Wallace, Bridget Hilton, Margaret Geddes, Marie Valovin, Ena Davies, Daphne Marsden, Betty Collinson, Lou Marsden, Catherine Clay, Tom Clay, Arnold Marsden, Bernard Mercer, Peter Sutcliffe, Meriel Woodward, Michael Fox, Sheila Shore, Joan Leeming, Carol Riley, Margaret Donnelly

1. Fr. John asked for Laura Moon (Assistant Secretary at School) to be included in our prayers and invited Fr. Kevin to open the meeting with a prayer. Mike welcomed everybody to the Forum with a special welcome to those attending for the first time.

2. Apologies: received from Peter Donnelly and Janet Clegg.

3. Minutes of meeting held on June 22nd were accepted as a true record with a slight correction – The Ladies group had raised money for Leukemia Research and not Arnold Marsden Jnr. who had been suffering from Leukemia.

4. Matters Arising: A bracket to hold the Defibrillator machine for the Confessional is on its way.

- Refurbishment work on the Ladies toilets to start on 31st October and be finished by 11th November., this to include new floorboards, ceiling, lighting and fittings.

5. Review of Recent Events: The Refugee/Asylum seekers day out had been a great success, Tom Clay thanked everyone who had helped and they are hoping to do it again next year. Caritas are trying to get individual households to have Refugee/Asylum seekers for a meal. Tom Clay hoping to set up a pilot scheme “Welcome a stranger” in this parish. A Refugee choir in Manchester hoping they will have the opportunity to perform a concert entitled “Revive”.

- The Sabden Summer Fair went well.

- The Duck race at Dunsop Bridge was a lovely sunny day and everyone had a wonderful time, a profit of £800 + was made.

6. Weld Day 2nd July 2017: Fr. John explained that although an organizing committee had been formed last September this year’s event had been organized at the last minute by Les Collinson, Arnold Marsden and Peter Donnelly. Peter White offered to organize the Ice cream for next year. This year’s event had gone well except for the weather, consequently the service and picnic were held in the Parish Hall. pp to gather a committee to organize in the future.

7. Children’s initiation programme: This year a new programme is being followed – “I belong” this involves work done in school and 7 sessions where they have to attend Mass with their parents then go into school to show parents what they have been doing. A volunteer Coffee and tea maker required for these sessions – Penelope D’Souza volunteered along with her husband.

8. Maintenance Committee: had recently had a meeting and Peter Foley had suggested that Notices be put up on the farm gate to prevent church goers from parking and blocking the entry to field to allow cars to turn.

- St. Mary’s Sabden to have new, joiner made, Church Doors.

9. Welcome Pack for new Parishioners: Bridget Hilton informed us that the group had had three meetings to discuss what information was needed in the pack. A further meeting to be held, to discuss the design of a threefold leaflet, to bring to the next Parish forum. It was suggested that the leaflets be available at School Parents’ evenings and Open Days. More

volunteers would be welcome to join this group. A sheet was distributed outlining the purpose of this new support group.

- Penelope D'Sussa is hoping to organize a Parish support group, this to be a pilot project for 6 months and then to be evaluated. Its purpose to help new members of the parish who have seen the leaflet and people who have lost contact with the Church. Suggested Drop-in sessions every two weeks for 1-1.5 hours. Continued ...

10. RCIA programme: Fr. Kevin, Neil Wallace, Tom and Catherine Clay backed by Fr John to present this every Tuesday for those wanting to know more about Catholicism and those who want to brush up their knowledge. The initial meeting will be on Tues. 4th October. Lou Marsden commented that he had seen the programme change over the years but it was very worthwhile. Fr. John may ask past graduates of the course to attend one of the meetings.

11. Laudato si: Fr. John explained that this is the title of the book written by Pope Francis about creation. Seven meetings have been planned to go through the 189 pages, commencing on Wed. 5th October in the Social Centre from 7.30 – 8.30pm.

12. Mercy Brothers Concert: The Ladies group are organizing a concert to be performed by Fr. Frankie and associates on Friday 14th October in the Hall. Tickets £8 will be on sale after Masses for the next three weekends. Concert Proceeds for CAFOD, Raffle proceeds to refurbishment fund for Ladies facilities.

13. Christmas Fayre, Clitheroe: Although a letter had gone out sometime back there had been a poor response from Church organisations. SVP will do a chocolate tombola, KSC – Bottle tombola, CAFOD – treasure map. Daphne offered £50 from Tea Dance funds. Meriel Woodward asked if Caritas could have a stall, Fr. John explained that it was for Church organisations only. Susan White suggested that each Parish keep the selling of Raffle tickets to within their own Parish.

14. Holy Communion: – delay in approaching the altar at Clitheroe. Fr. John requested that those sat in the side benches come forward earlier, after the Our Father prayer when the priest drinks from the chalice. At Funerals don't wait for family to come forward first.

15. Parish Sunday walks – Neil Wallace suggested that people go to Dunsop Bridge for mass on Sunday then walk, then lunch, during the summer at the Village Hall, the idea being to reinforce the sense of community within the whole parish. He will organize one for early November. Ann Cooke (D.B.) suggested a walk to end at Newton Village Hall where her garden adjoins so there could be a BBQ. Neil distributed a sheet outlining the idea.

16. Parish groups: KSC numbers reducing they are to ask Ladies group to help with forthcoming Jumble sale. On Wed. 28th December there will be the annual Quiz with proceeds for Mary's meals.

- Thirty of the Ladies group had been on an enjoyable Treasure Hunt in August with a supper at the Swan and Royal afterwards. The Tea Dances will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary in October. The Mercy Concert is on the 14th October. On the 7 Dec. there will be a trip to York Christmas market and the Minster. On 13th Oct. 2017 there will be a concert in Church by the Rossendale Male Voice Choir. AOB. On 2nd October there will be a sponsored walk in aid of a Mother and Baby unit at Bolton and the Ladies facilities. Sponsor sheets available. Please support by either walking or sponsoring. Cakes would be appreciated for the refreshment stops.

17. Dates of next Meetings:- Wed. Nov.16th and 8th Feb. 2017 at 7.30 pm
The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.