

PARISH OF ENGLISH MARTYRS, DANBURY
WITH
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2010

PRESENT

The following 25 attended the meeting.

Kath Gable, Kathy Johnston, Jackie Clarke, Tony White, Fr Paul, June White, Harriet Middleboe, Marian Green, Lynne Pursell, Barbara Fenn, Sean O'Byrne, Mary Reed, Sylvia Lanz, Matt Harris, Elisabeth Bourn, Margaret Godfrey, Theresa Kelly, Frank Lo, Val Wiedenauer, Sharon Docherty, Nina Patrick, Pauline Spratt, Steve Gallagher, Hannah Abrahams, Mary Huintinton, Jean Everett, Eileen Price

APOLOGIES Carmella McDonald, Yvonne Wheeler, Anna Tickle, Alasdair Mackay, Graham Tickle.

	Discussion	Action
1)	Opening Prayer Father Paul opened the meeting with a prayer.	
2)	The minutes of the last AGM on 16 th November 2009 were agreed and signed. Matters arising: It was noted that 5j, regarding the need for street pastors, was referring to South Woodham Ferrers.	
3)	Report from the Chair: Kath Gable introduced herself and thanked everyone for attending. Last years' minutes, after one amendment, were agreed and signed. She welcomed the four new parish councillors, Sharon Docherty, Pauline Spratt, Frank Lo and Mary Huntington, and thanked those who were standing down for all their work Theresa Kelly, John McGeary, Simone Probyn and herself. Chair: Margaret Godfrey was nominated and seconded by Matt Harris Vice Chair: Matt Harris was nominated and seconded by Tony White. Treasurer: Steve Gallagher who has agreed to stand again was seconded by Barbara Fenn. Secretary: Marian Green has agreed to stand for a second year seconded by Kath Gable. She also thanked Jackie Clarke and Tony White, the fabric members, for all their efforts this year.	
4)	Treasurers Report : <u>Account Balance</u> At the start of this financial year in April, our bank balance was £9,920 in credit. As at today our current account bank balance is	

	<p>£13,700 in credit, with an additional £5,000 on deposit.</p> <p><u>Income</u></p> <p>Our strong income position is due to three key reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our Gift Aid cheque this year was £9,375. This is the same amount as the previous three years and currently represents 21% of our income year to date. 2. Father's prison chaplaincy work has contributed over £980 this year, but is less than previous years, due to the Prison Service reducing the amount they are prepared to pay for this service. 3. Our weekly offertories and standing orders make up the bulk of our income (£36,000 and 77% respectively, year to date). <p><u>Expenditure</u></p> <p>Although no major capital projects have been undertaken so far this year, there is budget available to start.</p> <p>Our key areas of expenditure remain similar to previous years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approximately 31% of all our expenditure is spent on quotas to either Brentwood Diocese (£9,000 year to date) or to the Joint Council of Churches, South Woodham Ferrers (£4,800). 2. 23% of our expenditure (£8,800) goes on Pastoral Personnel, which includes father's car, salary, housekeeping and the provision of supply priests. 3. And 21% (£8,100) goes on the upkeep and enhancements to all parish premises. 	
<p>5)</p>	<p>Report from the Parish Priest</p> <p>Fr. Paul expressed his thanks to everyone for the love and support that had been shown to him throughout the year and the guidance the PCC had also given him.</p> <p>He went on to report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The sacramental programmes in the parish were going well. The confirmation group had 15 youngsters and thanks were conveyed to Paul, Theresa, Jo and her team and to Lynn for her help with RCIA although the number of participants was smaller this year. There were about 20 children in the First Communion Group. There was also a need for baptism and marriage catechists. The bishop will be coming for confirmation on 15th May2010 b) Fr Paul was pleased to comment that the parish organisations were working well together with the pastoral care group working quietly and efficiently in the background. c) Thanks to Sylvia and Lynne for their Deanery and Diocesan work and to all the Eucharistic Ministers and choir members. d) The prison ministry is still going well although the paid hours had been cut due to the credit crunch. e) Fr Paul expressed thanks to Yvonne for the continuing 	

work she does for the Padre Pio group and to Steve our treasurer and Carmella the parish covenant organiser, to Tony, Jackie and Matt for the upkeep of the fabric of our churches and Pauline for her work for CAFOD to the childeres's liturgy helpers and to Elisabeth, Harriett and their team for all their hard work in Danbury and Little Baddow along with Jean for her contribution to the garden.

- f) Father Paul spoke of the Popes successful visit and the pilgrimage he is organising to Israel next year for the parish and said the 40 hour quiet time in May at HT was enjoyed by all.
- g) After instructions from the bishop Father Paul announced that we will be losing the 5.30 mass at HT next year.
- h) The JCC forum meetings are fine although Fr Paul did state that the Catholics still have the poorest attendance at ecumenical events.

6)

Reports from around the Parish.

a) Gift Aid

Carmella submitted this report for the tax year 2008/2009 :

Total Net Amount	£36,649.27
Total Tax Recovered	£10,336.99
Diocesan commission @ 9%	£ 930.35
Refund to Parish	£ 9,406.64

Since April 09 we have had eleven new gift aiders and have lost one. The good response for new gift aiders was unexpected and left over boxes of envelopes had to be re-dated. In July the diocesan auditor reviewed our gift aid system and was impressed with our procedures. A letter from Cathedral House stated the new Gift Aid 2008 system had been distributed but isn't operational yet as many parishes were experiencing problems with it as it kept having to be updated.

