

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 09 OCTOBER 2017 AT
ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH DANBURY**

Attendees:

President: Father James McShane Fr James

Chair: John Geary JG

Kathy Johnston KJ, Pauline Spratt PS, Robin McGuinness RM, Bernard Dayer BD, Mary Huntingdon MH and Ashley John AJ

Father James opened the meeting with a prayer.

Apologies for absence

Steve Gallagher SG, Alison Huish AH and Jenny Sismey JS

Minutes of last meeting / matters arising

None.

Calendar and dates

Next meeting is the AGM and will be held in St Joseph's school hall on Monday 13 November at 8pm.

Vacancies to fill

New committee members to be elected at the AGM.

Live Simply Campaign

Since the death of Patricia McLaughlan Pauline reported that the initiative had stalled although the justice and Peace group are still keen to get the award.

CAFOD

We continue to support fast days twice a year and attend retreats and training days.

Justice and Peace

We are a small group consisting of six members, three from each end of the parish. We support a primary school in Sierra Leone (last payment in 2018), cake stalls for CHESS, Christian Aid and the Melbourne Sisters. Fair Trade stall are held once a month and twice yearly road shows at local WI's. a jumble sale is held once a year, there are parish walks and a wine and cheese event.

Stewardship

The last meeting was one week ago. Pauline was unable to attend but Michael Weston went in her place. he will provide feedback tomorrow (10 October) morning at a meeting of stewards. A few steward are meeting on Wednesday evening to discuss the first draft plan and Pauline has to prepare a report for Steve Webb by the 20 October.

Fabric reports

JG to obtain a quote for the replacement of a corroded radiator in the Catholic / Methodist vestry. The two vestries were redecorated as planned and new light fittings have been installed. The broken window in a toilet has been replaced.

The carpet in English Martyr's Church has been replaced.

Methodist report

Rev. Barry Allen and his wife Maria (known as Ria) have arrived fro South Africa. Although they have not had a meeting recently Jenny hopes to provide a report for the next meeting.

Anglican report

Sue Benjamin has now moved to Inverness. Ashley John was now representing the Anglicans.

Liturgy report

Nothing to report.

St Joseph's School report

Alison Huish has been seconded to St Francis School in Maldon for twelve months so we currently do not have a school representative.

Social Committee

Kathy Johnston advised that she would be organizing Christmas hampers for the annual raffle.

Father James suggested that an Elvis tribute performer could present a show in Danbury. Enquires to be sought regarding the hiring of a hall.

Treasurer's report

In Steve's absence on honeymoon John read his report as follows:

Since we last met in June (when I reported that our overdraft was £15,000), there have been several significant changes to our parish account.

First our bank balance has decreased to only £2,500 as at the end of September. This is due to two key items -

- This year's Gift Aid cheque arrived in late June and was £14,325. this is the highest figure ever, is £2,000 more than the previous year and is close to a 50% improvement when compared to 2010.
- In August we received an anonymous donation of £4,000.

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

Finally, having got married, 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 parish treasurer, as well as JCC treasurer. I anticipate I will be gone by Christmas from South Woodham Ferrers.

Obviously I am keen to ensure a smooth transition to my replacement, so will always be available to help.

BTW I have many years of completed financial files that I will be looking to hand back.

100 Club

There are currently two numbers available.

Any other business

John advised that Saturday 02 December had been identified as a date for the Holy Trinity church special clean in readiness for Christmas.

Father James closed the meeting with a prayer.