

Minutes of the Parish Forum held on Wed. Jan 30th 2013

Present:

Peter White (Chair), Rev. J. Corcoran, Margaret Donnelly, Susan White, Arnold Marsden, Peter Donnelly, Lou Marsden, Teresa Mercer, Bernard Mercer, Maureen Mercer, Andy Brown, Les Collinson, Jane Brown, Andrew Brown, Peter Sutcliffe, Sion Hall, Janet Hall, Jennifer Donovan, Carol Waterworth, Margaret Parsons, Pat Whitwell, Margaret Waling, Claire Jones

1. The meeting opened at 7.30 with Fr. John acknowledging Peter Hardwick's immense contribution to the development of the Forum and commending him to the father whom he had served so faithfully. Prayers followed.

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Daphne Marsden, Carole Riley, Mike Bradley, Vincent Murray, Janet Clegg, Marie Valolin,

Ena Davies, Christine Cartwright, Jennifer Mead, Amanda Taylor, Claire Halstead.

Betty Collinson

3. **Minutes** of the meeting of Nov 7th 2012 were approved and signed.

Margaret asked that everyone with an email address please make sure that Janet has it.

4. Review of Recent Events.

- **Toddlers Service:** Two services have taken place. 5th Dec Advent, 9th Jan Epiphany. Related Bible stories were told with appropriate activities. Very successful and enjoyable services, attended by approx 20 nursery and reception children. Next one on 6th Feb, Theme: Jesus and the 12 apostles.
- **Christmas service/ events:** i) **Clitheroe Christmas Fayre**, Lunch over too quickly and too cheap. Ladies will review. Saturday proved to be a successful day to hold this.

ii) **Sabden Christmas Fayre**, well attended and raised £1280, iii) **2 Ecumenical services** at Sabden were packed, service of light was well attended and both were beautiful services and thoroughly enjoyed. **Carol Service** (Sabden) was a lovely occasion, well supported with youth participating. **Unity Service** in the Baptist Church (Sabden) again a successful village event. The two advent reflections were beautiful but not well attended. iv) **Clitheroe Ecumenical service** at St. Mary's was too long. v) **Rotary Service** at SSMJ was excellent. The children's participation really enhanced the service.

- **Christian Unity Week.** Services in Sabden and Clitheroe. 95 people attended in Clitheroe.
- **Year of Faith groups** Sabden has held 3 meetings. 9 – 10 people attend. Clitheroe has 2 groups and a 3rd to start this week. The Icon of St John Southworth should be with us in April. Service on website, pack available for schools to download. Year of Faith bell comes with icon.

5. Reaching non churchgoing Catholics.

Meeting to be held at St. Mary's Leyland, Sat Feb. 4th. 10am to 4pm. This will be comprised of work shops to explore ways of reaching these Catholics. Andy Brown will give lift to any one wishing to attend. Short discussion on this.

6. Lent

Stations of the Cross each Friday are covered by Parish groups: Feb 15th S.V.P,

Feb 22nd K.S.C, March 1st Loyola Cubs, March 8th St Augustines, March 15th Cafod,

March 22nd Sabden.

There will also be Stations each Tuesday of Lent at Sabden.

Maureen asked that Stations be specially mentioned in the newsletter.

7. Holy Week

- Ash Wednesday: Mass & Distribution of Ashes – 9.15 am , 7.30 pm Clitheroe, 11 am Sabden
- Holy Thursday: 8 pm. Mass, 9 pm. Watching, 10 pm. Compline
- Good Friday: 9 am Stations, Clitheroe 10 am Stations, Sabden, 10 am Service at Trinity, 11 am Walk of Witness followed by service at Castle Gate. 3 pm Good Friday Solemn Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross in St Michael & St John's . This is the most important service for Catholics on Good Friday.
- Saturday: 8 pm Easter Vigil & Mass in Clitheroe
- Sunday: Masses at normal times.

Peter Sutcliffe requested that we return to having the Vigil at dawn but Fr John said that this was not possible now that we have two churches.

8. Frankie's Ordination.

13th July at 12 noon Bishop has agreed that a coach from the parish can attend this. A coach will be put on for this. List at back of church for names.

9. Defibrillator

Arnold proposed that we buy a defibrillator to be kept in church for use by church and school. Cost £800. He will appeal to parishioners for funding for this. A parent of a child in our school will supply, demonstrate and train responders. This has to be carefully thought out before putting in place. It was suggested that responders are added to the rotas of readers, welcomers etc.

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

This has been cancelled because of poor response. Bishop will now come only for Confirmation. Fr. John has written to 16 parents.

