

St. Margaret Clitherow's, Threshfield.

Minutes of Parish Meeting – Tuesday 27th January, 2015.

Present: Fr. Andrew, Peter Vetch, Audrey Yates, Ann Davies, Raymond James, Margaret James, Helen Ellwood, Chris Ellwood, Barbara Thompson, Peter Thompson, Fiona Romano, Pauline Copeland, Cath Barclay

Apologies: Ray Snape, Maureen Keep, Maria Donizetti, Vicky Fattorini, Maureen Fraser

Minutes: Minutes of last meeting were approved.

Election of Officers: Chair – Peter Vetch. Treasurer – Raymond James. Secretary – Cath Barclay.

Treasurer's report: Raymond presented documented accounts for the year ending 31st December 2014. Income for the year, from all sources, was £7,286.41 while expenses amounted to £3623.76, leaving an end of year balance of £3,662.65. He pointed out that this amounts to a £1113.53 reduction in church reserves from December 2013. However, it was pointed out that expensive maintenance on the church had been completed during 2014. He added that income from the table sale had reduced and also that the 2013 Dickensian venture had brought a significant income which had not been forthcoming in December 2014. Fiona stressed the need for parish support to continue the parking initiative for the Dickensian weekends and this will be explored in future meetings.

Church maintenance: At present there is no outstanding maintenance to be completed. Chris commented that the adjustments to the kneelers had improved matters but wondered whether ease of church cleaning would be aided if parishioners lifted kneelers at the end of Mass.

Fr. Andrew suggested that the church sign needed refurbishment as it has become quite shabby. Peter Vetch will approach Maureen Keep about the work for this.

Fr. Andrew also suggested that the wooden edging used to prevent parking needed replacing. Discussion followed about the drainage problems in this part of the garden which has been an on-going issue. Diocesan support is required and drainage plans will be requested. A suggestion was made to edge the area with rocks as this was felt to be more aesthetically pleasing. Peter Vetch will speak to Barrie about arranging this and a No Parking sign will also be erected. He added that a new Disabled Parking sign has been made but needs to be put in place.

Recent Activities:

- Christmas Tree Festival: Thanks to Phillip and Anne Sugden for their work on this. An additional note of acknowledgement to Christine Lynch from St. Stephen's who provided small decorations more suited to the scale of the tree. It has been suggested that this will become an annual event.
- Carol Service: Thanks to the Buckden Singers for their participation in what was a very successful event. It was agreed that the parish would appreciate a similar service this year and a tentative date of December 13th was agreed.
- Parcevalle Hall: Thanks to Maria and her friends for their organisation of the day of reflection.
- Unity Service: Timing was a problem at this year's service which over-ran its scheduled timings.

Future activities:-

- Coffee Morning – 31st January at Church House in Grassington. Fiona has organised helpers, people to bake and contributions for the tombola and raffle have been requested. A 9.00am start was suggested as many people arrive before the publicised opening time.

- Lenten Lunch – St. Margaret’s contribution to the the Christian Aid Lenten Lunch is on March 4th at Church House.
- Lent and Easter arrangements: There will be Stations of the Cross at 3.00pm on Fridays during Lent. Fr. Andrew will arrange Lenten House Masses. He informed the meeting that there will be an Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service in Linton Chapel at 7.00pm. Holy Week and Easter arrangements at St. Margaret’s are likely to be as usual. However, in the event of a priest being unavailable during Holy Week, Fr. Andrew said that timing changes could be made on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday which would allow him to serve both Skipton and Threshfield.
- Works’ Outing: Chris suggested a date of March 24th in the Cruck Barn at the Craven Arms in Appletreewick. A change of management in the Clarendon has necessitated a change of venue. Full details to be given later.

A.O.B.

- Fr Andrew – As a response to the Advent project, two refugees from the Middle East will speak after Mass on 8th February.
On 22nd February, a group of students from Leeds University who are on retreat in Kettlewell, will attend 11.00am Mass.
The Catenians have asked to celebrate their President’s Sunday Mass at St. Margaret’s on 7th June. With Fr. Andrew’s agreement, they have asked to do the readings, bidding prayers and offertory procession. (Added by email after the meeting)
- Barbara: With regard to the issue of dogs in church, she has approached Fr. Andrew and offered to arrange for carpeting or matting which can be used in the porch on the rare occasions when visitors arrive with a dog.
- Peter: The Buckden Singers would like to arrange a concert at St. Margaret’s on Saturday 18th July with the usual arrangements in place.
- Cath: Some parishioners have asked whether the course of 2 years’ ago would be repeated. She and Pauline are willing to offer a number of sessions during Lent in church, possibly on Friday afternoons before the Stations of the Cross. Details will be provided later.
- Helen: Helen asked whether arrangements had yet been made regarding this year’s Grassington Festival concert at St. Margaret’s. Discussion followed concerning the problems of catering for numbers which tend to be quite fluid as well as concert programmes which have limited appeal. In recent years numbers attending the concert have declined and, as a result, last year there was some re-negotiation of fees. Concern was raised about lack of information with regard to ticket sales. Fr. Andrew was asked to raise the church’s concerns with the Festival organisers.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 28th April 2015 at 7.30p.m.

Mass will be celebrated at 7.00p.m.

