

**St. Margaret Clitherow's, Threshfield.**

**Minutes of Parish Meeting – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.**

**Present:** Fr. Andrew, Peter Vetch, Ann Davies, Margaret James, Maria Donizetti, Barbara Thompson, Peter Thompson, Fiona Romano, Vicky Fattorini, Ray Snape, Maureen Keep, Pauline Copeland, Cath Barclay

**Apologies:** Raymond James

**Minutes:** Minutes of last meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's report:** On Raymond's behalf, Margaret reported that the balance in the bank on 31<sup>st</sup> August stood at £4028.01 while the "cash in hand" was £36.53. Recent income included: £300.00 from the Grassington Festival Concert; £185.00 from the Buckden Singers' Summer Concert and £200.00 from the Table Top Sale which received a boost of £100.00 from the sale to jewellers of a gold chain which had been donated. Since the last meeting, a sum £229.96 has been spent on general maintenance items and a further £196.80 was required for the removal of a wasps' nest. The only remaining planned expenditure of £70.00 will be required in November when the building will be fumigated for the removal of flies and insects.

**Church maintenance:**

**Church 'tidy up':** It was felt that the tidying sessions had removed a great deal of clutter and improved the general appearance. A comment was made that the Piety Stall needed rationalising and new materials added. Some visitors have expressed disappointment at the poor selection available. Fiona offered to liaise with Pauline Snowden at St. Stephen's to facilitate this.

**Enclosure of porch:** Peter suggested that the porch would benefit from being more enclosed to reduce heat loss and noise. The meeting agreed to seek advice about the possible available solutions and the likely costings. It was felt that the reduction of heat loss in particular was a significant issue which needed to be addressed.

**Sound system:** At the last meeting Peter agreed to explore the potential for improving the sound system. He has discussed the matter with Fairbank Harding who did the original installation. To minimise the cost they suggested that he photographed the system and forwarded the information to them. They informed him that equipment for a new powered system would cost £135.00 plus VAT but that cost of installation would be considerably higher and questioned whether parishioners could do this themselves. Maria said that Paolo is no longer insured for such jobs and the meeting agreed to ask a local electrician for a quotation.

Peter additionally had raised the problem of interference from mobile phones. The firm suggested that a possible cause could be the settings currently used on the amplifier. Peter will check this.

**Recent Activities:**

- Grassington Festival Concert: It was generally felt that the concert this year was much better in terms of content and more profitable for the Church. A question was raised regarding a possible disparity between tickets sold and the number of teas served to those who attended either as audience or helpers. Fr. Andrew felt that the final payment was based on numbers of teas served. Tentative talks have taken place between Vicky and Kate Beard regarding a suggestion to replace next year's concert with a flower arranging event.
- Buckden Singers' Summer Concert: A letter has been sent, thanking the Singers for their concert and contribution of £185.00.

### **Future activities:-**

- **Faith and Chips:** Vicky made a proposal for a short series of evening discussions modelled on a pattern used in the church some years ago. Fr. Andrew has already been consulted about this and approves of the idea. The format would be: a short talk on an aspect of faith followed by a pre-booked fish and chip supper which would create a relaxed atmosphere for discussion. Fr. Andrew suggested Tuesday evenings beginning with Mass at 7.00 and the meeting at 7.30p.m. Proposed dates are: 27<sup>th</sup> October – Ray Snape; 10<sup>th</sup> November – Fr. Andrew on the Pope's new proposals for annulment; 24<sup>th</sup> November – either David Macha on his work in Tanzania or Hanneke Dye on the role of women in Judaism.
- **Parcevall Hall:** Maria has arranged a Day of Reflection at Parcevall Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> November at a cost of £25.00. She tentatively enquired about the cost of an overnight stay but felt that £85.00 per head was prohibitive.
- **Carol Service:** To be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00p.m. Arrangements similar to last year's event with the Buckden Singers. St. Margaret's to provide festive refreshments.
- **Dickensian Weekends:** This issue was previously discussed at the April meeting. The dates for this year's event: 5<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December. Since the middle weekend is usually the busiest, it was decided that the church could offer parking and toilet facilities for that weekend at a charge of £5.00 for the day. Volunteers will be required to cover the day. Vicky offered to undertake the 11.00 – 1.00p.m. duty on the day.

**Response to the Refugee Crisis:** Peter outlined the discussions which had been held in Upper Wharfedale last weekend about a possible local response to the crisis. He explained that diverse views had been expressed, with a small minority vehemently against action. A meeting is to be held on October 9<sup>th</sup> at Scargill House. Phil Stone from Scargill has some understanding of the needs. Fr. Andrew commented that the clergy are prepared to support groups in Bradford. We need to consider what can be done by us as a community. The Upper Wharfedale group has composed a letter for the NYCC and the group expressed a willingness to countersign it to show support.

### **A.O.B.**

- **Margaret** commented that more Eucharistic Ministers were needed for the Saturday morning service. It was pointed out that Holy Communion could be taken to the sick at any time of the week. Fr. Andrew suggested that an honest reflection was required about the value of the Eucharistic Service. He agreed to meet with all Eucharistic Ministers to discuss the issue. Peter favoured a meeting after the Sunday morning Mass.
- **Peter** expressed concern at the falling numbers at Sunday Mass. It was agreed that we should raise awareness about Mass times for visitors, as well as improving the appearance of the main notice board at the front of the church. Fr. Andrew remarked that there seemed to be a trend of people attending Mass regularly, but not weekly. Attendance always increased at Christmas. He feels that St. Margaret's has a core group of about 50.
- **Vicky** told the meeting that the Headteacher of Threshfield School, Richard Cook, has made a request for volunteers to speak at morning assembly on an occasional basis on a faith linked theme.

**Next meeting: A.G.M. Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.30p.m.**

**Mass will be celebrated at 7.00p.m.**

