

AGM

English Martyrs Danbury with Holy Trinity Church South Woodham Ferrers

13th November 2017 in St Joseph's School South Woodham Ferrers.

Fr James opened with a prayer.

Present

Fr James, Kath Gable, Peter Blackman, John Geary, Rosemary Tidmarsh, Kathy Johnston, Jim Tidmarsh, Frank Lo, Pat Geary, Philomena Connelly, Pauline Spratt, Lynne Pursell, Alan Pursell, Michael Weston, Jaqui Davis, Ita Bacon, Bernard Dayer, Robin McGuinness, Joyce McGuinness, Rosemary Royce, Brian Royce, Barbara Fenn, Marion Green, Mary Huntingdon, Steve Gallagher.

Apologies

None

John Geary as Chair welcomed all present.

- 1) The minutes from 2016 AGM were agreed and signed by John Geary and Steve Gallagher.

President's report

2) Fr James has only been with us a couple of weeks so has no report only to say, he feels the parish is friendly and welcoming with a good spirit.

3) Chairman's Report

The parish council's year has been successful year.

As was the case last year a number of serving members are standing down resulting in the need for elections to fill these posts which will be held at the end of this meeting.

A quiz evening organized by Rosemary and Jim Tidmarsh was held during the year and this was a thoroughly enjoyable social evening.

A talent evening organized by Rebecca Huish was held in the school hall and was a great success of hitherto unknown talent.

I would like to thank Kath Gable for continuing to run the 100 Club which is a valuable source of income for the parish.

I would also like to thank Steve Gallagher for his service as treasurer for many years. Steve is retiring and is in the process of relocating shortly.

Also thanks go to Kathy Johnston for partaking on the committee as an ex-officio member as observer at the Anglican council meetings and also for her input on social events including the Christmas raffle for the luxury hampers which again are a valuable source of income to the parish.

4) Treasurer's Report

Financial Recap

As you may recall, from 2010 to 2013 our financial position had been declining, reaching an overdraft position of £23,500.

After starting a 'get well' programme in 2014, we have slowly started to decrease our overdraft and as at today, our bank balance is just £7,000 overdrawn.

This has been a great parish effort and is due to not only reduced expenditure, but to increased offertories, improved fundraising, the continuing of prison chaplaincies and improving Gift Aid returns.

Income

After remaining flat for the previous two financial years, in 2016/17 our General Income rose by nearly £5,000 and is £15,000 greater than just 7 years ago.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Ordinary Offertories	£54,520	£49,912	£46,919	£54,646	£56,435	£57,325	£60,509
Tax Refunded Gift Aid	£9,760	£9,255	£7,656	£8,546	£10,808	£11,102	£12,425
Fundraising Events	£0	£706	£987	£3,344	£3,132	£2,284	£2,817
Altar Society (Repository, Candles and Paper)	£1,943	£2,170	£1,939	£2,331	£2,423	£1,749	£1,917
Entertainments and Socials	£0	£0	£0	£41	£0	£0	£0
Parish Club Fabric Fund	£0	£109	£11,165	£0	£348	£0	£0
Rent Charges for Hall	£0	£0	£50	£0	£0	£0	£0
Chaplaincies	£2,784	£1,440	£0	£2,478	£4,134	£4,107	£3,876
Interest (from Deposit Account)	£3	£2	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Donations and Gifts	£20	£220	£1,412	£2,600	£425	£1,600	£2,390
Legacies (General)	£0	£1,000	£0	£0	£0	£500	£0
Grants External	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Others	£220	£1,775	£509	£1,168	£1,696	£984	£602
Total	£69,252	£66,587	£70,637	£75,153	£79,401	£79,651	£84,536

Table 1: General Income 2010/11 to 2016/17

This positive change is mainly due to:

- Many parishioners increasing what they give via the plate and their monthly Standing Orders. This has increased over £3,000 in the last financial year to £60,509;
- As a result, our Gift Aid (for the 2015/16 year) amount increased another £1,300 to £12,425;
- Continued income from Father's prison chaplaincy, contributing £4,000 per year;
- The continued re-emergence of fundraising events, adding over £500 more than the previous financial year to £2,817; and
- Improving levels of Donations.

NB

It is also worth noting that in July, we received our Gift Aid for the 2016/17 financial year. The amount was £14,325 and is the highest figure ever for our parish. It is £2,000 more than the previous financial year and is close to a 50% improvement over 2010/11.

Expenditure

Our expenditure has climbed nearly £7,000 in the last financial year, but the majority can be attributed to necessary work on the presbytery.

