

## **Minutes for NE Area CAT Meeting (7) – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

Venue: St Mary's Parish Hall, Burnley

Present: Fred Uttley (FU), Kathleen Carter (KC), Eileen Ennis (EE), Monica Atherton (MA), Jackie Hindle-South (JHS), David Hartley (DH), Betty Ball (BB), Anne Marie Coppock (AMC), Catherine Brady (CB), Elysia Bulger (EB), Noel Hoyle (NH), Margaret Mary Taylor (MMT), Dominic Auger (DA).

Apologies: Joanne Hill (JH), Catherine Hayes (CH), Janet Hodgeon (JH), Julie Wadsworth (JW)

**1. Welcome & Opening Prayer** – DA welcomed everybody to the 7<sup>th</sup> NE Area CAT meeting and opened the proceedings by inviting JHS to lead the group in prayer which was centred on the war in Syria. JHS also announced the very sad news of the sudden death of Margaret MacArtney, a key volunteer for CAFOD Salford, she will be sadly missed. JHS lead the meeting in an eternal rest for the repose of Margaret's soul, may she rest in peace.

**2. Parish Feedback from Lent Fast Day (LFD) to present:** DA invited members from the parishes of NE Area to share their news from the last six months.

**2.1 St John the Baptist's (SJB's) Burnley** – CH was unable to attend the meeting and therefore no figure was available for the amount raised for LFD. However, DH and other members of the CAFOD group at SJB's noted that the total had been a good one and around the usual amount.

**2.1.1** AMC informed the meeting that MA and herself had attended the "Big IF" Rally in London's Hyde Park on 8<sup>th</sup> June. 45,000 campaigners from many different charities and campaign groups gathered ahead of the G8 Summit in County Fermanagh, to urge world leaders to tackle the causes of global hunger. Both MA & AMC had enjoyed being part of this mass rally, but noted that it had not had the same promotion or numbers attending as the "Make Poverty History" Rally in Edinburgh of 2005.

**2.1.2** MA told the meeting that SJB's CAFOD group had held two "Hungry for Change" campaign card signing sessions. They had held one after the Sunday Masses during Lent and another during a coffee morning to support "Le Tour de Fred". At this coffee morning the group raised around £180 for Fred Uttley's amazing sponsored cycle by asking people to donate at least £1 to have a cycle on the static exercise bike or £1 to not have a cycle! There was also a raffle at the coffee morning.

**2.1.3** The CAFOD Monthly Prayers for the North East of the Diocese had also started earlier this year at SJB's to coincide with the monthly prayers at Katherine House. They had been initially well attended, but mainly by parishioners of SJB's. JHS & AMC encouraged other members of the CAT group to attend, but appreciated it may not be easy for some to get to SJB's on a Friday morning and suggested that the monthly prayer sessions could travel to other parishes in the CAT Area. The monthly prayers take place on the last Friday of each month and the next would be at SJB's Parish Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> September at 10am and starts with "tea & toast" after the 9am Mass.

**2.1.4** DH informed everybody that SJB's parish was still supporting the Connect2 scheme and they were remaining with the Ethiopian project, which has just changed community from Biera to Sebeya.

**2.1.5** During Lent SJB's had also held their annual Friday Lenten Soup Lunches, which had raised several hundred pounds this year, despite some Fridays being hit by unseasonably cold weather.

**2.1.6** Not mentioned during the meeting, but worthy of mention was the "Emmaus Meal" held at SJB's in April. The evening was ably hosted by AMC & JHS and was attended by a very appropriate 12 "apostles" or supporters. The evening went well and those who attended enjoyed two dishes (one from El Salvador and the other from Bangladesh) and shared their insights into the issues around global hunger and poverty.

**2.2 St James the Less (SJL) Rawtenstall** – EB informed the meeting that the amount raised for LFD had been very good.

**2.2.1** EB also told the group that SJL had held two campaign card signing sessions for the "Hungry for Change" campaign, one during May at the weekend Masses and another to coincide with "Le Tour de Fred", where the parish raised just over £800, a fantastic amount for Fred Uttley's sponsored cycle around the country.

**2.2.2** EB & NH informed everyone that they had also held some Lenten lunches to raise money for CAFOD's LFD Appeal.

**2.2.3** At SJL, EB shared with the group the fact their CAFOD group is short on numbers and has a high average age. Therefore they have decided to hold an "Open Afternoon" in collaboration with other parish groups to invite parishioners to an informal gathering to find out a little more about the work of the CAFOD group or the St Vincent de Paul group, etc., which will hopefully lead to recruiting new members.

**2.3 St John Southworth & Christchurch (SJS &CC) Nelson** – CB told the meeting that SJS & CC had held their usual LFD Collection and raised a good amount for CAFOD's work.

