

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2011

The following attended the meeting: Kath Gable, Kathy Johnston, Rosemary Tidmarsh, Tony White, Fr Robert, June White, David Williamson, Marian Green, Lynne Pursell Barbara Fenn, Alan Hegner, Mary Reed, Sylvia Lanz, Matt Harris, Elisabeth Bourn Margaret Godfrey, Alison Huish, Frank Lo, Francis Hunter, Sharon Docherty, Nina Patrick, Pauline Spratt, Steve Gallagher, Anna Tickle, Mary Huntinton, Joe Brannigan, Mo Brannigan, John OByrne, Jim Tidmarsh, Yvonne Wheeler. Apologies to the names I could not read.

Apologies for absence: Jackie Clark, Harriet Middleboe, AlasdairMackay.

| | Discussion | Action |
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| 1) | Opening Prayer: Father Robert opened the meeting with a prayer. | |
| 2) | The minutes of the last AGM on 18 th November 2010 were agreed and signed. Matters arising: There were no matters arising | |
| 3) | Report from the Chair: Margaret Godfrey introduced herself and thanked everyone for attending. She welcomed our new parish priest, Father Robert, and the new parish councillors, Barbara Fenn, Alan Hegner, Jackie Clark and David Williamson. Thanks were extended to those who were standing down, to Steve, who had agreed to carry on as treasurer and to Kath Gable for being her right hand person. The following nominations were made: Chair: Pauline Spratt was nominated by Kath Gable and seconded by Sylvia Lantz. Vice Chair: David Williamson was nominated by Pauline Spratt and seconded by Marian Green Secretary: Barbara Fenn was nominated by Tony White and seconded by Marian Green. Margaret then spoke of the busy year with the launch of our parish website, the parish survey with all its new initiatives and the great farewell party held for Father Paul. | |
| 4) | Treasurers Report : Current Account Balance: At the start of this financial year back in April, our bank balance was £9,350 in credit, which was £500 down on the previous year's opening balance. This means basically in the 2010/11 financial year our expenditure was just a bit more than our | |

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| | <p>income. As at today our current account bank balance is back up to £11,250 in credit.</p> <p>Income: The vast majority of our general income continues to come from offertories and our annual Gift Aid cheque. In the 2010/11 financial year i.e. last year, our general income equalled £69,250. Of this offertories made up 79% of the total (£54,500) and Gift Aid made up 14% (£9,760). This year our Gift Aid cheque arrived in July and equalled £9,250. As I mentioned at Father Paul’s leaving party, we – as a parish – benefited from Father’s prison chaplaincy work over the last 8 years. Latest figures show that we received over £22,000 through this chaplaincy.</p> <p>Expenditure: Our key areas of expenditure remain similar to previous years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approximately 26% 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 (£2,700). 2. 39% of our expenditure (£17,600) goes on Pastoral Personnel and Expenses, which includes Father’s car, salary, housekeeping and the provision of supply priests. 3. And 16% (£7,000) goes on the upkeep and enhancements to all parish premises. 4. Saint Joseph’s School : <p>Before he left, Father Paul was very keen to establish a monthly amount we would give to Saint Joseph’s school in South Woodham Ferrers. This was discussed and ratified at the July parish council meeting and we now make a payment of £600 per month to the school. In addition, in August, we made a one off payment of £5,000 to Saint Joseph’s, as our parish contribution towards the new Year 6 classroom. This amount came from our Deposit Account, which now has a virtually zero balance.</p> <p>Margaret added that she has had a letter from Sarah Ginzler-Maher, the school headmistress, thanking the parish for our commitment and financial help to the school.</p> | |
| <p>5)</p> | <p>Report from the Parish Priest: Fr. Robert thanked the parishioners for his warm welcome and that after initial teething problems he was getting through his cardboard boxes. He spoke of the remembrance day parade at Danbury and the fond memories it evoked.</p> | |

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| <p>6)</p> | <p>Reports from around the Parish:</p> <p>a) Holy Trinity Fabric report: Matt reported on the on-going repairs and refurbishment that had been done at HT in the past year and of the work planned for the future. These included repairs to the roof and guttering, routine servicing of appliances (Pat testing) and installation of a new disabled toilet. Future projects include replacing the notice board, upgrading the kitchen in the meeting room and a possible extension at the entrance for easier access. Fault reporting can be done via the parish website.</p> <p>b) English Martyrs Fabric Report: Tony reported that apart from routine maintenance and annual inspections there are three items to report on. A solar powered security light has been fitted along the pathway at the side of the church. The information panels on the sign at the front of the church have been replaced and the plans for the new conservatory style meeting room were submitted to the diocese in January. Although planning permission in principal was given in February, full permission to proceed was not given until October even though Bishop Thomas had said we should go ahead on his visit in May. Local authority planning permission has also been granted. The order for the work has been placed with J& J Windows and Conservatories and work will start on 3rd January 2012. On behalf of the parish Tony would like to thank Daniel Pilgrim for his architectural advice and preparing the drawings.</p> <p>c) Ecumenism in Little Baddow: Elisabeth reported the Little Baddow Christian Council, who renewed their covenant in 2010, would welcome more Catholics. They meet 3 times a year and hold regular ecumenical events. These include a harvest lunch, a joint carol service and a Good Friday march with readings and hymns. The proceeds of collections taken during Stations of the Cross and the Peace Justice and Reconciliation services. were donated to Pax Christie. Reverend Michael Powell, the URC minister, retires in November 2011 and the Elders and church members hope to appoint a new minister to start in January 2012. Full report with minutes.</p> <p>CHESS: (Chelmsford homeless) Sad news is the Servite sister, Jan Murdoch, who was the chairperson of the CHESS trustees, died in October.</p> | |
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Traidcraft:

Sales at the back of the Danbury church have been poor but as in previous years the traidcraft stall has been taken to meetings such as the WI. Christmas card sales do very well in October.