Key items to note are:

- Housekeeping was down £934 to £5,885;
- Heat and Light was also down £1,349 to £5,675;
- Routine Maintenance up £1,645 to £4,881;
- Office Admin down £1,075 to £4,052;
- Diocesan Quota up £2,468 to £15,617; and
- £8,690 was spent on Presbytery garden repairs, carpets, external cladding, new boiler and heating system

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Car and Travel	£4,346	£5,117	£3,094	£4,725	£3,371	£3,116	£3,039
Salaries and NI	£4,118	£1,997	£1,883	£2,923	£2,978	£2,993	£3,756
Other Expenses	£1,399	£1,410	£122	£0	£0	£512	£0
Housekeeping	£2,138	£2,676	£2,825	£4,911	£6,751	£6,819	£5,885
Supply Priests	£815	£4,263	£3,930	£2,169	£1,846	£647	£450
Deacons	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Parish Sisters	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Liturgical	£4,365	£4,272	£4,668	£3,680	£4,488	£3,868	£3,506
Catechetical	£1,094	£2,549	£783	£1,421	£1,146	£742	£848
Ecumenical	£133	£139	£70	£0	£0	£53	£0
Youth	£0	£0	£0	£0	£151	£0	£0
Other Repository	£2,330	£2,564	£1,097	£964	£1,068	£946	£633
Parish Wages and NI	£5,740	£6,675	£7,141	£7,251	£7,600	£8,422	£8,392
Heat & Light	£3,609	£3,201	£5,115	£5,723	£4,978	£7,023	£5,675
Rates Council, Water etc	£1,695	£1,969	£2,141	£1,744	£1,726	£1,649	£1,696
Insurance	£2,044	£2,015	£2,197	£2,260	£2,284	£2,326	£1,932
Routine Maintenance	£5,368	£4,934	£5,312	£2,580	£2,575	£3,236	£4,881
Office Admin Expenses	£4,047	£4,653	£4,088	£3,975	£3,801	£5,127	£4,052
School Upkeep	£0	£9,800	£5,700	£3,600	£3,600	£3,600	£3,600
Capitation	£620	£440	£460	£460	£10	£390	£470
Donations	£1,141	£250	£995	£60	£702	£105	£983
Diocesan Quota	£15,543	£15,308	£14,592	£12,398	£11,920	£13,149	£15,617
Interest on Overdrafts Loans etc	£0	£0	£333	£453	£349	£235	£383
Sick and Aged Clergy	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1,000	£1,600
JCC Holy Trinity Quota	£4,950	£5,550	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Misc	£409	£1,014	£378	£370	£719	£602	£1,157
Socials etc	£552	£496	£611	£96	£314	£96	£894
Repairs and Furniture for Church	£0	£16,851	£0	£100	£59	£4,615	£0
Presbytery	£0	£0	£3,397	£542	£6,172	£0	£8,690
Hall	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
School	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	£66,458	£98,139	£76,934	£68,406	£74,606	£77,271	£84,138

Table 2: General Expenditure 2010/11 to 2016/17

Financial audit

At the end of July, we underwent (and passed) a financial audit from the Diocesan auditors, Hays McIntyre.

Conclusion

Our financial situation continues to look stable, with a greatly improved overdraft position.

Our income is showing an upward curve and if we consider the presbytery expenses to be a necessary one-off, the overall performance for the last financial year is healthy.

If no unforeseen expenditure arises, I anticipate us returning to a positive bank balance in 2018.

And finally

Having got married earlier this year, my wife Corvene and I are looking to move away from South Woodham Ferrers, initially to West London, then to Suffolk / Spain next year.

So, with great sadness, I plan - after many years - to stand down as the parish treasurer, as well as the JCC treasurer. This will be my last AGM.

I anticipate we will be gone by Christmas from South Woodham Ferrers.

I'm glad to announce that Jim Tidmarsh will be taking over from me and we are currently going through the various accounting processes and handing over the files.

But – just as a reminder – the JCC treasurer role is still vacant.

Thanks and goodbye.

Stephen Gallagher
Treasurer

John G thanked Steve for the past many years as treasurer for us and presented him with some wine as a thank you.

Fr James said he was pre-empted and also gave Steve some wine from us all.

The floor was then open to questions.

Our gift aid has gone up this year as we are now able to collect this from plate offerings.

Steve was asked:

What is routine maintenance?

He said heating, chlorination of water tanks, running house repairs and the like.

Do we pay St Joseph's anything?

Yes £300 per month.

Why are we in the red again?

Quota is up, we have lost £4000 prison chaplaincy and the cost of the office to Danbury and priest's removal costs.

Contributions to JCC (SWF)

We are the biggest congregation and from a survey done several years ago we were 60% of all church users.

We have kept contributions at £10,000 per year with Catholics paying 60%, Anglicans 29% and Methodists 11%. The others cannot pay anymore. We are trying to save a contingency fund for future works.

Holy Trinity was decorated and carpeted with a loan from a member of another congregation, which is now repaid.

The roof is often in need of repair because of skateboarders on it.

Are we fully insured?

Yes everything is covered.

5) **Social Committee Report**

Kathy J reported

Christmas Hamper Raffle 2016

The Christmas Raffle was drawn on the 12th December and the twelve prizes were given to the lucky winners in time for Christmas. A profit of £585 was made for Parish Funds. Thank you to everyone who generously donated goodies for the hampers and bought tickets.

