

The Parish of The Sacred Heart, Tisbury, and All Saints, Wardour

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

On 21st February 2013

Chairman: Michael Montgomery

Apologies: Mark Shuldham, Patricia Coopman, Michael and Dinah Rawlinson, Felicity MacSwiney

The meeting opened with a prayer

Report of Parish Priest

The school has needed a lot of attention. The head has now resigned and an advertisement for a new one will appear shortly.

The Russian choir will be asked to return, and perform religious music.

John Huntriss is to deliver three talks in Lent.

50 nativities have been offered for the exhibition later in the year.

Thanks for the many parish institutions that are working well; the Chairman and the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC); the Social Committee; the Eucharistic Ministers, those helping with visiting; and Jacqui Windsor who does the administration.

There is a shortage of catechists for First Communion – two more would be welcome.

Chairman's Report

There have been six meetings of the PPC during the year. The main topics of discussion are addressed below. Other items are:

The School was the object of charitable giving for 2012, in the form of funds from parish resources paid at the end of the year.

The setting up of a St Vincent de Paul (SVP) group for adults was discussed. It was considered that membership of the national organisation was too onerous and a simplified version should be set up to give organisation and continuity to visits to parishioners. However approaches to potential leaders have been unsuccessful.

The parish rooms are booked with Jacqui Windsor, but a manager is needed to ensure the day-to-day needs are met (e.g. light bulbs).

Election of new PPC members

Current members are Fr Robert, Michael Montgomery (Chairman), Martin Snell (Treasurer), Mike Lennard, Mark Shuldham, Krystyna Morgan, Richard Arundell, Philadelphia Whittaker, Sarah Howard, Jenny and Bruce Tozer.

There are three vacancies. Martin Morland has volunteered to fill one of them.

The Parish of The Sacred Heart, Tisbury, and All Saints, Wardour

The role of the Council is to discuss and track finance and to advise the priest, for example on decisions on property. The old constitution is not used, but the role is essentially an expansion on the old one.

Agendas and Minutes have not been widely circulated but in future will be posted on notice boards and on the Web site (www.tisburywardourparish.org)

Parish Accounts

(Martin Snell)

Summary attached.

Could people making regular large cash donations in the collection consider Gift-Aiding them?

The diocesan levy is calculated as a percentage of the previous year's revenue less priest's living expenses.

Thanks to Adele Cordle for helping with the accounts.

Land and Buildings

(Mark Shuldham)

Report attached

A contingent sum of £10,000 from the parish reserves will be set aside to refurbish the flat over the parish rooms once that becomes possible.

No decision has been made about use of the parish land. Any decision made would still require the approval of the Diocesan Trustees.

Social Group

(Krystyna Morgan)

It has been a busy year. Events have included the Unity Service in January, the Childrens' party in February 2012 and again this year (with 25 children there), the Russian concert, the Holy Communion breakfast in June and the Harvest Supper in October (thanks to Bridget Bell for arranging a quizmaster).

The group is looking for new members.

Michael Montgomery thanked the group on behalf of the parish.

Youth Groups

(Ann Windsor)

There are two groups – youth SVP and Eclipse. Both have the same membership of 7 regulars and others from time to time.

The Parish of The Sacred Heart, Tisbury, and All Saints, Wardour

SVP meets on Wednesdays in term time for an hour. Activities have included church cleaning, spring cleaning for an elderly lady, and a monthly cake sale to sponsor a Ugandan child to go to school (very successful – it now supports his siblings too). Manufacture and sale of bath bombs and Christmas cards paid for a Christmas parcel. The group decorated the Christmas Grotto ('Tis the Season) and helped Santa.

Eclipse meets on the first Sunday of the month. The group have arranged the flower display in church; participated in a 'Saints Workshop'; and been ice skating. There is a cross which needs screwing to a wall – volunteers please!

Year of Faith

(Mike Lennard)

Handout attached

This activity is in response to the Pope's Year of Faith initiative. Proposals include:

- A bulletin board with information about vocations
- Links to websites of religious communities
- Commitment to one prayer said daily, one resolution kept regularly, one saint for guidance, one act of kindness for each month.

More inspiration on the Vatican website

Parish Charities

The meeting was asked for suggestions for a charity to adopt.

- The Trussell Trust was proposed. There could be a box at the back of the church for food donations
- There was a proposal to adopt a specific struggling parish. Practical obstacle is finding one that needs the money and is not supported by national or diocesan resources
- Crisis.

Other suggestions are welcome.

Fete 2013

(Becky Bertenshaw)

There will a fete in the Trellis House grounds on Saturday 9th September. Local societies will be invited to set up stalls in return for a prize for a tombola or raffle. Local crafts could set up in the Parish Rooms for a nominal fee. Any proceeds to be disposed of by the Parish Priest – the purpose is not to raise money but to bring people together, use the grounds and to give out the message 'we are here, you are welcome'.