**2.3.1** CB also informed the group that the SJS has continued to hold its weekly coffee & tea for CAFOD after the Sunday morning masses.

**2.4 St John the Baptist's (SJB's) & St Philip's (SP's) Padiham** – FU/KC told the group that their "Outreach to the World Group" had raised more than normal for LFD, due in part to FU's pending "Le Tour de Fred".

**2.4.1** FU & KC informed everyone that they had also held a Lenten Soup Lunch which was well attended.

**2.4.2** FU said that they had held campaign card signings for the "Hungry for Change" campaign at both SJB's & SP's.

**2.4.3** FU informed the meeting that their Parish Fun Day had been well supported and the money raised went towards the "Le Tour de Fred". The money raised was over £3,000, a fantastic amount.

**2.4.4** FU shared with the group that their "Outreach to the World Group" will continue to support the Connect2 scheme even though Rwanda is no longer available as a country to support.

**2.4.5** DA also reminded FU that SJB's & SP's had also hosted the CAFOD Salford Summer Supporter's Day which had usually been held near Chipping with CAFOD Lancaster. This year

CAFOD Salford held their own supporters day in Padiham which was well attended by people from across the diocese and celebrated FU's achievements on "Le Tour de Fred".

**2.4.6** FU informed everybody of upcoming planned fundraising events for CAFOD: 1) Quiz Night at SP's Parish Hall on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November; 2) "Carols by Candlelight" at SJB's Church on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Details of both events are to follow.

### **3. Update on "Hungry for Change" & "IF" Campaigns**

(<http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Take-action-today/Hungry-for-change>) –

**3.1** DA reminded the group of the current postcard campaign, which is urging the prime-minister, David Cameron, to take the lead on tackling the causes of hunger at the G8 meetings in 2013 in Northern Ireland (which was in June) as he will be president of the G8 for 2013. DA showed the group the "loaves & fishes" campaign postcard and reminded everybody that the cards need to be returned to Head Office by 1<sup>st</sup> October. The campaign has seen well over 10,000 cards signed so far. Since the meeting DA has been informed the "**Hungry for Change Campaign**" will now run until **Easter 2014**. So please encourage any parishioners or friends who haven't yet signed a campaign card to do so.

**3.2** DA told the group that the "Hungry for Change" campaign was part of the "Enough Food for Everyone....IF" campaign which was launched at Somerset House in London in January. CAFOD with the four other members of the British Overseas Aid Group (BOAG) organising and leading this campaign which had over 100 other organisations become part of it. The campaign centred on the issues behind tackling global hunger, where 1 in 8 of the world's people still goes to bed hungry every night. There were four main asks for this campaign:

**Aid** - Enough Food for Everyone IF ...we give enough aid to stop children dying from hunger and help the poorest families feed themselves.

**Tax** - Enough Food for Everyone IF ...governments stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries.

**Land** - Enough Food for Everyone IF ...we stop poor farmers being forced off their land and grow crops to feed people, not fuel cars.

**Transparency** - Enough Food for Everyone IF ...governments and big companies are honest and open about their actions that stop people getting enough food.

The campaign culminated in the "Big IF" rally at London's Hyde Park on 8<sup>th</sup> June, which saw nearly 50,000 people gather to call for the G8 to bring about the end of global hunger. Here are some of the achievements of this campaign:

**Aid** - [The UK government kept its promise to spend 0.7% of GNI on aid](#) - something we've been campaigning for since the 1970s. And [G8 leaders pledged an extra \\$4.1 billion](#) that could help tackle malnutrition and save the lives of almost two million children.

**Land** - For the first time ever, [land grabs were on the G8 agenda](#). World leaders agreed to set up pilot partnerships with developing countries to make buying, selling and owning land fairer.

**Tax & transparency** - David Cameron announced that all UK-affiliated tax havens will now have to share information about the companies using them. [G8 leaders agreed](#) that information from all companies should now be open to scrutiny by tax authorities in developing countries.

**4. Feedback from “Le Tour de Fred” Sponsored Cycle** – DA congratulated FU on his incredible sponsored cycle, in which Fred cycled over 1000 miles around the dioceses of England & Wales and in the process raised thousands of pounds for CAFOD.

**4.1** FU then shared with the group how he came up with the idea of cycling around the dioceses of England & Wales, stopping at each Catholic Cathedral or CAFOD Diocesan office, to raise funds for CAFOD’s work and highlight the “Hungry for Change” campaign. FU was helped in the training and completion of the cycling by his niece’s husband Mark Brown, who was a Paralympic silver medallist from Sydney 2000.

