

St Margaret Clitherow Parish Meeting – Tuesday 28th April 2015

- Present:** Ray James, Margaret James, Maureen Keep, Ann Davies, Peter Thompson, Barbara Thompson, Chris Elwood, Helen Elwood, Fiona Romano, Victoria Fattorini, Clare Guest, Audrey Yates, Fr. Andrew, Peter Vetch,
- Apologies:** Cath Barclay, Pauline Copeland,
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- Treasure's report:** The balance on 30/03/15 at the bank stood at £3681.53; cash on hand was £664.62 including a donation of £500 now paid in. On 24th April an invoice for £758.82 was paid to Hartlington Fencing for the materials for the new chain fence.
- Church Maintenance:**
- A boiler service is due.
 - The meeting expressed its grateful thanks to Barrie, Tom, Andrew and Clive for their work on erecting the new fencing. All agreed it looked very good.
 - It was noted that at a recent funeral it was difficult to hear the service in the back room. It was agreed that Peter would explore the potential of getting an additional speaker installed; it was also proposed that we should explore getting new microphones which were less susceptible to interference from 4G phones. A preference for a thin flexi-stem microphone for the lectern was expressed.
 - It was agreed that the back room was overdue for a clear-out. A working party will start this task on 21st April at 10.00 a.m. All welcome.
- Recent Activities**
- The coffee morning raised £403 for church funds. Thanks to all who supported in any way.
 - The Lenten Lunch raised £135. This was less than last year and was typical of all the lunches this year as takings were generally down. It has been proposed that re-branding the Lunches as "Christian Aid Lunches" rather than Lenten Lunches might attract more participants. The meeting felt that this idea was worth trying.
 - Chris Elwood's delegated authority from the meeting to select the venue for the works outing was renewed. Chris canvassed opinions on the venue for the last event – these were mixed with some people very keen – others less so. Chris will consider the options for next time.
- Future Activities:**
- Grassington Festival. The concert at St Margaret's is on Saturday 13th June . Anne Sugden offered to coordinate this year and will be looking for assistance from parishioners.
 - The Buckden Singers concert will be on Saturday 18th July. Arrangements as in previous years.
 - Flower Festival. The request for St Margaret's to host the festival this year instead of in 2016 was discussed. The meeting concluded that this was not feasible. Vicky proposed an interesting new approach to the Festival for next year. The suggestion was to hold a flower arranging demonstration event with a professional arranger, during Grassington Festival as part of the Festival activities. This could be

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accompanied by teas and replace both the usual format flower festival and the classical concert. Vicky has discussed this informally with Kate Beard (Grassington Festival director) and Kate was enthusiastic. The meeting thought this was a very attractive idea and Vicky agreed to explore it further with Kate following this year's Grassington Festival.

- The Dickensian Festival was briefly discussed. As there is a question over the future direction of the festival it was agreed that consideration of this topic should be deferred to the next meeting.
- Christian Aid week will take place from 10th – 16th May. Clare advised that both Audrey is stepping down from their involvement after many years service. The meeting expressed its thanks to Audrey for her contribution. Additional volunteers are required to distribute and collect envelopes in Threshfield and up to the paper shop. Clare to send Peter V details and he will announce at Mass.

Any other business:

- The question of donations for coffee was raised. It was agreed that this should be seen as hospitality offered by the church and while donations were always welcome, they should not be compulsory.
- Vicky suggested the introduction of a "Suggestion Box" for hymns. Peter explained how Anne chose the hymns for the services, taking into account the liturgy for the week, the familiarity of hymns to the congregation, and the appropriateness of the style of the hymn for the guitar group or for the organ respectively. This combination of factors meant that it might be some time before a suggested hymn might be fitted in, but that he would discuss trying out the idea with Anne.
- The revised times for services on Holy Thursday and Good Friday were discussed. The meeting agreed that the change had worked well, with improved attendance on both days. We will continue with these new times in future years.
- On Sunday 7th June the Catenians will be holding their President's Mass at St Margaret's.
- The Grassington Festival Service will be on 14th June at 10.00 a.m. and will last 45 minutes to allow parishioners to get to St Margaret's in time for Mass at 11.00

Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th September 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at Church (preceded by Mass at 7.00 p.m.)