11. Property Reports.

Sanctuary: Contractor to give cost for repair of damaged marble in sanctuary. 6 to 8 inches will be gained by removing wooden extension at front of sanctuary. More space is needed here.

Peter S asked about double glazing being fitted in church. Fr. John explained that the only way to eliminate draught from windows is to re-set the lead lights.

Presbytery: There are 7 areas of damp and ingress of water in the building and in confessional. Some re-pointing to be done and cherry picker to be hired after Easter for 3 days to investigate guttering, flashing, slates etc on both church and presbytery.

Sacristy: Wall to be touched up now it is dry.

Dower House: Car park has been reclaimed and bollards need to be installed. Dower House now vacant and awaiting decision for future use. It is an excellent 4 bedroomed house with gardens. If £15000 - £18000 was spent on renovation it could be rented out to recuperate the outlay. Eventually Fr. John would like this property to be converted into 2 self contained flats to accommodate 2 active, retired priests.

Catholic Club: Planning application made for metal gates for Lowergate.

Scout Hut: Lease completed and scouts renting this for £50 annual rent.

Sabden: Window repairs to be completed and painting of the windows to be undertaken.

Clitheroe hall: Leak to be dealt with when we have cherry picker.

12. Church Benches.

Fr. John has arranged for one bench to be taken away dismantled, stripped and oiled free of charge then returned to church for parishioner's reaction. Work will be priced and if we decide to proceed people will be asked to sponsor renovation of a bench.

13. Representatives at Andy Froud's Induction.

Fr. John has been invited to this but is unable to attend. Andy will be inducted as Vicar by Bishop of Burnley on 10th Feb. There was nobody present at the Forum who wanted to represent the parish.

14. School Reports.

Please find Sabden's report at end of minutes.

There was no report from Clitheroe.

15. Culture of Silence before Mass.

This item postponed to next meeting.

16. Reports

- **Website:** No news. Meeting to be arranged.
- **Street signage:** Mike has been promised 4 signs but is still chasing them up!
- **Vocation sponsorship:** Carried over to next meeting.
- **Cemetery:** Carried over to next meeting.
- **Cafod:** Lent Fast Day – Fri 22nd Feb. Stall at Hurst Green flea market – Sun. 24th Feb 9 am to 4 pm. Refreshments available all day. fair-trade fortnight – Mon. 24th Feb – Sun. 10th March. Look out for logo. Next Cafod meeting – Tues 12th March at 10 am in presbytery. All welcome.
- **Pro Life:** Day of Prayer – 16th March Exposition 9 am to 6 pm. Sponsored Walk – 27th May.
- **S.V.P:** Christmas collection raised £400. £650 was given to people in need. 22 families received £22 each and everyone on list was visited, many received chocolates or biscuits.

- **Red Mission Boxes:** Gift aiding has made a difference to collection. More collectors are needed. Collections are 4 times a year at appropriate times.

17. A.O.B.

- **Eucharistic Services:** Insufficient people available in Clitheroe while Fr. John was away. Lily and Maureen to look into this.
- **Financial Report:** Peter D. asked if one would be available for the parish. Fr. John said that Peter Lambert is currently working on this. A report will be presented to the finance committee and then to the parish in the near future.
- **Parish Hall:** Requests for a readable clock and white line round the edge of the stage. Les to write letter of request to Mike Bradley.
- **Easter Decoration of Church:** It was agreed that lilies be donated in memory of loved ones as last year. Book of remembrance to be put out at beginning of Lent.

Meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

**18. Date of next meeting. Wednesday March 20th 7.30 pm
Clitheroe**

St Mary's RC Primary School Report

Sorry I can't be with you tonight but I am in Clitheroe, The Grand cheering our ex-pupil Tom Muldoon on in the GRAB contest - Claire Halstead.

September 2012

Even though this was our first month back at school we were very busy. The term started with all teaching staff becoming First Aid trained to keep us safe at all times. Y5/6 had their 5 day residential holiday to Wales. They stayed in beautiful surroundings and took part in many different activities including abseiling, zip wire and bike rides. The current Y4/5 children are now getting excited about next September's joint French Excursion with St Michael and St John's. Our cricket coaching continued and Y3/4 had a full term practising their skills, it is now the turn of Y5/6 again. Our FSA began to hold Coffee Mornings and Afternoon Teas. They are well attended and are a great time for parents and friends to just get together and enjoy a brew and a break. September also saw the FSA launch their Fundraiser - Parable of The Talents. It was fabulous, the whole school got involved in some form and it raised over £1400.