TWAM: (tools with a mission):

There were so many last minute donations when the Little Baddow store closed in October that TWAM Ipswich had to make 2 journeys to collect the tools. For future collections contact TWAM Ipswich direct on 01473 210220. Elisabeth thanked all who had helped since the collections started in 1998.

d) Padre Pio:

Yvonne reported how the group met once a month, have a private prayer time and then generally talk about Padre Pios' life and miracles. The next meeting in December was going to be a café style gathering with a DVD of Padre Pios' life. Other parishes had been invited and devotional items would be on sale. All donations go to the building of homes for sick and retired priests.

e) Justice and Social Responsibility:

After the parish questionnaire Fr Paul asked Pauline to set up a new Justice and Peace group. Thanks were extended to Anna Tickle, Harriet Middleboe and Elisabeth Bourne for their hard work over the last 20 years.

At the first meeting addressed by Davina Bolt the diocesan officer for Justice and Peace, possible new ventures were discussed.

At the second meeting it was decided to focus on local as well as national and international ventures. Traidcraft and cake bakes would be extended to HT while the yearly jumble sale would continue. Current focus was on Christmas items and a catalogue was available for ordering.

Meetings are held monthly and in September Robert Saggs, the manager of CHESS, (local charity for the homeless), gave a presentation. There will be an appeal in Advent for foodstuffs, household goods and presents for the homeless.

Two former Newhall nuns, now living on the Melbourne estate, are working with unmarried mothers and will be talking to the group on how they might be of assistance.

f) CAFOD: (Catholic Fund for Overseas Development)

Pauline continues to speak to the Parish on behalf of CAFOD and reported on the Lent fast day collection for Columbia, the appeal for the starving in East Africa and the harvest fast day. As a result of her appeal after going to the climate change conference in Manchester just under 200 hundred cards were signed and sent to CAFOD to be forwarded to George Osborne before the Climate Summit Change in Durban.

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| | <p>g) RCIA: (Rites of Christian initiation of adults) Year 2010-2011 Lynne reported: RCIA was a lovely year. Beginning with 6 enquirers and their Catholic sponsors all of whom were very friendly and made a great contribution to the faith journey we all made. Four of the candidates entered the Church last Easter at English Martyrs: Shirley Holdbrook through Baptism and Kelly Rozee, Matthew Brown and Victoria Macdonald through a profession of faith and Confirmation. Another candidate, Brenda Porter was received at St Augustine Springfield and the final candidate is continuing this year. So far a quiet year for 2011/12 with one new enquirer and the one continuing from last year. Thanks to all As RCIA co-ordinator I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this Parish mission over the last year. Particularly to Fr Paul and our leaders Pat MacDonald, Sylvia Lanz and Jenny Tolhurst and last year's companions.</p> <p>h) (EFDA) Evangelisation and Faith development for Adults. Lynne reported: Our EFDA group has continued into its second year, offering a variety of evenings. Lent 2011: The sessions given during Lent proved very popular with 3 evenings each led by one of the denominations at Holy Trinity. Each session examined the role of 2 characters from the Easter story. Autumn 2011: Two evening sessions on the introduction of the New Translation of the Mass have been run this Autumn. They were not particularly well supported but I think were enjoyable and stimulating for those who did attend. There are no further specific EFTA evenings planned at the moment but the EFTA team continue to support other parish groups who wish to run CaFE style evenings to enrich their own programmes.</p> <p>i) House Masses: Sylvia reported: One of the initiatives that came from Margaret Godfrey's Parish Survey was the idea of Bible Study. This was implemented as a series of House Masses in which the homily was then opened to discussion. Four of these were held at both ends of the parish and were a great success. They have been on hiatus since Fr Paul left, but Fr Robert has indicated that he would be happy to continue after he has settled in. Sylvia Lanz is also happy to continue with the Bible Study meetings, obviously without a Mass. Either way, it is planned to continue with this initiative. Parishioners are invited to offer their homes to future events.</p> | |
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| | <p><u>Open Forum</u></p> <p>a)Fr Robert now has envelopes for mass offerings.</p> <p>b)Elisabeth Bourne reminded the parish of the painting of the Annunciation by Geoffrey Burnand, which belongs to Little Baddow Parish Council. This was to be taken into consideration when any proposals for extending the porch at HT were taken.</p> <p>c) A lengthy, heated discussion took place about the loss of one of the Christmas Eve services at HT. The merits of each of the services were voiced and in particular the loss of the carol service which has always been a tradition at the 9pm mass. We all agreed that four services was an extremely heavy workload for any parish priest who then had to say Christmas day masses the following morning. An emergency meeting of the liturgy committee is to be held for further discussion but time is short as Mass times will need to be advertised as soon as possible</p> <p>d)100 Club Draw:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">October 1st Number 55</td> <td style="width: 50%;">November 1st Number 33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011 2nd Number 76</td> <td>2011 2nd Number 94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd Number 24</td> <td>3rd Number 70</td> </tr> </table> <p>Fr Robert thanked everyone for attending and ended the meeting with a closing prayer.</p> | October 1 st Number 55 | November 1 st Number 33 | 2011 2 nd Number 76 | 2011 2 nd Number 94 | 3 rd Number 24 | 3 rd Number 70 | |
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These minutes are a true account of the proceedings of the Parish Pastoral Council Annual General Meeting held on 14th November 2011 in St Josephs’ school hall.

Signed.....Proposed Name

Dated.....

Signed..... Seconded name

dated.....