

## **MINUTES OF PARISH FORUM MEETING      February 8<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Present:** Fr. John, Fr. Kevin, Mike Bradley, Margaret & Peter Donnelly, Arnold Marsden, Anthony Brown, Daphne Marsden, Carol Riley, Patsy Holgate, Ena Davies, Jane & Andrew Brown, Arnold Marsden, Betty Collinson, Phil Withers, Bernard & Teresa Mercer, Ann Cooke, Christine Willman, Susan Fellows, Marie Valolin, Sheila Shore, Andy Brown, Bridget Hilton, Neil Wallace.

1. Peter D opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. **Fr. Wareing** died on Monday this week after suffering for some time. We prayed together for him. Fr. John said he had spoken to Fr. Power, the Jesuits superior, and had suggested that Fr. Wareing's funeral be at St. Michael and St. John's but we would wait for the wishes of the Provincial

3. Mike welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2017.

4. **Apologies:** received Penelope D'Souza, Grace Fellows, Chris Carr, Lou Marsden, Janet Clegg.

5. **Minutes of meeting held on November 16<sup>th</sup>** were accepted as a true record.

### **6. Matters Arising:**

- **Almanacs** – these should be ready for the Deanery Conference in 2 weeks time.
- **Welcome leaflet** – 3 different presentations of this were circulated. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the full picture of Our Lady (*from stained glass window in St. Hubert's*) be put on front page. 18 people voted for a brief history of the 3 churches to be put on the back page and the centralised print was accepted. RVBC will produce 100 copies on good quality paper for £9. Forum agreed to this. Fr. Kevin will proof read the leaflet before it goes to print and £30 for copyright of the window to be paid.
- **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. Five meetings have been held so far and the last session will be on ..... Groups read and discuss the document, put together the main points in a plenary and decide on the next step. Sessions have been well attended and enjoyed and are about both the environment and ourselves. Bridget has arranged for Nigel Evans to come to a parish meeting to discuss this and it was agreed that Sunday after Mass would be the best time.
- **Parish walks** – 2<sup>nd</sup> walk to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, after Mass at Dunsop Bridge. 2 levels of walk will be organized and will be followed by lunch in Puddleducks Café

### **7. Review of Recent Events.**

- **Christmas Fayre** – not well attended, no school choir, ladies had to clean kitchen before preparing food and had refreshments left. £1000 more could have been raised if groups had sold all raffle tickets. Question whether there will be one next year.

- **Flower team** – tree at Christmas tree Festival had theme of the 3 Kings representing the 3 churches. The Festival raised £2000 for Chatburn Church, thanks to ladies and flower team. Altar will again be decorated at Easter with lilies bought by parishioners in memory of loved ones.
- **Advent Services** – a) Service of Light at Sabden was well attended and enjoyed. Very well led by Fr. Kevin. b) Carols at Dunsop was also well attended by 3 churches, excellent refreshments in Village Hall where people were able to mingle. Suggested that next year there is a coach or those with cars offer lifts to other parishioners wishing to go.
- **Mass 4pm Christmas Eve** – this Mass was extremely well attended with many children present. It was felt that it was disappointing that children were unable to go for a blessing because of time and numbers. As a welcoming community and at Christmas, which for some people is the only time they come to Mass, we should try next year to resolve the problems and make it possible. Carols before the 6 pm Mass need to be shorter. The congestion when people were arriving for 6 pm Mass was seen as a difficulty but also regarded positively because so many people were celebrating Christmas Mass.

## 8. Lent.

- **Stations** – there are still 2 Fridays to be taken for leading these. St. Augustines hopefully will take one of these. As there are more than 6 groups in Parish, they are asked on an annual rota basis to lead Stations .
- **Lenten Talks** – Churches Together waiting for confirmation of use of Social centre. Talks will be on 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- **Good Friday Cross** – This is usually organized by Lou and Les. John Alcock is to take this on. Procession starts from Trinity Church.
- **Easter Vigil** – 8pm and then usual Sunday Mass times.
- **First Reconciliation** – 15<sup>th</sup> March at Clitheroe, also reconciliation for parishioners, 19<sup>th</sup> March at Dunsop after 10am Mass and Sabden to be arranged.
- **Lent Sacrifices** – it was suggested that these be linked to Laudate Si and our environmental responsibility – eg, less TV, walking instead of driving.