**4.2** FU then gave his humorous reflections on his sponsored marathon that lasted 20 days. During those 20 days Fred got rained on for 15 of them, he spoke to over 3,000 school children in 16 schools, visited 28 parishes and stopped at 8 cathedrals. FU was overwhelmed by the support he received during the event and said the children were especially inspiring when faced with the many hills.

**4.3** FU informed the meeting the total raised so far is over £12,000 and everybody gave him a thoroughly deserved round of applause. It was also noted that there is a fantastic feature on FU’s “Le Tour de Fred” in the latest edition of CAFOD’s “Side by Side” magazine. FU also thanked AMC and her family for hosting a “despedida” (farewell) BBQ party for himself and Mark shortly before the start of the “Le Tour de Fred”.

## **5. Introduction to Harvest Fast Day materials “*who will you invite to your table*”**

**5.1** DA told the meeting about the current Harvest Fast Day (HFD) materials and the theme behind it. This HFD the theme is again centred on food, asking people to remember that 1 in 8 of our sisters and brothers (about 850 million) still go to bed hungry every night. If we can “make a place for them at our table” by ensuring everybody has a share of the world’s food then all we have enough to eat.

**5.2** DA showed the group the poster from the HFD packs which showed a family from the UK sharing “a table” with a family from Nicaragua. The family which is featured in the parish and school materials are from Nicaragua. The parish materials concentrate on the grandmother, Marta, who is part of a women’s co-operative, who have received hives and training from one of CAFOD’s partners to rear bee colonies and produce honey. The school materials approach HFD from the point of view of the granddaughter, Mayling. There have been many days when the family have only had a small tortilla each to eat all day. However, with funding from CAFOD the honey produced gives them extra nourishment and any excess can be sold at the local market.

**5.3** DA told the group he didn’t have a HFD envelope to show. DH commented that the fast day envelopes in general tend to be over complicated and AMC thought that CAFOD try to cover too many angles with the envelopes; i.e. one part to put the donation in, another for anybody wishing to make a regular contribution/standing-order and another with the background information for the fast day. CB and others said that the number of envelopes used at the fast days is decreasing year on year and CAFOD is probably wasting money on producing such complicated donation envelopes. DA said he would share this feedback with CAFOD Salford, who in turn would pass it on to Head Office (HO) in London; however, this has been shared with HO before.

## **6. Final arrangements for “Hometowners” Folk Night**

DA reminded the group of the upcoming fundraiser at the Knights of St Columba (KSC) 110 Club in Burnley, which is being held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm. “The Hometowners” are a well known folk group from the Rochdale/Oldham area.

**6.1** AMC noted that the group may have members from the former folk group “The Oldham Tinkers” and that a member of “The Hometowners” may be the father of Gerard Kearns, the well known TV actor. AMC said this could be a good angle to promote the night in the local press. DA said he would follow this up.

**6.2** DA said he had sent out an email with the poster attached to all CAFOD contacts and parishes in the area to promote the night. Since the meeting DA has contacted the KSC 110 Club and members of the KSC who have agreed to promote the event, tickets are now on sale from behind the main bar in KSC 110 Club.

**6.3** DA asked the group if they would try to promote the event as much as possible within their respective parishes and if they could donate raffle prizes and nibbles, then that would be greatly appreciated. It was agreed that those who could help prior to the event, would meet at the KSC 110 Club at 6.45pm to set up.

**6.4** The meeting agreed that the money raised on the night would be split 50/50 between CAFOD’s Syria Crisis Appeal and the general development fund.

## **7. Date of next meeting and AOB**

**7.1** There was no other business brought before the meeting. However, since the meeting DA wishes to remind members that if any parish require a CAFOD speaker to visit their parish to speak at the Sunday Masses for the HFD, then they would first need to approach their parish priest for permission and then contact him and he would arrange for a speaker to visit. The CAFOD speaker would thank the parish and share with parishioners the stories behind Marta and Mayling in Nicaragua.

**7.2** The date of the next meeting was set for **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7pm** in St Mary’s Parish Hall.

**7.3 “50 Fairtrade Favourites”** – This is a gentle reminder for everybody, which wasn’t brought up at the meeting, that if you require more copies of the CAFOD Salford’s “50 Fairtrade Favourites” recipe book, which includes recipes from members of the NE Area CAT, then please contact DA: [dominic.aunger@btinternet.com](mailto:dominic.aunger@btinternet.com) or 07999 512102. It would be a great Christmas stocking filler, it costs only £3 now and any copies sold now would mean the whole £3 would go towards the work of CAFOD, as the costs of producing the book have been covered.

## **8. Final Prayer & Goodbyes**

**8.1** JHS introduced the final prayer, “A place at the table”, which was said together to send the members out to spread justice and bring hope and food to the poor. DA thanked everybody for coming, looked forward to seeing them at the “The Hometowners” concert if they could make it and wished everybody good luck for HFD and beyond.