Thanks to Barbara Fenn for her meticulous recording of the transactions and her help with the year end reports.

b) Holy Trinity Fabric report.

Jackie reported the following tasks have been done:

Ongoing repairs/replacement to roof, guttering and soffits after lead was stolen from roof; chlorination of water tanks; electrical work after audit carried out by diocese; meeting room redecorated and new lock fitted to chair stall cupboard; annual boiler and gas check;

She also told us that the fabric committee had increased to seven members and spoke about the questionnaire to get an idea of what church goers thought about the building.

Work in hand includes a detailed health and safety check and costing of upgrade to the toilets. Full report with minutes.

c) English Martyrs Fabric Report.

Tony reported the following; During the year an electrical inspection revealed an earth fault on the balcony which had to be fixed and the electronic control circuitry on the fans and central lights failed. This work is now done. The lights on the balcony are safe and the fans and central lights have manual controls fitted.

A lot of time has been spent this year investigating the possibility of providing a meeting room at Danbury. After obtaining three estimates we are about to formally submit our proposals to the Diocese for approval although there is currently a spending cap. Full report with minutes.

d) Ecumenism in Little Baddow

There are 3 Christian Council meetings a year – more Catholics would be welcome.

There have been various activities throughout the year and information about these events can be found at individual local churches. The most important of these events was the renewal of their covenant, originally signed in 2005.

Elisabeth's full notes are with the main minutes.

e) RCIA/ CaFE**Year 2009-10**

RCIA was a quiet year. Steve Watson who began the program with us was received into the Church shortly before his death. His earnest wish to become a Catholic at such a time in his life was inspirational to the rest of us. Natalie felt that she was not ready to make such a commitment by Easter and is continuing her journey of faith this year. So at Easter 2009 we had only one candidate: Georgina Edwards was received into full communion and confirmed.

Year 2010-11 This year is a more typical group with 5 enquirers of differing backgrounds and lively participation.

Thanks to all

As RCIA co-ordinator Lynn would thank everyone who has contributed to the success of the programme over the last year. Particularly to Fr Paul, Pat MacDonald, Sylvia Lanz, Jenny Tolhurst and last year's companions.

Evangelisation and Faith development (EFDA)

Our EFDA group has had a good first year, offering a variety of programmes and sessions in the 'CaFE' style.

Program for Parents of First Communion children. Used the new CaFE format which seemed to be very successful and is being

repeated again this year.

'Come Home for Christmas' initiative to encourage 'resting' Catholics to return to a more active practice of their faith was run again in 2009. This included postcards, posters, an article in the local magazines for SWF and Danbury and in-church displays. There was little observable response although it is obviously not possible to know who might have been touched by this initiative. We have decided not to repeat it for 2010 but will reconsider again next year.

'This is My Body' in February . This 2 session Parish Faith Exploration CaFE on the Mass was very well attended and was also used as part of the Confirmation program.

'I Believe' in May and June . This 5 session Parish Faith Exploration CaFE on the Creed was less well attended although those that did go said how much they enjoyed it.

'John Henry Newman' evening. This was a joint Anglican and Catholic CaFE evening run in September before Pope Benedict's visit. We are planning further CaFE sessions to take place next Lent.

f) Padre Pio

The group meet 2nd Monday of the month with Yvonne giving more of her time travelling around London and Essex selling on behalf of the monastery, which so far this year totals £480.

g) Justice and Social Responsibilities Group

Elisabeth reported on donations made to the shoebox appeal and the appeals for Haiti, CAFOD and Sudan and the many activities that take place during the year.

She also reminded us of the parish rummage sale and mock auction to be held at Danbury village hall on March 2nd 2011. Help morning and evening on the day needed.

Full report with minutes.

h) TWAM (tools with a mission)

Local collections are stored in Little Baddow and collected throughout the year by the van from head office. Recently TWAM has requested catering and hairdressing equipment in addition to the usual tool donations.

i) St Joseph's School:

The school has had another successful year. A long awaited Ofsted inspection in July resulted in an outstanding report. Thanks were extended to Father Paul for his commitment and support and his presence on the Isle of Wight for his 'annual holiday'. The school value their partnership with the parish and the financial help it gives them. Thanks were extended to various members of the parish for their involvement and parishioners are welcome to attend their events throughout the year.

	<p>j) CAFODIn her report Pauline thanked parishioners for the financial support given for the appeals throughout the year, would like to look at other ways to raise money for CAFOD and improve the way in which the fast day money is collected.</p> <p>k) Danbury Garden In her report Jean told us she would make the garden easier to maintain and that pruning was needed after problems with neighbours and overhanging trees. She said the garden shed was well stocked but they could do with a new lawn mower and a strimmer. She asked to be kept informed about the conservatory extension.</p> <p>l) Youth Hannah spoke about how she would like to help set up a club for the youth of the parish, with their involvement in the running of it, and an alter servers group to help them enjoy the mass more. She hoped to make a start early in the new year.</p>	
	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>a) Father Paul asked if we thought an early morning mass, during the week at HT, would be welcome once the 5.30 mass at HT was stopped next year.</p> <p>Sylvia ended the meeting with the closing prayer which the pope used during his visit to the UK.</p>	

These minutes are a true account of the proceedings of the Parish Pastoral Council Annual General Meeting held on 18th November 2010 at United Reformed Church Danbury.

Signed.....Proposed Name

Dated.....

Signed..... Seconded name

dated.....