

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

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING On 13th March 2014

Chairman: Michael Montgomery

Apologies: Becky Bertenshaw, Patricia Coopman, Sue and John Berkley Matthews, Sean McGrail, Sarah Howard, Bridget Bell, Mike Hartley, Ann Evans, the Hoopers

Fr Robert thanked the Social Group for the wine and nibbles

The meeting opened with a prayer

Minutes of last AGM

Michael Montgomery (MM) reminded the meeting that last year's minutes were on the parish web site (www.tisburywardourparish.org). There had been one comment, which the PPC had considered and the appropriate change had been made. MM asked if there were any further comments and there were none. The same process will be followed with these minutes

Report of Parish Priest

This report was circulated at the meeting and is attached below

Chairman's Report

Five well attended meetings of the PPC have been held. It has a unifying role, hearing about the Youth Groups, SVP, Eclypse, the Social Group, the School, Cemetery, the Fete and the Parish Finances.

There have been several meetings of the Fabric and Finance Committee. It is concerned with maintenance of the buildings and considering the future of the land:

The land consists of 1.7 acres in Tisbury, with the Church, a five-bedroom presbytery, the parish rooms and the flat above, gardens and allotments. The Committee is considering whether these resources match our needs. If not, any surplus land might be used for social housing, or housing for students or the elderly. The Committee has consulted specialists for guidance on the way forward (summary attached below). The Tisbury Housing Needs Survey will be the framework for further discussions, in the light of property take-up on the Hindon Lane development. More detail is given in 'Parish Land Update' below.

At the more mundane level it provides services such as changing light bulbs, or the provision of a ramp for access to the Parish Rooms.

Election of new PPC members

At the meeting Michael Montgomery's term as Chairman came to an end, and he is stepping down from the post and from the Council. He is remaining on the Finance

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and Fabric Committee; other members of this committee are John Berkley Matthews who brings insights from Tisbury Parish Council, Mark Shuldham and Martin Snell.

The PPC consists of twelve members and four have offered to stay on. Father Robert introduced eight nominees, making up the following set of candidates

Fr Robert (ex officio)
Jamie Clark
Anne Evans
Mike Hartley
Michael Hodges
Sarah Howard (who has agreed to Chair the PPC)
Andrew Lodge
James Lock
Krystyna Morgan
Mark Shuldham
Martin Snell
Catherine Vaux
Judy Wright

Teresa Frost proposed that they be appointed, Richard Arundell seconded the motion and it was passed by a show of hands.

Parish Accounts (Martin Snell)

Summary attached.

Net income was down to £59,000, and expenditure net of grants was £58,000. One significant difference from the previous year was Church and Presbytery Maintenance which was inflated in 2012 by the redecoration of the church.

The Diocesan Finance Officer has asked for the loose-change elements of the Tisbury and Wardour collections to be reported separately with a view to increasing the Gift Aid claim. This comes to about £17,000 p.a. compared with £23,000 for standing orders.

Fr Robert will remind the congregation from time to time about Gift Aid envelopes that are available in the churches.

Social Group (Krystyna Morgan)

Events have included the First Communion Breakfast in June, a Cream Tea to mark Mary Denning's retirement as organist at Tisbury, and the Harvest Supper in October where the money raised pays for the Childrens' party in February

Michael Montgomery thanked the group on behalf of the parish.

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Youth Groups

(Ann Windsor)

Three young people went to Medjugorje in October and have brought back a presentation on their experiences. SVP organised Santa's Grotto at 'Tis the Season and 135 children went through it. Youth SVP is suspended until after Easter but continues with church cleaning and with the cup cake sale which raises funds to sponsor a Ugandan child.

Eclipse meets on the first Sunday of each month and have been involved in making candle holders, raising money for the Jennifer Trust

Michael Montgomery thanked Ann and the young people on behalf of the parish.

Parish Charities

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

The Trussell Trust was proposed.

Currently support is given to the Jennifer Trust. One-off donations were made last year to the School and the Cemetery to meet unexpected needs.

Other suggestions are welcome.

Fete 2013

The fete will be held on Saturday 6th September. The format will be the same as last years and other individuals and charities are invited to provide a table in exchange for a prize for the raffle. The fact that it is not a money-raising venture is welcomed.

Becky would like someone to work with her this year with a view to taking the organisation over for next year.

