

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

MINUTES OF THE PPC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015 HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2015

OPENING PRAYER BY FATHER NIALL.

1. **Minutes of the AGM 2014** were presented and signed
2. **President's report** by Father Niall

"Rather than give a list of various events and celebrations and liturgies, I wish to highlight two areas.

The first one is the DBS Forms which are required in every parish throughout the Diocese. I am most grateful to Pat McDonald for the time and work he has put in over the past few months. Most parishioners have now completed the forms and many have been returned. There are still just a few who are dragging their feet despite having been given four months' notice in the newsletter. I am sure this will be rectified soon.

The second item is the Liturgy of the Word for Children at the 8.45 am Mass. It has been hit and miss on different Sundays. I spoke to Vicky Hull and a number of parishioners were approached and so there is new blood and it's good to see the result at Mass yesterday with so many children.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking everybody who participates in various and many ways in the life of the parish. The more people involved in parish life enables the parish to be alive and well and living and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I thank God for the past year and entrust the coming year to God's mercy and love."

3. **Chairman's report** by John Geary

Overall the parish council year has been a successful one.

Members have been active in organizing events and supporting numerous activities. In particular the Social Committee through their efforts has contributed significantly to parish income and Steve Gallagher will elaborate on this and other sources of income in his report.

In conjunction with the Joint Church Committee some significant items of work were undertaken in Holy Trinity Church namely the redecoration of the ceiling in the main body of the church, the replacement of the carpet in the main body of the church and two chair stores and the replacement of the kitchen in the meeting room.

I would like to thank the Social Committee members Kathy Johnson, Rosemary Tidmarsh and Barbara Fenn for all their hard work during the year. Also thanks go to Kath Gable for continuing to run the 100 Club which is another source of income for the parish. Finally my thanks go to Rachael Williams for her support as secretary over the past two years and Jacqui Davis who provided the means to manufacture last year's Christmas calendar for 2015 which was a valuable source of income; so much so the 2016 version has just gone on sale!

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### 4. Treasurer's Report by Steve Gallagher

As you may recall, over the last few years our financial position had been declining. By May 2013, our bank balance had reached £23,500 overdrawn. However after the implementation of a 'get well' programme back in 2013, we started to turn our financial position slowly around and by the end of 2014 we were only £15,000 overdrawn and as at today we have reduced our overdraft to just £7,300. This has been a great parish effort and is due to not only reduced and managed expenditure, but to increased offertories, improved fundraising, the restarting of prison chaplaincies and upgraded Gift Aid.

#### Income

Between 2010 and 2013 our ordinary offertory and subsequent Gift Aid had been declining. At the same time the loss of the prison chaplaincy – when Father Paul Fox moved on - between 2011 and 2013 dented our income too.

However in 2014/15 our general income has markedly improved and is now £10,000 greater than 5 years ago.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
<b>Ordinary Offertories</b>	£54,520	£49,912	£46,919	£54,646	£56,435
<b>Tax Refunded Gift Aid</b>	£9,760	£9,255	£7,656	£8,546	£10,808
<b>Fundraising Events</b>	£0	£706	£987	£3,344	£3,132
<b>Altar Society (Repository, Candles and Paper)</b>	£1,943	£2,170	£1,939	£2,331	£2,423
<b>Entertainments and Socials</b>	£0	£0	£0	£41	£0
<b>Parish Club Fabric Fund</b>	£0	£109	£11,165	£0	£348
<b>Rent Charges for Hall</b>	£0	£0	£50	£0	£0
<b>Chaplaincies</b>	£2,784	£1,440	£0	£2,478	£4,134
<b>Interest (from Deposit Account)</b>	£3	£2	£0	£0	£0
<b>Donations and Gifts</b>	£20	£220	£1,412	£2,600	£425
<b>Legacies (General)</b>	£0	£1,000	£0	£0	£0
<b>Grants External</b>	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Others</b>	£220	£1,775	£509	£1,168	£1,696
<b>Total</b>	<b>£69,252</b>	<b>£66,587</b>	<b>£70,637</b>	<b>£75,153</b>	<b>£79,401</b>

Table 1: General Income 2010 to 2015

This positive change is mainly due to:

- A number of parishioners increasing their monthly Standing Orders and as a result our Gift Aid amount has increased;
- Introduction of the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS), which allows us to claim Gift Aid against loose offertory up to a maximum claim of £5,000 per mass centre;
- The continued re-emergence of fundraising events as a great source of income
- Father Niall's prison chaplaincy.

