

Minutes of the Parish Forum held on Wed. Nov 7th 2012

Present:

Peter White (Chair), Rev. J. Corcoran, Margaret Donnelly, Susan White, Arnold Marsden, Mike Bradley, , Peter Donnelly, Lou Marsden, Teresa Mercer, Bernard Mercer, Maureen Mercer, Andy Brown, , Vincent Murray, Janet Clegg, Marie Valolin, ena Davies, Betty Collinson, Les Collinson, G Downes, Jane Brown, Andrew Brown, Cliff Astin, Sheila Barry, Peter Sutcliffe, Katy Collins.

1. The meeting opened at 7.30 with a prayer led by Teresa Mercer.
Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Daphne Marsden, Carole Riley, Patsy Holgate, Christine and Les Dixon, Carol & Harry Waterworth

3. **Minutes** of the meeting of Sept 19th 2012 were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising.

Peter D pointed out that “Feedback” was not an item on the agenda of this meeting.

5. Reports.

- ❖ **Sabden Bell** - This is now up and ringing. It is set to ring at 9 am, 12 noon, 6 pm and is rung manually for services, weddings, funerals.
- ❖ **Sacristy.** – Work to be completed Thurs ready for cleaning and carpet fitting. Almost every wall and ceiling re-plastered or skimmed. Sacristy has been redesigned to provide a vestment press, cleaning store, flower area and altar servers cupboard. Sacristy roof completely replaced because of condition and many minor repairs carried out to main roof. A key pad has been put on house door to deter thieves.
- ❖ **Hall Wall** – Damp problem has been rectified and a curtain is to be hung instead of putting up a false wall. this will improve the acoustics and be cheaper.
- ❖ **Church Benches** – Fr. John has been investigating the cost of stripping some of the benches and putting on padded seats.. Money will have to be raised for this.
- ❖ **Distribution of Christmas cards.** – Janet had no problem getting volunteers for this though she has some difficulty getting correct current addresses. Volunteers to distribute as last year.
- ❖ **Year of Faith** – 2 groups have met. 9 people attended at Sabden Sat at 10 am and 2 went to Bernard Warren’s, Mon 2 pm. Next meeting after 7.30 pm Mass Thurs. All information for the deanery on website, www.faithforlife.org.uk

6. Toddlers Service.

Katie outlined her proposal for a service for pre-school and reception age children at Sabden, monthly, starting on 15th Dec. Format would be i) welcome, ii) music & opening hymn, iii) light candle, sign of cross, iv) bible story with relevant materials, v) Our Father, vi) noisy hymn. group to be called “All God’s Children”. The forum thanked and applauded Katie for this initiative and unanimously gave her their support. Vincent hoped that we would be able to mirror this in Clitheroe.

7. **Reaching non church going Catholics.** There is a resource day, 9.30 am to 4 pm, Sat 2nd Feb ’13, at St. Mary’s Church, Leyland looking at this issue. Fr. John asked people to attend. He also reminded us to invite someone to come to Mass at Christmas.

8. Diocesan altar servers event and Bishop's visit.

Fr. John has been asked to host the diocesan altar server's event . This will take place on 9th March 2013 at 9 am in the Hall. It will be run by the diocese and Marina will coordinate with the diocese. Mass at 12 noon celebrated by Bishop Brain.

9. Thursday Mass

Numbers are dropping but we will continue with it for a little longer. Fr. emphasised "Use it or loose it"

10. Readers

Young people to be included in the rota and do one of the readings with the designated adult reading the others.

11. Advent Service of Light

Fr. John has written the service which will be an Advent meditation. Children's service and activities will take place at the same time in the hall and the children will join the adults for the conclusion of the service. Sabden – Dec. 2nd , Clitheroe Dec. 16th at 4 pm

12. School Reports.

Clitheroe.