Any other business

A question was asked about the Cemetery. The Cemetery is run by a separate Trust with Fr Robert as Chairman:

The land to the east of the cemetery has been cleared for an extension – it always belonged to the cemetery. The part currently being used has space for about seven or eight years. The policy is for graves to be dug in sequence. Double graves are possible.

There is a small endowment, currently in higher yield investments; the income pays for maintenance such as grass cutting. The charges for burials have been increased to make them comparable with Church of England charges.

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The old part of the cemetery has been cleared of brambles and ash saplings by a well supervised team of youths, the Mere and Tisbury Community Volunteers. A donation was made to an associated charity, Seeds for Success.

There is a map in the sacristy at Wardour. When a grave is booked a confirmatory leaflet is sent by Fr Robert and there is also a letter which can be left for executors

Prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer and The Grace

AM

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Attachments

Report of Parish Priest

Parish Land Update

Finance Report

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Report of Parish Priest

Significant events in the year

The parish held a four and a half day exhibition of some sixty Nativity sets in June. This will be repeated this year at the beginning of July.

In September Becky Bertenshaw organised a community fete in the presbytery grounds, involving 28 stalls. The intention of the fete was to raise awareness of the Catholic presence and to say to those around us that they are welcome. It was a great success. The fete will be repeated this September 6th, again organised by Becky. However, she asks for an understudy to take over responsibility for 2015's fete. Will you be that understudy?

Mary Denning retired after many years as Tisbury's temporary organist. We were very fortunate to be able to appoint Dr Douglas Stevens as a permanency.

The parish supported the presence in the parish of a second Czech seminarian in the summer with great generosity.

Members of the parish responded generously to an appeal for donations to equip Wardour School with a new set of Bibles for classroom use.

Throughout British Summer Time a weekly Mass was provided at Dinton chapel, followed by a packed-out preChristmas Carol service.

Carols were also sung in Albany House and the Bennet Arms. We have an invitation for Christmas 2014 to sing in The Boot.

Money

Our Treasurer's report includes a large sum made in grants. The peculiar situation which pertained at Wardour School between permanent head teachers meant that the Governors needed assistance with the budget. The parish made a grant of £10,000. The Cemetery Trustees received a grant of £5,000. Interest rates were not covering maintenance, some capital was needed to be used to open the cemetery extension, and this grant has allowed the Trustees to make the necessary financial adjustments. Both grants were made firstly on grounds of need, secondly as neither had received anything from parish funds for many years; each grant was a one-off.

Maintenance

Our Fabric & Finance Cttee consists of Mike Montgomery, Martin Snell, Johnie B-M and Mark Shuldham.

In the course of the year the parish has seen its Stations of the Cross and Sacred Heart statue professionally renovated by Daisy Maryon, the cost covered by parishioners' donations.

A leaking gable in the parish flat was replaced with a Velux window.

The parish room has been repainted.

We are currently waiting for the Lady Chapel lights in Sacred Heart to be modernised. A question which will need an answer hangs over Tisbury's organ.

People to thank

I realise that most of the things which make our parish tick are done by people who expect no thanks. However, very grateful thanks are due to Mike for two years as our Chairman, to the outgoing committee, Martin and his duo who look after our money, Alan Macdermot as our secretary, Patricia Coopman for four years as producer of the parish rotas, Krystina Morgan and the Social Committee, Sheila Whatley and her flower arranging team, Teresa Frost and her team of church cleaners, our Sacristans, Ann and Becky who work with our young people, Catherine and Jenny for preparing

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our 1st Holy Communion children, Kate Clark and her team of vestment-repairers, our eucharistic ministers and readers, our Children's Liturgy team, Johnnie & Sarah who have represented us on the Tisbury Council of Churches, and all the others who get on quietly keeping the wheels turning and who tend to be taken for granted.

Finally

My thanks for being patient with my short-comings for another year.

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Parish Land Update

"We need to look at the way in which we use our parish property and ask whether it could be better used for the common good."

From Bishop Declan's Pastoral Letter on the Feast of the Holy Family, in which he draws parallels between the Holy Family as refugees and displaced people, and refugees today., Since our last AGM we have consulted with many people who have experience in developing land, especially church land. Our objective has been, and still is, to work out what we as a parish need in the way of buildings and land, to consider possible ways of altering our present buildings to give us the facilities we need, and to see if we can at the same time transform our land from a maintenance liability into a housing asset of value to the community. Ideally, we would do this at nil net cost to ourselves. We are still at a very early stage in exploring possible ways forward and no commitment has been made to a project of any particular kind, nor has any expense been incurred.