#### Expenditure

Our expenditure peaked between 2011 and 2013 and was mainly due to:

- Building of the Danbury extension in 2011;
- Introduction of a monthly upkeep payment to Saint Joseph's school;
- Outlay on supply priests, while Father Robert was unwell
- The increasing cost of utilities.

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	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
<b>Car and Travel</b>	£4,346	£5,117	£3,094	£4,725	£3,371
<b>Salaries and NI</b>	£4,118	£1,997	£1,883	£2,923	£2,978
<b>Other Expenses</b>	£1,399	£1,410	£122	£0	£0
<b>Housekeeping</b>	£2,138	£2,676	£2,825	£4,911	£6,751
<b>Supply Priests</b>	£815	£4,263	£3,930	£2,169	£1,846
<b>Deacons</b>	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Parish Sisters</b>	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Liturgical</b>	£4,365	£4,272	£4,668	£3,680	£4,488
<b>Catechetical</b>	£1,094	£2,549	£783	£1,421	£1,146
<b>Ecumenical</b>	£133	£139	£70	£0	£0
<b>Youth</b>	£0	£0	£0	£0	£151
<b>Other Repository</b>	£2,330	£2,564	£1,097	£964	£1,068
<b>Parish Wages and NI</b>	£5,740	£6,675	£7,141	£7,251	£7,600
<b>Heat &amp; Light</b>	£3,609	£3,201	£5,115	£5,723	£4,978
<b>Rates Council, Water etc</b>	£1,695	£1,969	£2,141	£1,744	£1,726
<b>Insurance</b>	£2,044	£2,015	£2,197	£2,260	£2,284
<b>Routine Maintenance</b>	£5,368	£4,934	£5,312	£2,580	£2,575
<b>Office Admin Expenses</b>	£4,047	£4,653	£4,088	£3,975	£3,801
<b>School Upkeep</b>	£0	£9,800	£5,700	£3,600	£3,600
<b>Capitation</b>	£620	£440	£460	£460	£10
<b>Donations</b>	£1,141	£250	£995	£60	£702
<b>Diocesan Quota</b>	£15,543	£15,308	£14,592	£12,398	£11,920
<b>Interest on Overdrafts Loans etc</b>	£0	£0	£333	£453	£349
<b>JCC Holy Trinity Quota</b>	£4,950	£5,550	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
<b>Misc</b>	£409	£1,014	£378	£370	£719
<b>Socials etc</b>	£552	£496	£611	£96	£314
<b>Repairs and Furniture for Church</b>	£0	£16,851	£0	£100	£59
<b>Presbytery</b>	£0	£0	£3,397	£542	£6,172
<b>Hall</b>	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>School</b>	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	<b>£66,458</b>	<b>£98,139</b>	<b>£76,934</b>	<b>£68,406</b>	<b>£74,606</b>

Table 2: General Expenditure 2010 to 2015

As a result of our more positive financial outlook, plus our 2014 Gift Aid (at £10,808) being the highest in years, we were able to commit £6,200 to the refurbishment of the presbytery kitchen in August 2014.

**Conclusion**

Looking forward our financial position continues to improve, with our 2015 Gift Aid being the highest ever at £11,102.

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In addition the government has revised from April 2016, the maximum claim amount for the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS), up from £5,000 for loose plate donations to £8,000, per mass centre. This means out 2016 Gift Aid will be even higher.

With our continuing positive financial outlook, we have been able to commit £4,000 to the repairs to the tarmac in the Danbury car park.