Deanery Sunday Mass Times

The Parish of The Sacred Heart, Tisbury, and All Saints, Wardour

(Fr Robert)

Current Mass times in the Deanery were arranged so that priests could cover for each other. Now there are only three priests (Tisbury, Salisbury, Amesbury) and no chance of cover. The only, occasional, additional resources are two retired priests in Warminster and one priest of the Ordinariate. Two seminarians in the Diocese are to be ordained next year and then there is a gap.

There is a Deanery initiative to coordinate a change in Mass times and the parish is to send the priest and three members of the PPC to a meeting in Salisbury later in the year to come up with a solution.

Our position is weakened by irregular attendances at Sunday Mass and the tendency to think like a town, not an outlying village. We may have to get use to the idea of travelling more (a bus to a service at St Osmunds?)

Questions and answers included:

- One London parish has significant success in attracting vocations – Matt Anscombe, diocesan vocations director would be interested in this
- Could we use foreign priests? – we do but their vocations are falling too
- Is there just a shortage of young men in the pool for vocations? – Yes.
- Could we use Deacons instead? – that is a separate role
- Could support for a parish lay helper be our nominated charity? – This is funded through the Diocesan Levy
- Could we copy the Continental Lay Eucharistic Service? – This is discouraged as the Church needs to keep control of the Liturgy
- Should parishes be pushing harder for a solution? That's what the Rural Parishes Council is doing.

Any other business

Attendees were asked to promulgate the discussions at the meeting to other parish members.

The next meeting of the PPC will be at 7pm on Monday 18th March

The meeting closed with a prayer

The Parish of The Sacred Heart, Tisbury, and All Saints, Wardour

Attachments

Land and Buildings Report

Year of Faith Document

Summary of Accounts

The Parish of The Sacred Heart, Tisbury, and All Saints, Wardour

Land and Buildings

Fr Robert, Martin Snell, Mike Montgomery and Mark Shuldham form the Fabric and Finance Committee.

During the past year that Cttee has dealt with the following matters:-

1. Commissioned a report into the fire safety status of the Flat above the Parish Rooms. The cost was £300 incl VAT
The main recommendation was that the fire alarm system in the Parish Rooms should be extended up into the Flat. A local firm has been instructed to carry out this work

The cost will be £996.00 incl VAT

2. The dormer window on the rear elevation of the Flat has been leaking badly. Alternative estimates to mend or replace it were obtained. Contractors have been instructed to replace it with a hinged roof light. Planning Permission will be needed and this is being sought.

The cost will be £1773.60 incl VAT plus £150 for the Planning Application.

3. Some large limbs split out of the Leylandii tree at the back of Trellis House garden during last summer. A professional assessment of the tree was that it was a potential danger to the footpath just outside the garden fence. Quotes to fell it were obtained and after permission was given by Salisbury Council, the tree was felled and the debris cleared away

The cost was £450.00

4. The question of alternative uses for the back land (garden and allotments) at Trellis House has been considered both by the F&F Cttee and the full PPC. Various things have prompted this – the burden of maintaining the garden, suggestions for affordable housing for locals, an approach from Tisbury Parish Council for carparking space. We continue to consider ideas but no commitment has been made to any alternative use. We are currently seeking affordable estimates for regular grass cutting and annual hedge trimming.
A team of volunteers to share the job?

My Year of Faith

Faith “is the lifelong companion that makes it possible to perceive, ever anew, the marvels that God works for us. Intent on gathering the signs of the times in the present from history, faith commits every one of us to become a living sign of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world.” Faith is both a personal and a communal act: it is a gift from God that is lived in the communion of the Church and must be communicated to the world. Every initiative for the *Year of Faith* should be designed to aid in the joyous rediscovery of the faith and its renewed transmission. The recommendations provided here have the goal of inviting all of the members of the Church to work so that this Year may be a special time in which we, as Christians, may share that which is most dear to us: Christ Jesus, the Redeemer of mankind, Universal King, “leader and perfecter of faith” (Hb 12: 2)

1. We invite you to commit to saying (at least) one prayer of your choice each day during this year of 2013 for Parish, for the Pope's intentions and for the Church in The United Kingdom.
2. Rather than making multiple resolutions which may or may not last the year, choose one spiritual resolution of your choice that you might be able to successfully handle this New Year.
 - i. Read Scripture 10 minutes a day.
 - ii. Say one decade of the Rosary a day.
 - iii. Choose a saint to read about this year and try to read at least one or two books this year to enhance your spiritual reading.
 - iv. Choose a saint for the year, now is the time to prepare and choose. The saints of the Year of Faith would be a wonderful group to choose from. Write the name of a Saint on an index card and maybe a quote from them or information on when they lived. Make one for each member of your family, work group or bible study group. Let each person choose a card. During the year learn more about that saint and let them become your prayer companion. We would suggest you choose saints that you can find books or holy cards for, or you could follow the link to <http://saints.sqpn.com/>. It makes it a bit more enjoyable.)
3. Start a program of "12 Acts of Kindness", one per month. It is a concept that can be introduced into families or to individuals. What acts of kindness might you come up with? This is a perfect way to integrate our Year of Faith resolutions with acts of compassion. It can be as simple as saying a prayer for somebody, buying a cup of coffee for someone or a meal for a homeless person, donating money to a shelter or donating time to your church or a non-profit organization. Is there someone in town who is always volunteering, a person or a teacher you want to congratulate or maybe a company whose values you appreciate? A 'Thank you' note is a wonderful way to tell them you appreciate what they do. These are just a few ideas. Just think. If each of our parishioners performs 12 acts of kindness and maybe encourages friends to do the same...what an impact this might have.