- ❖ School website now live www.ssmj.lancsngfl.ac.uk
- ❖ School lifts in place but outside ramps required for completion of project.
- ❖ School to run sweet stall at Christmas Fayre.
- ❖ Singing at Grand – Fair Trade event Sat 24th Nov prior to Christmas Fayre.
- ❖ Mini Christmas Fayre in school – Fri 7th Dec.
- ❖ Choir charity fund raising – at Sainsbury's 11th/13th Dec .outside M&Co 15th Dec, Booth's (to be confirmed)
- ❖ Rotary Carol Service – Wed 12th Dec 7 pm.
- ❖ A top office in school is to be converted into a Chapel / Quiet room.
- ❖ 8 members of staff have been trained in Rainbows Bereavement Support.
- ❖ Children are making the Christmas cards for the S.V.P.

Sabden No report

13. Rotary Civic carol service

David Blessard (parishioner) has asked for this to take place in St Michael & St. John's this year. To be held on Dec 12th at 7 pm. Dignitaries to attend. Karen Wilkinson to sing solo and children will enter with lights. rotary provide refreshments and collection will go towards the bench appeal.

14. Christmas Fayre

In order to avoid a clash with Sabden, there will not be a Grand Draw, this may take place later in the year. Sabden's draw is for an Ipad. Fayre on Dec 1st 2 pm to 4 pm. Excellent afternoon teas!

15. Culture of silence before Mass.

Arnold expressed view that it is far too noisy in church before Mass. Peret W had printed small cards asking people to respect the dignity of Church and distributed them at Sabden. It seemed to work. Fr. John said that he would try this in Clitheroe.

16. Social concern RVBCproposal

Decision had been made in Council that ½ of loss of income would be raised from tax on second homes and the remainder shared by tax payers. To raise the tax on 2nd homes is legally allowed but not to share the remainder among council tax payers, so has to be taken from those in receipt of benefit.

17. Reports.

- ❖ **Website:** Meeting held in Sabden, Craig, Peter, Susan and Andy attended. some things on development site still not working.
- ❖ **Signage:** Mike has had 3 meetings and each time Martin Nugent has agreed to do this. Mike will persevere!
- ❖ **Foodbank:** 30 people attended meetings. Nothing can happen until suitable premises are obtained. Other foodbanks have been visited to acquire information. It is proposed to open store Mon, Wed, Fri, for 3 hours each day when premises are available.
- ❖ **Vocation sponsorship:** Aim is to raise £500 year towards training of an African or Asian priest. Peter S. to bring this up at the next K.S.C. meeting.
- ❖ **Cemetery:** Trees need to be taken down, cemetery is a huge expense to the parish but can only be handed to the council if no graves are to be opened. Fr. John to speak to people with spaces in graves and suggest that the parish offer graves to these people in the new cemetery or that they pay for the maintenance of the old one.

18. Committee Group Reports

- ❖ **Cafod:** £155 raised on stall at Hurst Green flea market. World Gift catalogues now available for Christmas gifts. Sat. Nov 17th Special day of celebration of Cafod's 50th Anniversary in Salford Cathedral Centre. All welcome, details on poster in church porch.
- ❖ **S.V.P:** Sabden parishioner's to be asked to join Clitheroe Conference. Rae to speak at mass on Nov. 25th. 50 members in Blackburn attended Festival looking at Spirituality. The Christmas collection will help 30 families. All money collected goes to people in need locally.
- ❖ **Christmas Tree Festival:** Parish invited by Trinity to exhibit a tree at their Festival. Flower ladies have chosen circles as their theme. The Circle Christian symbol represents eternity, no beginning, no end. Seedlings and children from both schools will make individual circles which will be joined to form a tree. Circles will be separated and used to decorate the church after the festival. Parishioners and parish groups are invited to make their own circles and return them decorated by 8th / 9th Dec. Greenery is desperately needed to decorate church.

19. A.O.B.

- ❖ New Year's Day Mass at 12 noon
- ❖ Reviews and feedback to be standing item on agenda.
- ❖ Knight's Annual Fun Quiz Thurs. 27th Dec. Proceeds for H.C.P.T.

19. Date of next meeting. Wed. 30th Jan 2013 at 7.30pm Sabden
Meeting closed at 9.23pm