

Laudato si' Meeting, 18 December, 2023

Present: Katrina Harkin, Liz Cullen, Phil Ryan, Kay Curphey, Anthony Brown.
Apologies: Mark Wiggin, Antony Brown, Joan Leeming

SSMJ Primary School Christmas Choir Concert

All agreed the concert had been a great success, with school and parish choirs, liturgy and prayers and good attendance of parents and parishioners. It was an excellent example of the school proclaiming the message of the Gospels in the world of a child today and reaching out to the fuller Parish community. Once again Zoe emphasized the context of strengthening the school/parish link

Garden Priorities

The dead hedging is progressing well with the ends now cut away to create space between hedge and the trees they initially butted up against.

We have taken a lot of long shoots from the willow dome and await Antony Brown's advice on how much more we should take. Ideally we would like to restore the dome which is now much depleted. There are plenty of branches from the large bough which fell from the tree on the playing field but much more difficult to use than willow. These branches may have to be the main option for the future.

Katrina has been given 250 bee bomb and 100 daffodil bulbs which we will use in the spring, locations to be decided. Snow drops are a good option for an early display of awakening life.

We are rewilding in selected spaces and the yellow rattle has taken hold a little. For wild flowers to take, we need to trim the grass which will otherwise choke anything else.

Action – All attending, and the Laudato si' Group generally to share ideas on priorities. Anthony Brown to seek advise from Antony Brown.

The strip next to the church is somewhat problematic given it's so shaded. We will consider bulbs but it's low on the current priority list.

The artificial ground is in a dangerous condition and needs attending to. Complete removal would cost well over £10,000, way beyond any money we are likely to get in the near future. An option would be to bid, mid-January for £5,000 which would enable part to be removed and create safe pathways with perhaps borders of pots or tyres with plants. It would be a start to a longer term more complete solution. Katrina could put in the bid but needs help/wisdom on the basis for the bid.

Action – All attending and the Laudato si' Group generally to share ideas on what a revamped artificial ground area would look like, to enable Katrina to put in a bid for £5,000 by mid-January

The paths themselves between the artificial ground and the willow dome need a lot more wood chip – Katrina estimated 15 tons – which is currently beyond any immediate resolution.

Fun Day/Weld Day Alternative

Given the success of the 2023 Fun Day it is clear that this is a good way forward for building community, raising awareness, and providing an alternative to the loss of Weld Day. Fr Paul's main argument against the Weld Day Mass is the difficulty for Sabden parishioners to attend the Weld Day Mass. Since the commitment only applies to Clitheroe it can easily be met without the full-on event we experienced pre-

Covid. However Weld Day Masses were more than meeting a commitment as they were an excellent opportunity to welcome the new communicants and to enjoy the donated wine, ice cream and strawberries. To reintroduce those things we might need promote an alternative event focusing on the new communicants.

Action – Weld Day Alternative to be the main agenda item for the next meeting.

Nearly New Sale

This will be on Saturday, January 27 between 3.30 and 5.00 pm, the date non-negotiable to fit in with the Bags for School timetable.

The Bags for School part of the day limits donations to clothing and bedding but an addition might be an unwanted Christmas present stall (but not called that).

Action: Liz to draft an newsletter insertion for December 31 including a request for volunteers. All at the meeting to check and approve. Kay to explore storage of clothing on the church premises, with Janet. All to comment on/approve the idea of an unwanted Christmas Presents Stall. Anthony to email the full group seeking volunteers for the day.

Katrina briefly mentioned two other ideas for future events - a CAFOD Lent sponsored walk around town (1 and 5 miles perhaps), and a litter picking collection around scenic parts of Clitheroe such as the castle grounds

Diocesan Synod

The Diocesan Synod Big Listen ends on 19 January and although the three month timescale might have seemed generous, with Advent and Christmas, and a general slow start, it has become very tight indeed. The Parish Big Listen will be shortly after Christmas. Joe Howson and Anthony Brown are Deanery Synod Members and are planning a 3 hour event after the Big Listen which will comprise:

- Parish Synod Members and anyone else who wishes to come – all baptized people and not just Catholics can attend and particularly welcome are people who no longer attend Mass. The event will miss the deadline by a few days but we don't anticipate a problem with the Diocese accepting the synthesis.
- Prayer and reflection with liturgy, music and contributions on what has come out of the earlier Synod syntheses and Deanery Bit Listen sessions.
- Lunch
- Big Listen with (probably) four questions, each person in small groups to speak uninterrupted while others listen. At the end of each round people write what has impacted most from listening.

Action: Anthony to promote in the wider group and the Parish as an event linked with the missionary parish concept and Laudato si'.

Future Garden Days and the next meeting.

Action: Next garden days 13 January and 3 February to be considered and agreed by all at the meeting. Anthony to email for Ideas for a date for the next meeting to all at the meeting and other key figures – Mark, Antony, PTA.