

Laudato Si' Meeting: 13 November, 2019

Present: Mark Wiggin, Anthony Brown, Andrew Brown, Ann Cooke, Peter Foley, Sheila Shore, Grace Fellows

Apologies: Pauline Wiggin, Mary Brown, Antony Brown.

1. Action Points from last meeting

Sheila will contact St Mary's, Clayton le Moors and arrange a further visit. Andrew Brown and Anthony Brown would like to Join Sheila. St Mary's uses coloured bins throughout the school premises which is an idea we should promote within our parish churches and schools. We need to engage more with schools. Following Bishop John's pastoral letter there were hundreds of positive responses from schools indicating widespread potential.

Action: Sheila will approach St Mary's

Action: Anthony/ Sheila will approach Zoe Mabbott at Clitheroe

Action: Ann will approach Olga Jackson at Dunsop Bridge

Action: Anthony will approach Fr Paul to find out about Laudato Si' initiatives at his former parish and linked school

Mark Wiggin had spoken to Ricky Davies about recycling costs and practices. Ricky manages most of the diocesan social clubs and there isn't a policy because such would imply an unacceptable degree of direction. At Fr John's recent retirement party it was all plates and cutlery so waste and recycling wasn't an issue although we suspect that uneaten food was thrown away in black bags where there is no separation. Were paper and cardboard separated and left out there is the risk of contamination and possible Weil's Disease from rat urine. Asking the social club to separate and deal with waste is probably not something the club would consider so the answer may be to give Kevin a solution as well as a problem i.e. if the social club separates waste, the Laudato Si' Group will deal with it.

Action: Mark to raise at an upcoming Ricky Davies meeting and explore the issues and costs further .

There will be a Refugee Day Out meeting before Christmas. Anthony has drafted an email for Mark

Action: Mark will finalise and arrange

We will have one Free Trade Sunday during Advent. Supplies will be ordered for both Sabden and Clitheroe. In time the idea would be to change from sale or return to buying and maintaining stock with profit going to CAFOD

Action: Andrew to organise

We agreed with Fr John to go ahead with turning land at St Michael and St John's into an eco-friendly environment. Peter Foley agreed to put some ideas onto a survey.

Action: Anthony Brown to seek a copy of the St Michael and St John's grounds survey from Fr Paul.

We agreed to present on progress at the next but one Parish Forum. This will include putting guidelines for the Parish on recycling and Fairtrade. We have the Fairtrade award already but good practice is not currently being observed and needs to be reinstated.

**Action: Mark and Anthony to prepare and deliver a Parish Forum presentation.
Action: Anthony to draft a motion for the Parish Forum to direct churches to observe Fairtrade procurement which Peter will sign and present.**

Mark has spoken to Fr Eamonn Mulcahy who has agreed to present to the Parish between New Year and Lent.

Action: Mark to fix a date

2. Latest Wisdom on recycling and eco-bricks

The meeting shared the latest wisdom on recycling and eco-bricks:

- Micro plastics find their way into the environment in ways that aren't so obvious. There is plastic in tea bags and tiny particles of plastic come out of clothing when washed. We tend to wash clothes more frequently than is necessary.
- The local council is now accepting code 5 plastics (polypropylene) which includes yogurt containers, syrup and medicine bottles, caps, straws
- The best eco-bricks are used in building in some foreign countries and are made from shredded plastic mixed with cement. These bricks are stronger and last longer than conventional bricks. Eco-brick guidance for us suggests that a fully packed 4 pint milk bottle should weigh around 750 grams. This is much more than anything we have produced so far where the weight varies from around 250 grams to 500 grams. Sheila Shore is painting and decorating eco-bricks where filling is completed with sand. These can be used as eco door stops.
- A new £7 million plant planned for Ellesmere Port could see waste plastic converted to eco-friendly hydrogen fuel See [Daily Express article](#).
- Dunsop Bridge is probably leading the Parish in eco-friendly practice. Plates made with sugar cane can go into food waste which it biodegrades along with it. To avoid repetition of a near car collision with the gate at St Huberts church two barrels made of recycled material and filled with recycled soil have been used to contain trees which will force vehicles away from the gate. A "green cone" is proving effective in turning food waste into compost and should be considered for St Michael and St John's.

3. Suggested action from Global Healing

The series of Global Healing events produced a number of ideas to progress which we will pursue at the next meeting. A few ideas were raised on how we might take ideas forward:

- Circulate ideas for a New Year Resolution pledge
- Capture stories on Facebook
- Do a newsletter back page

Action: All

4. Any Other Business

The film: Pope Francis, a Man of his Word, was well received and should be shown again. It was proposed that we give the wider faith and non-faith community an opportunity perhaps at the United Reform Church.

Action: Anthony to approach Geoff Holmes

The [engaGE19 website](#) has gone live which aims to guide ethical voting in the general election on issues of Family (Marriage, Family and Tax, Relationships and Sex Education, Online Safety) , Life (Abortion, Assisted Suicide) and Justice (Religious Liberty, Human Trafficking, Prostitution).

Next meeting is January 22, 2020

Action: Anthony to inform Janet