Currently we are awaiting the outcome of a Housing Needs Survey for the Tisbury area which will give us guidance on whether there is a need for a particular type of housing in Tisbury (eg for students, other young people, the elderly etc.). This survey will partly depend on the situation following the completion of the Hindon Lane Development.

Discussions with various specialists who all gave freely of their expertise:

April 19th 2013... with Phil Proctor, architect in Shaftesbury with experience of church work. Looked at our buildings and land, sketched possibilities for a small hall, priest's flat, revamped sacristy, a number of sheltered flats behind the church and a car park (possibly a public one). All looked possible.

June 6th 2013... met with Sara Jacson from Shaftesbury who has been instrumental in setting up various community projects. Also with Colin Brady, Salisbury Diocesan Social Responsibility Officer. Exploratory meeting suggesting some of the meetings and courses of action that are described below.

June 17th 2013 ... met with Richard Trahair, board member of Housing Justice and Chairman of Faith in Affordable Housing with much experience in situations like ours. Suggested we contact a local housing association.

July 8th 2013 met with Gill Shell, Chief Executive Officer of Wiltshire Rural Housing Association. She outlined the types of houses that WRHA builds: good quality dwellings with gardens on land they bought or leased. She offered to contact local planning authorities informally for us, since she knows them, to gauge their reaction to the general idea of development.

August 10 2013... We hear from the Wiltshire planners. Towards the end of July various officials gave their informal opinions about developments on our land. The Conservation Officer said that the presbytery and a "stable block" (sic) to its rear had been identified as buildings which make a positive contribution to the townscape, so she would not support the loss of these buildings or their encroachment with other buildings. The Tree Officer didn't want the trees cut down and the Senior Planning

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Officer agreed with the others, so their combined view, only an informal reaction to very undefined ideas, was negative. However, we have been advised that none of this is conclusive. In any case, no detailed proposal has been put forward.

Next Steps

We await the outcome of the Tisbury Housing Needs Survey. At some point we should probably enlist the services of a local independent chartered surveyor to act in our interest and guide us forward.

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Finance Report

SUMMARY

PARISH ACCOUNTS FOR SACRED HEART & WARDOUR CHAPEL RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE 2013

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	2012	2013	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	2012	2013
Offertory including Standing Orders	46,519.07	45,120.00	Church Expenses (inc.Music Organ Flowers)	8,297.57	8,792.58
Donations received	1,562.04	1,655.79	Clergy Salary,NIC, Pension&visiting Priest	8,910.72	8,605.97
Tax Refunds on Gift Aid	7,389.35	6,809.74	Grants & Gifts		17,000.00
Interest Received	2,943.42	2,234.38	Heat light water	6,840.50	8,195.61
Candles	809.69	894.37	Council tax	1,364.47	1,364.47
Books	200.90	127.31	Housekeeping	1,750.00	2,415.00
Flowers	5.62	1.10	Household	108.95	
Stipends	700.07		Church & Presbytery Maintenance	9,642.99	4,808.19
Rent (Flat)	2,400.00	2,400.00	G r o u n d s	1,212.72	699.00
Parish Room	307.53		Staff pay	649.20	625.20
Transfer from Deposit		18,000.00	Diocesan Levy	19,468.00	20,450.00
Sale of furniture	400.00		Postage/telephone	543.24	677.62
			Printing/stationary/computer	374.58	100.46
			Motor expenses		1,180.59
<u>Total of Ordinary Receipts</u>	63,237.69	77,242.69	<u>Total of Ordinary Payments</u>	61,750.34	74,914.69
Special Collections	9863.48	11466.9	Special Collections etc	10,543.66	12573.43
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	<u>72690.59</u>	<u>88,709.59</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	72,294.00	<u>87,488.12</u>

Excess of Receipts over Expenditure

Deposit Balance at 31.12.12	98,000.00	Deposit Balance at 31.12.13	80,000.00
Bank Balance at 31.12.12	4,023.29	Bank Balance at 31.12.13	5160.12
Cash Balance at 31.12.12	37.37	Cash Balance at 31.12.13	122.01
	<u>£102,060.66</u>		<u>£85,282.13</u>