## 9. Maintenance.

- a) **Dunsop** - Church, lynch gate and church wall in the process of being listed. £1000 has been put aside for essential repairs to church roof, presbytery porch roof and repairing and cleaning gutters.
- b) **Sabden** – New church doors in place and coping stones on gable end of house have been repaired. Hall to have facilities put in back entrance and new light at the back. Lights to be put over gable end and in the front entrance. Water boiler to be replaced.
- c) **SMSJ School** – Major building work to commence on Monday Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>. Drive between church and school will be inaccessible. School building to be extended and enhanced and work will continue until at least July. There is no cost to the Parish.
- d) **SMSJ Church** – This will be listed but ecclesiastical exemption is being sought. This will mean that some interior work can be carried out. The listing of the presbytery is being fought. Choir gallery is to be carpeted and have new heaters. Organ has been serviced but requires attention because plaster has dropped between 2 magnets.
- e) **Social Centre** – Between January and June 2016 increases on 2015 were as follows: 14% increase in bar takings, 56% increase in room hire and 41% increase in

hire of all facilities. There have been 10 wedding receptions, 3 town functions, 76 functions using in house catering and 116 functions , of which 47 required a bar, without catering. 19,055 people used the facilities throughout the year. Despite many Parish Clubs in the Diocese being closed ours is paying its way through hard work. A grease trap is needed outside, cost £1000. Ladies toilets cost £15848. Ladies group will have raised between £3,000 and £4,000 towards this cost. Hygiene rating has gone from 5\* to 3\* as the Centre is now in a higher category but hopefully, when inspected, will go back to 5\*. Minor things to be dealt with are 1) security light out of kitchen not working, 2) hooks in entrance can be easily removed, 3) mat needed on back entrance ramp, 4) toilet roll holder in middle ladies toilet has dangerously long nails, needs adjustment. 5) shortage of coat hooks in entrance. 6) loop system in hall is not working.

### **10. Clitheroe Loop System**

This is not working because of a clash between electrical systems, ie music sound system and loop system. Loop is switched off when electrical instruments are in use. This disables some people from participating in the service. Fr. Kevin to sort this out with the Music Group.

### **11. Permanent Diaconate – ( deacons who will not continue to the Priesthood)**

This is open to married or single men aged between 35 and 50. Once ordained, single men may not marry and if married men are widowed they may not remarry. Anyone who would consider this vocation speak to Fr. John.

It was pointed out that this would have been a good opportunity to enroll women and to move forward in the church. Some discussion followed. Fr. John said, because of present church law we cannot do anything . Pope Francis, however, is slowly but definitely pushing women into higher positions.

### **12. Catechist Training.**

No new volunteers have come forward for this yet. We need more catechists and the course is very worthwhile. Suggestions to Fr. John.

### **13. Parish Groups**

**i) Communications and Media -** At the last meeting group agreed that the remit of the Communications and Media Group is to help the Parish and Parish groups communicate more effectively by using all means of communication to provide people with the best possible information. This communication aims to help us to become an interactive, informed, welcoming, Missionary Parish. The following actions were agreed.

- Mailchimp to be set up,
- A member of each Parish group to be contacted to help them update their information and promote their group. Set up an email link on the website (olotv.org.uk)
- Collect email addresses of group contacts at Forum for inclusion in an email list.
- Help individual groups set up their own email list and Face Book.
- Once email link and mailchimp are set up, ask parishioners, who are willing, for their email addresses.
- Add OLOTV Facebook and Twitter IDs to newsletter header.

A communications officer has been appointed in the Diocese and wants to have an officer in each Parish.

**ii) SVP** - Dates for Mass of Healing – May 7<sup>th</sup> and September 17<sup>th</sup>

**iii) Seedlings** - Parents contribution now £1.50. Need for baby changing facilities in men's' toilets as men do bring children. Fr. John told Grace to organize this.

**iv) Welcoming Group** – is in the process of collecting email addresses; can link with Communication and Media group.

**v) Ladies Group** – Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – Trip to York, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Tea dance, 64 people attended, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> – Annual dinner at the Newdrop. next event will be a fashion Show on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**vi) Pause for Hope Service** – Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>. Ray Donnelly is coming to Speak, Ribble Valley Church choir will be singing. This is for anyone involved with or affected by Cancer. Everybody is welcome. It will be an ecumenical service and there will be refreshments in church afterwards.

**14. Dates of next Meeting.**

**Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – 7.30 pm**

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm