

Sacred Heart, Tisbury and All Saint's, Wardour
PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES

19.30 3rd June 2011 Hinton Hall, Tisbury

Present: Fr Thomas, Mark Shuldham (in the Chair) Martin Snell (treasurer), members of the Parish Pastoral Council - Patricia Coopman, Mike Montgomery, Krystyna Morgan, Dinah Rawlinson, Philadelphia Whittaker – Dr Joyce Sugg, and 20 parishioners

Apologies: Nick Weeks, Richard Arundell, Felicity MacSwiney

1. Welcome, Introductions

The chairman opened the meeting, explained the format and asked Fr Thomas to lead a prayer.

2. Reports

- i. The chairman reported on the work the PPC had done in the past year:-
 - the PPC had ensured that the parish room windows were painted;
 - the provision of children's mass sheets was reviewed;-
 - the availability of written material to assist those who are not Catholic attending Mass was confirmed;
 - the new PPC Constitution approved at last year's Annual Meeting was adopted. It requires annual review. That was done and the PPC had no proposed amendments. He asked if anyone wished to propose an amendment; there were no proposals from the floor, so the Constitution remains unchanged.
 - the August Bank Holiday parish garden party was organised with the support of the TCSG as a practical way of thanking everyone who contributes to the work of the parish.
 - the Parish Vision Statement was finalised and is now displayed in both churches.
 - The issue of visiting sick and housebound parishioners needs further consideration.
 - One major item was to get to grips with the guidance in '*To Love and Serve the Lord*', which aims to enable as many as possible to participate more fully in the life of the parish. As a start, a list of many of the tasks undertaken by volunteers was prepared and some job descriptions were drafted in a common format so that anyone interested in volunteering can see what is involved. The list and a couple of job descriptions were shown to the meeting. The chairman asked for any additions to the list.
 - As Fr. T. celebrates his 70th on 8th July, a parish birthday celebration for the August bank holiday (29th August) is being planned with the TCSG.
 - He invited questions and comments on any aspect of parish life.
 - Concern was expressed by Edmund Neville Rolfe that the old part of Wardour cemetery had been allowed to run wild and that ivy was growing all over the grave stones. Fr Thomas, as the only member of the Wardour Cemetery Trust present, said that this was a deliberate policy. Any questions about the cemetery should be addressed to the Trust, Jeremy Hooper is the manager. The Chairman said that the PPC would follow this up.
 - The chairman said that feedback and further suggestions would also be welcome after the meeting.
- ii. Martin Snell reported on the financial state of the parish, copies of the accounts having been distributed after all Masses the previous Sunday. He said that both offertory collections and expenditure were up and that £11,000 had been added to the funds on deposit. The money on deposit would be needed if, for example, the church roof needed renewing. Martin Snell encouraged everyone who is a taxpayer to gift aid the money they give to the church. In answer to questions Fr T explained that the money on deposit was

invested through the diocese and said that the increase in offertory collections roughly matched the decrease in the tax refund the parish would receive from this year.

Fr Thomas thanked Martin for his work as Treasurer, Felicity McSWiney for being his assistant and Allison Taylor for her work as Gift Aid organiser.

- iii. Ann Windsor reported on the Youth Activities in the parish. The parish youth Group Eclipse met monthly, except in August and January, and had undertaken several activities. Currently there were only 7 regular attenders, 2 of whom were non-Catholic. She thought that the lack of numbers may be because a number of the age group attended private schools, and that youngsters were very busy. Ideas for publicizing the group in the future included a youth newsletter, a page on the parish website amongst others. She asked whether anyone would be prepared to come to any of the meetings and maybe give a short talk. The Youth SVP met weekly in term time and had cleaned the church, walked dogs for owners who were unable to do so themselves. She thanked Becky Bertenshaw for her help and would welcome any other help. Fr Thomas thanked her for all she had done since first pointing out at a Parish Meeting the desirability of having more of a focus on young parishioners.
- iv. Dinah Rawlinson reported on the activities of the Tisbury Catholic Social Group over the past year. She had been Chairman of the Group since January on the retirement of Mike Montgomery. The committee would welcome new members with new ideas and stressed that activities, such as the recent parish picnic were for all parishioners and not just for members of the group. Fr Thomas thanked Mike Montgomery for his work over the years as Chairman of the group and thanked Dinah.
- v. Fr Thomas announced
 1. A Meeting to celebrate the publication of Barry Williams' much-awaited *The Arundells of Wardour* in the Hinton Hall on Saturday July 16th at 3 p.m.
 2. The new Altar Missals had been ordered, together with Mass cards for everyone and booklets about the new translation for every household.
 3. The long-rife rumours about the Parish Priest's retirement were in part correct. He expected to be replaced this year, possibly in September, but it is not yet known by whom.

3 . Dr Joyce Sugg gave an inspiring talk on Newman – A Guide for us today? She answered questions.

The Chairman thanked her for coming. He then closed the formal part of the meeting and invited all to have refreshments.

*A parishioner is kindly preparing a summary of Joyce's talk,
with the help of Joyce's own notes,
which it is hoped to make available shortly.*