

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

**Minutes of Parish Meeting – Monday 21st May, 2012**

**Present:** Fr. Andrew, Vicky Fattorini, Chris Ellwood, Maureen Keep, Fiona Romano, Pauline Copeland, Cath Barclay, Audrey Yates

**Apologies:** Peter Vetch, Maria Donizetti, Helen Ellwood, Raymond James, Margaret James, Ann Davies, Ray Snape, Peter Thompson

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

**Treasurer's report:** Raymond submitted a report to be presented in his absence. The balance in the bank on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 stood at £6159.47, while the "cash in hand" was £293.53. A further sum of £279.65 had been transferred to the bank since that date of which £123.00 came from Table Top Sales, £50 from a "Helping Hands" donation and the remaining £123.53 from coffee and sundry sources. The major outgoing for May will be payment of approx £4000 to Aire Valley Glass for repairs to the roof.

Fiona added that the Horticultural Society has made a contribution of £150 towards the costs of the Flower Festival.

**Church maintenance:**

- a) **Painting of fascia boards and re-pointing of the piers at the four corners.** Fr. Andrew suggested that since the importance of the church has now been recognised by English Heritage it might be possible to approach Yorkshire Historic Churches for help with maintenance issues. Vicky added that Swinden Quarry was also supportive of local initiatives.
- b) **Birds:** It was felt that a check should be done in case of damage or excessive mess, but otherwise the recent, obvious, presence of birds was not seen as a cause for concern.
- c) **Carpet:** The new carpet had been paid for and is ready to lay. Although the roof has now been repaired, Fr. Andrew is concerned that the building needs to dry before that is done. Vicky returned to Fr. Andrew's suggestion, at an earlier meeting, about the removal of the altar rails to open up the space for greater flexibility. She suggested that Peter Merrill might be able to advise on the viability of adapting the altar rails for other uses. Fr. Andrew would like to canvass reaction to the removal of the altar rails.

It was suggested that the new carpet should be fitted after the Flower Festival.

**Update on parish boundaries:** Consultation ended on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Andrew said that the main queries which he had received had concerned Mass times rather than boundaries. Changes were likely to come into effect in early Autumn when Mass times would become an issue. His current thinking was that each mass time would change by half an hour: Broughton: 8.30a.m.; Skipton: 9.30a.m. and St. Margaret's: 11.00a.m. . He felt that this was possible as it allowed Fr. Pat and himself time to travel between sites.

**Recent Activities:**

- a) **"Works' outing"** – The recent event at "The Racehorses" was successful and everyone appreciated the service arrangements. Chris said that Peter Vetch had informed him of recent changes to "The Tennant's Arms" management which might open possibilities of a return to that venue.

**Future activities:**

- a) **16<sup>th</sup> June Festival concert** – A volunteer is required to help Ray James. Fr. Andrew will obtain the copy of the contract to allow the parish to claim monies for the church's use.
- b) **1<sup>st</sup> July Keighley Catenians' visit** – About 40 visitors will join the congregation for mass, therefore more seating will be required. They have promised a donation to the church.
- c) **13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July Flower Festival** – A poster is now ready for distribution. Representatives of the churches are visiting St. Margaret's on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00p.m. to familiarise themselves with the building. A roadside banner is to be produced, details have been included on the website and press releases have been sent to the Catholic Post and other outlets. Volunteers are required to provide plants both for display and sale. Vicky proposed thanks to Fiona for her organisation thus far.
- d) **21<sup>st</sup> July Buckden Singers' Concert** – usual arrangements.

**A.O.B.**

**Fr Andrew:** October 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a "pulpit swap" for the ministers in Upper Wharfedale. A minister from one of the churches will preach during mass.

**Maureen:** Maureen has offered to provide some shrubs for the front of the church in memory of her husband, Basil.

**Raymond:** Though absent, he sent a note expressing concern about the difficulty experienced by the Eucharistic ministers when they are returning from giving the chalice to the disabled and moving through the congregation. It was accepted that this has been an recurrent concern and Fr. Andrew will take the lead in addressing this issue.

**Fr. Andrew:** There has been a problem with unauthorised parking at the church. He has written to the person responsible and suggested that, as a last resort, a parking fee would be acceptable. Vicky raised the possibility of offering parking at times of high traffic density to raise additional money for the church. If this became feasible, the meeting felt that a liability notice would need to be posted.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012, 7.30p.m.**

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