The Parish of The Sacred Heart, Tisbury, and All Saints, Wardour

4. In this Year of Faith when we are called to evangelize, it seems that promoting vocations would be a natural focus. What kind of program could we put in place? How might you participate in it? Perhaps there is a young person in your parish who "needs a little nudge" to think about vocations?

These are some ideas to help build a program. It can be a simple, or more complex one depending on how many people you have to get involved in a project like this.

The following suggestions are things that can be tailored to simple or more complex programs and for individuals, small groups or for larger groups:

- a. Take on the management of a bulletin board, why not gather some vocational resources for parishioners to be able to take? Our diocese has a vocation director who will be more than happy to provide you with materials.
- b. Where is the nearest seminary? Why not begin with items from them? Perhaps sometime during the year you could invite a seminarian to speak at a coffee and cake event? Also you might have the children in your parish school or RE classes each adopt a seminarian. They could pray or correspond with them.
- c. Contact the various religious communities in our diocese, ask for a brochure and contact information from them; most communities have handouts of various types. Again they could come and visit our parish sometime during the year.
- d. What programs or retreats are offered by our diocese? We can post them and mention them in our parish bulletin, and on your vocation board.
- e. There are many websites for people discerning vocations. Each has special links and help for those discerning vocations and also for parish use. Here are a few to add to the material on your table.
 - i. A guide to [Religious Communities](http://www.pathsoflove.com/)
 - ii. United Kingdom Conference of [Catholic Bishops](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)
 - iii. [Vocations Placement](http://www.godcallingvocations.org.uk/)
 - iv. [Vision Vocation Network](http://www.ukvocation.org/) (This website has wonderful statistics regarding what type of ministries, communities and ages are applying for religious life today)
 - v. Institute on [Religious Life](http://ukreligiouslife.org/)

We continue to pray that God will shower many blessings on us all as we participate in this Year of Faith, that he will grant increased vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The Parish of The Sacred Heart, Tisbury, and All Saints, Wardour

Finance Report

SUMMARY

PARISH ACCOUNTS FOR SACRED HEART & WARDOUR CHAPEL RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE

2012

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Offertory including Standing Orders	44,297.64	46,519.07	Church Expenses (inc.Music Organ Flowers)	7,154.12	8,297.57
Donations received	616.00	1,562.04	Clergy Salary,NIC, Pension&visiting Priest	3,921.37	8,910.72
Tax Refunds on Gift Aid	8,706.23	7,389.35	Clergy Medical Fund	475.00	
Interest Received	2,463.31	2,943.42	Heat light water	8,472.66	6,840.50
Candles	500.81	809.69	Council tax	1,361.22	1,364.47
Books	381.02	200.90	Housekeeping	1,664.49	1,750.00
Flowers	75.10	5.62	Household	841.14	108.95
Stipends	287.00	700.07	Church&Presbytery Maintenance	2,555.08	9,642.99
Rent (Flat)	2,400.00	2,400.00	Grounds	76.07	1,212.72
Parish Room	30.00	307.53	Staff pay	697.48	649.20
Legacy	3,000.00		Diocesan Levy	18,709.00	19,468.00
Sale of furniture	70.00	400.00	Postage/telephone	678.67	543.24
			Printing/stationary/computer	869.72	374.58
<u>Total of Ordinary Receipts</u>	<u>62827.11</u>	<u>63,237.69</u>	<u>Total of Ordinary Payments</u>	<u>50,558.53</u>	<u>61,750.34</u>
Special Collections	9863.48	9455.99	Special Collections etc	10,543.66	7849.49
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	<u>72690.59</u>	<u>72,693.68</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>61,102.19</u>	<u>69,599.83</u>
<u>Excess of Receipts over Expenditure-----</u>					
Deposit Balance at 31.12.2011	91,000.00		Deposit Balance at 31.12.12	98,000.00	
Bank Balance at 31.12.2011	7,859.71		Bank Balance at 31.12.12	4,023.29	
Cash Balance at 31.12.2011	100.52		Cash Balance at 31.12.12	37.37	
	<u>£98,960.23</u>			<u>£102,060.66</u>	