

# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH FORUM MEETING No 1.

31 March 2008

**PRESENT :** Father M Cooke (Chair) [FrMC]  
Tony Proctor (Secretary) [TP]  
Kath Brown [KB]  
Catherine Bridge [CB]  
Peter Carolan [PC]  
Martin Cleary [MC]  
Sue Cleary [SC]  
Claire Corser [CC]  
Kath Denton [KD]  
Stan Horrocks [SH]  
Bert Hustwit [BH]  
Lisa Lamoury [LL]  
Rita Livesey [RL]  
Julie McLoughlin [JM]  
Tom Rabbitt [TR]  
Irene Sheridan [IS]  
Terry Smith [TS]  
Anne Walsh [AW]  
Barbara Worthington [BW]

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1.	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>FrMC opened the meeting, welcomed those present and invited comments on the rationale for establishing the forum, its status and how the forum might best operate.</p> <p>There was full support for the forum and its purpose in supporting FrMC to manage the two parishes. There was a clear desire to re-invigorate St Brendan's Parish spiritually, materially &amp; socially and all present recognised that there were a number of challenges to address together.</p> <p>It was agreed that rather than the meeting be regarded as a 'committee', in that it did not have 'executive powers', as these ultimately rested with the Bishop &amp; Salford Diocese, it was more appropriate to adopt the title of 'St Brendan's Forum', which would be a place where issues could be discussed, options and solutions developed and, most importantly, the people of the parish could make their views known and contribute to making St Brendan's a thriving parish.</p>	<p>Adopt title "St Brendan's Forum"</p>

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	<p>It was agreed that there would be no fixed term of office and parishioners would be encouraged to contribute their skills, experience and views.</p>	All to Note
	<p>FrMC also agreed to publicise the names of parish forum members.</p>	FrMC
2.	<p><u>Property Survey</u></p> <p>FrMC shared on a confidential basis a condition survey of the Church &amp; Presbytery which had been prepared by architects. The meeting discussed the report's key findings. The survey concluded that the Church was in a reasonable structural order with a serviceable roof, but the Presbytery was generally in poor condition. The Church's electrics, wiring, décor and a range of other works needed significant attention.. Provisional estimates had been provided. The forum felt that given past problems with the heating system this should be examined further and any proposals should include an appropriately sized meeting room.</p> <p>The forum agreed that as there had been little investment in the Church property for many years the opportunity should be taken, budget permitting to undertake a significant refurbishment programme of works.</p> <p>The Presbytery needed extensive works to make it habitable to modern standards and options included refurbishment, sale and disposal. It was agreed that TP would arrange for an estate agent to carry out a market appraisal of the options.</p>	<p>All to note</p> <p>FrMC to raise with architects</p> <p>All to note</p> <p>TP</p>
3.	<p><u>Car Park</u></p> <p>TP referred to a recent public meeting about Harwood Quarry, when local Councillors &amp; residents had referred to ongoing problems of car parking on Brookfold Lane and concerns for the safety of school children. In 2007 a proposal had been made to extend the Church car park, on a partnership funded basis, including the School, Parish, Bolton Council and Booth's (the quarry operators).</p>	

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	<p>The proposal had not progressed for reasons which were unclear. Given potential benefits to the Parish and the discussions about the Church property more generally it was timely to re-examine this matter.</p>	
	<p>FrMC asked TP to contact local Bolton Councillors P &amp; D Brierley and to set up a meeting, to include TR, as Chair of St Brendan's School Governors, FrMC and TP to re-examine options and possible ways forward.</p>	TP
4.	<p><u>Liturgical Life</u></p>	
	<p>FrMC asked about the liturgical life of the parish and the following were discussed:-</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Mass Times</u> – agreed to maintain the current pattern and keep under review.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Holy Week</u> – Father Ivor Netto's ministries had been appreciated and FrMC indicated that next Easter he would celebrate the Triduum at St Brendan's and invite Fr Netto (or another priest) to do so at St John's.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Music</u> – Teresa playing the organ was appreciated, with the option of reverting to the 'CD's' should she not be available. Some Forum members had an interest in establishing a choir</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Ministries</u> – MC made the point that there were a range of ministries and this would be considered at a future meeting. MC to develop options.</li> </ul>	MC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Hymn Books</u> – Agreed to purchase a new set of hymn books and to pay for these by asking people to sponsor their purchase.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><u>School</u></p>	
	<p>It was noted that the recruitment process for a new Head had commenced. It was also of concern that there was such limited involvement of the school children in Sunday Mass &amp; FrMC would discuss with the Head &amp; teaching staff.</p>	FrMC
6.	<p><u>Finance</u></p>	
	<p>FrMC referred to the status of parish finances, which whilst reasonably healthy, would potentially be totally expended on addressing the property repair issues.</p>	

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7.	<p>Therefore there was no room for complacency &amp; the claiming back of tax from the Inland revenue from past &amp; future gift aid, and fund raising events was essential. It was agreed that a Finance Committee would be established in due course to manage the parish finances.</p> <p><u>Parish Groups</u></p>	FrMC
8.	<p>The status of the SVP &amp; CAFOD was noted.</p> <p><u>Joint activities with St John's</u></p>	
9.	<p>The success of the Fairtrade Wine Tasting &amp; Parish Meal events was noted, and plans for a parish holiday. Suggestions of a visit to Lourdes or other Holy place were made, as well as a suggestion for a Discussion Group on a relevant theme.</p> <p><u>Any other Business</u></p>	
10.	<p><u>Apparitors</u> – CB &amp; JM asked for more Apparitors at 1115 Mass and FrMC said he would ask at Mass.</p> <p><u>Newsletter</u> – was well received and generally sufficient copies were available.</p> <p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>7PM on Monday 28 April 2008 at St Brendan's RC Church.</p>	FrMC          All to Note