Quiz Night

Another very successful Quiz Night was held on the 25th March, 2017 and raised £912.00 for Parish Funds. Thanks to Jim and Rosemary Tidmarsh for all of their hard work in organising the evening.

Christmas Hamper Raffle 2017

Raffle tickets were attached to the newsletters this weekend. Boxes are at the back of both churches for donations for the Christmas Hampers.

All the winners last year were amazed at the variety of food and drink each hamper held. If anyone has any baskets that they do not want please let me know and I will arrange to collect them.

Rosemary and I will make up the Hampers in time for the draw. The draw will take place on Monday 11th December and I will inform the winners by phone. If anyone would like to buy tickets tonight please see me.

Elvis Night

The Elvis Night will be on Saturday 27th January at 7.30 in Danbury Village Hall. Tickets are selling well. Tickets can be bought from Maria Smith at Danbury or Rosemary Tidmarsh and Kathy Johnston at SWF. They are £10 per person. Children free. If anyone would like to purchase tickets this evening please see Rosemary.

Social Committee

A new Social Committee has been formed and will be meeting with Father James on the 22nd November to plan events for 2018. If any Parishioners have any ideas for Social Evenings please let Father James know.

6) **Fabric Reports**

John G reported

PRESBYTERY - FABRIC REPORT

This year has been a quieter one at the presbytery with minimal maintenance works being undertaken.

As a result of a recommendation by the diocese Health and Safety consultant a video entry intercom was installed.

ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH, DANBURY-

This year has been a busier one at Danbury. Works undertaken included:

- Redecoration to various internal and external joinery and equipment
- Replacement of the whole of the carpet within the body of the church
- The relocation of the parish office from South Woodham to Danbury

Holy Trinity SWF

In conjunction with the Joint Church Committee various items of work were undertaken in Holy Trinity Church namely:

- The redecoration of the two vestries including the provision of new lighting (this work was undertaken by committee members).
- The testing of the fixed electrical installation (power and lighting)
- The replacement of a broken toilet window
- Remedial works to the slate roof as a result of damage caused by person(s) unknown climbing on the roof and slipped slates
- Remedial works to damaged steps at the east entrance (facing the library) - second event.

Recently we have seen the departure of Father Niall to Walthamstow and the arrival of Father James from Elm Park.

John also mentioned that the small items PAT testing can be left to every 3 years as they are very low usage.

The roof needs a repair again.

The CCTV is fixed on William de Ferrers school entrance and does not cover the church so skateboarders are not recorded.

A.O.B

Peter B wanted to mention that Holy Trinity is a LEP and with new Ministers and Rev Carol ill we have had a tricky patch and he wanted to thank all the churches and both ends of our parish for working together through this time.

The good news is that Rev Carol is now on a phased return to work and will hopefully be full time by next year.

The Passion Play will now be 2021.

The joint churches in Holy Trinity are running an Advent course weekly on Tuesday 21st 28th November, 5th and 12th December. 7.45 in the meeting room. Also on Fridays 12.30pm, 24th November and 1,8,15th December. Friday sessions include soup and a roll. This is to have a more prominent place in our newsletter and is to go into the other congregations newsletters too.

Peter urged the Catholics to attend this ecumenical events as we are not well represented.

Fr James had been emailed by Sophie G about the 5.30 Mass. There was a discussion on this and the conclusion was the Mass has been off and on over the years and it is up to the Priest to make the decision. Those present all agreed with the Priest making the decision.

As there are some disabled people in Woodham who find it difficult to make the 8.45 Mass we could ask for volunteers, who go up to Danbury, to give them a lift.

Fr James mentioned there will be no morning Masses on Sunday 24th December as he will be saying 3 that evening and 2 the following morning. The Saturday 23rd evening Mass will be said as usual in Danbury.

Parking for Danbury is available in the new doctor's car park.

Election of Officers and Committee

The following were proposed, seconded and elected;

Secretary Kath Gable
Treasurer Jim Tidmarsh
Chair Alan Pursell
Vice Chair Peter Blackman.
Fr James is the President.

The committee members are;

Michael Weston, Philomena Connolly, Rosemary Tidmarsh, Bernard Dayer and Mary Huntington.

Kathy Johnston- Anglican Rep and Social committee
Barbara Fenn - Methodist Rep

Pauline S – Steward to the Gospel.

We need a School rep as Alison is at St Francis at the moment.

Thanks were extended to John, Steve and Robin who are stepping down this year.

The 100 club numbers for November were drawn at the meeting.

Finally we desperately need a treasurer for the JCC as we are losing Steve G before Christmas.

Fr James closed the meeting with a prayer.

**FIRST MEETING OF NEW COMMITTEE IN ENGLISH MARTYRS DANBURY 8PM
ON MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2017**

Signed

Dated

Seconded

Dated