Finally it is estimated that whilst we have started to turn the financial corner, it will take up to another two years to return to a positive balance.

### 5. Reports from around the Parish.

#### 5.1 Social Committee Report for AGM 2015

##### Quiz Night 22nd November, 2014.

Thank you to Jim and Rosemary for organizing another Quiz Night. A profit of £348.00 was made from ticket sales and raffle.

##### Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Hamper Raffle raised £375.00.

##### Parish Dance

A Parish Dance was held in St. Joseph's Hall on the 14th March. It was a very enjoyable evening but unfortunately only 19 parishioners came (six of whom were committee members and their husbands) and 16 friends of the Band. A lot of work went into the organization of this event so the lack of support was disappointing. Special thanks to Jim Tidmarsh and his band. The band luckily charged us less than they normally do and as we didn't have to pay for the hire of the hall we did make a profit of £234.00 rather than a loss.

##### Parish Bazaar

After a long discussion it was decided unanimously to cancel the Bazaar which was to be held on the 6th June.

##### Summer Raffle

The summer raffle made a profit of £587.00.

##### Calendars

After the success of last year's Calendars (we made a profit of £820) 2016 Calendars are now on sale. Photos from around the Parish were submitted and after a lot of deliberation twelve were chosen. The Calendars will be on sale after all Masses at the same price as last year £10. Volunteers to sell at Danbury would be appreciated. We have taken notice of the feed-back we received and the Calendars will still be of the same quality but smaller this year.

The total raised by the Social Committee this year was £2,364.00. The present Committee is going to stand down after selling the Calendars. A new committee with fresh ideas will be needed for 2016.

#### 5.2 Fabric Committee

Holy Trinity church ceiling has been done, together with a new kitchen in the Holy Trinity meeting room: £20,000 - £7,000 interest free loan payable over 2 years. A few other things carried out at the Presbytery.

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5.3 Patricia MacLachlan reported on the Live Simply campaign and sheets were handed out. She thanked all those who responded to the questionnaire. They are aiming to do Live Simply soup lunches and hope to have better turnouts at events. Thanks given to a stamp collector.

5.4 St Joseph's School by Alison Huish

Throughout the year as a school we have supported many charities, these include the CAFOD harvest, Lenten and advent charity appeals as well as emergency appeals. We are also proud to support the BBC Children in Need appeal; we have collected food items for CHESS which supports homeless adults in the Chelmsford area and the Samaritan's Purse appeal where children fill wrapped shoe boxes for needy children around the world, and the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Christmas Appeal for needy children in our diocese. We also support Duchene Muscular Dystrophy research trust and the work of the Great Ormond St Hos.

We also continue to celebrate our 'International School' status by developing links with St Thomas School in Kolkata and the Mathieson Music School trust in Kolkata, India. The children have written letters to their peers in India and are looking forward to developing virtual links through the use of information technology.

The children undertook a sponsored music event in October to support the work of the Mathieson Music School which supports orphaned children who are the 'poorest of the poor' in India. Mr. Anup Biswas will be leading a music workshop with all the children in the school on Tuesday 10 November 2015 and will be presented with a cheque for the Music Trust during a celebration assembly.

We continue to receive the support of Father Niall for all of our class Masses, whole school masses and school services such as the Remembrance Service which will be held on Thursday 12 November 2015.

The children follow the 'Come and See' religious Education curriculum which includes programmes of study of 'other World faiths' and each class learn about their class saint throughout the year.

5.5 Elisabeth Bourne

She sent her apologies and she wishes to raise something: "There was always a copy of the minutes or reports of what is going on in the parish pinned to the notice board for people to read and then filed away in the Sacristy. This hasn't been done for months and could this please be reinstated so there is some continuity." This was noted.

5.6 Kath Gable - The 100 Club

6. Any Other Business. - Bernard Dayer is a new council member.

Mass attendances are going up. A steady increase since Fr Niall was Parish priest; now taking Wedding and Baptism bookings well in advance.

In prison there are over 50 attendees.

CLOSING PRAYER.