October 2012

Early in the month Sabden Horticultural Society helped us to plant daffodil bulbs. Every child planted a bulb in a class planter. When Spring comes the Sabden Horticultural Society will come back and kindly judge each planter deciding on the best one. October saw us have a visit from the Creepy Crawly Roadshow. This is a fabulous charity that bring different creatures into school, talk about them and let you hold them. They bring creatures that aren't usually viewed as pets but it turns out cockroaches can be cute! The children had photos taken holding snakes. Parents paid for these and this money was donated to the charity. The Sacramental Program began and this time we have 8 children working towards their confirmation and First Holy Communion. Thank you to all at St Mary's church who make this possible. It was also in October that Y5/6 learned to dance. We were lucky to be involved with the Intergenerational Dance that was organised and run by The Grand in

Clitheroe. This was a fabulous scheme where the children received tuition in a few different styles of dancing, parents or grandparents were then invited to some of the lessons to join in and the whole thing culminated in a marvellous 'Dance Off' event held at The Grand in November. It was great for the children and so lovely to see different generations joining in a fun activity together.

November 2012

November saw the return of the popular after school club Dodgeball. Lots of children attended the club and the sport often involves children who don't usually opt for sporting activities. The company that provides the Dodgeball club also helped school to have a Numeracy/Sports morning. Each class was treated to a class based session where they had to manage the money for a pretend Football Club and then tried out different physical activities that may be practised at a football club. This was an exciting morning and a good way to show the children how maths is very important in the real world. This month the FSA held 'Songs From The Musicals' Night - Clitheroe Town band played whilst the audience sang along and enjoyed a pie and pea supper. It was brilliant.

December 2012

This is our very busy month, but a lovely month for being part of a church school and being able to enjoy the fellowship and celebration of the Christmas season. December started with The Festival of Light being held at St Mary's. It was a great experience to work with the whole of Sabden community and it was lovely for school to be given the chance to lead the children's worship. It also turns out that electronic tea lights are the best invention ever! We also joined with Sabden County Primary to sing two carols round the tree the night the Sabden tree lights were lit. As light relief we took the whole school to see the pantomime 'Peter Pan'

at Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre. This was super fun even though Captain Hook was quite a frightening baddie. The children had been working hard on their own performances. KS1 presented their show 'It's A Nativity' telling the greatest story of all and then KS2 put on their show 'Primary School Christmas Musical'. Both shows were a brilliant way for our children to show their acting and singing talents.

January 2013

We now have 71 pupils in school after another child joined us. It is great that we are a growing school and the Staff and Governors are working hard to develop the school building to cope with future expansions. We have been attending All God's Children Mass, here our Reception children join in with pre-school children for worship. It is another lovely link with the Parish and a real treat for our youngest children. Last week we said thank you and good bye to three pupils from St Augustine's who had spent their work experience with us. Two were past pupils, and all three pupils were a credit to St Augustine's and a joy to have around the building.

It is hard to believe we are fast approaching another half term holiday and that Lent and Easter will soon be upon us. Thank you

In October The FSA (Friends of St Mary's Sabden Association) became a charity registered with the Charities Commission. We have six parent / grandparent trustees. Many of the things we have done were mentioned in the school report so here are any others.

Last term we ran Santa Stops at Sabden which raised over £400 pounds. We provided each class in school with a wet weather play box with games and activities suggested by the pupils in each class. We also donated £500 towards the cost of the whole school trip to the Pantomime.

This term we are continuing with our coffee mornings / afternoon teas and last week had one with bacon butties available and very good coffee. Anyone is welcome to come along and join us. In response to pupil request we are going to run a Big family Breakfast morning on Thursday 28th Feb from 8.30 to 9.30am. Parents and children can come into school early for a bacon sandwich (and coffee / tea for the adults) Cost will be 50p and adults can stay on for their coffee for a little while after the children have gone into class.

We are going to run a Valentines disco for the children at school on Friday 15th Feb from 6 - 7.30 pm cost £1 entry.

Our big fundraiser this term is our Golf Day at Whalley golf club on Friday 26th April. 10am arrive to bacon buttie and tea / coffee, round of golf and carvery meal. Cost is £40 a person or £160 for a team of 4. We would appreciate any donations of prizes and volunteers to help on the day and all golfers are very welcome.

In the Last term we are planning a family quiz night and other exciting events for the children. Our next FSA meeting is at school on Thursday 14th March at 9.05. Any parishioners are welcome to come along and join us for the meeting as well as at our coffee mornings. We would like to do more things that involve the FSA and the Parish.