

Annual Parish Meeting, 11 July 2010

Agenda

- 1. Prayer/Welcome**
- 2. Fr Stephen**
- 3. Parish Council Annual Report**
- 4. Financial Report**
- 5. AOB (previously notified)**

Minutes

1. Fr Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Fr Stephen:

Fr Stephen's Introduction began with an apology saying that it had not been properly publicised that any matters arising had to be presented before the meeting. Accordingly on this occasion they would be allowed.

He then went on to say how well he had been received into the parish and thanked everyone for their support. *At this moment the newly installed Angelus Bell tolled and all joined in this revered prayer of the Church.*

He said that he had not realised how large the parish was (The size of Salford Diocese) But it was your church as well as mine and I will need help to manage it. He was grateful for the way things were being done. He felt that groups like HELP the school and KIT were very important to the life of the parish. He would try to do his best. Every Priest does things, particularly in the liturgy in their own way and he hoped that his way was not offensive. The parish should be a Powerhouse of Prayer should be where people are uplifted and also feel welcome.

He would, however, like to make special mention of the PCC who worked so hard for the good of the parish and its parishioners.

The Chair now presented the report and would welcome questions or additions:

3. PCC Annual Report 2010

Fr Stephen: Dye's move to Exton and Oakham in January has gone smoothly and he is settling in well. One of Fr Stephen's priorities has been to visit the sick and housebound, this has resulted in him finding his way around his new parish. All parish councillors have completed their original term of office. Fr Stephen indicated at the last meeting of the Parish Council that he would as far as possible like the

status quo to remain for the next eighteen to twenty four months to allow him to get fully informed about the parish. This was agreed by all present.

Group reports

EXTON

Attendance at Exton on Sunday moves on at approximately 40.

The 150th Anniversary On the 20th May 2010 at Exton was a happy family/friends occasion, with Bishop Malcolm officiating, in a moving service.

The very sudden death of the 5th Earl of Gainsborough on the 29th December 2010, followed by a beautiful service conducted by Bishop Malcolm.

The 6th Earl of Gainsborough is now in place and we wish him and his Family a sound future and happiness.

Grateful help, from Monica England, Judith Aitkens, Trish Venn, Pauline Pitts, Antony Loring and friends in keeping this lovely little chapel in good order.

Steve Allan- Exton Representative.

On Steve's behalf, Fr Dye reported that the family were pleased by the weekly attendance though figures are slightly down at the moment. (They are, too, at Oakham on the Saturday evening – possibly football!). Some changes are being made e.g. the car park.

Communications

Over the last year the communications team have continued to produce the weekly newssheet and the quarterly magazine, 'Church Mouse'. Some further brochures have been added to the collection in the porch and various posters put up to publish parish events. It is our aim to keep the parishioners informed about what goes on and what is coming up, and therefore we are always looking for ways to improve. But communication should be in both directions and we need to get more parishioners views or comments. If anyone has any suggestions or would like to help in any way, please contact John Mildner.

John Mildner

There were no questions. Fr reported that the Church Mouse box was still in the hands of the police as 'evidence'

PRAYER AND FAITH SHARING: 2010

Remit

Our aim is to develop faith, knowledge and love of God through different types of prayer groups in Rutland and to form community through days of renewal.

Report

The groups have not expanded this year despite our efforts to establish an evening group in Oakham. Plans are ongoing. Seven groups meet regularly. Three groups concentrate on Lectio Divina. One group in Uppingham is a Julian meeting (contemplative prayer). A further group is devoted to Mothers Prayers and yet another to the Rosary. An ecumenical group (Churches Together) meet every Wednesday before lunch in the Congregational Hall, Oakham. We held a day of Renewal at St. Joseph of Peace, Rearsby in March which was fully booked. It was agreed that it was a thoroughly beneficial day and we plan to hold another in the autumn.

Martin Black

Martin reported that the Wednesday Group has two new members. There were no questions

Catechesis

Three sessions of the Baptismal preparation were held throughout the year. Nine families attended the courses and had children baptised. Eight children attended the parish first communion programme and they made their first communion on the feast of Corpus Christi together with the children from English martyrs and one confirmation candidate. Fourteen young people and two adults were confirmed by Bishop Malcolm on 18 June after a programme of preparation in the parish. Four catechists are progressing in their studies to gain accreditation. Most have been actively involved in either the RCIA programme or one of the sacramental preparation programmes. Two are also involved in the school with religious activities.

The organisation of readers at Easter was much improved this year because of individual contact briefings by telephone. We are now identifying occasions when additional Eucharist Ministers are required at Mass for example Christmas and First Communion. Fourteen of the Eucharistic Ministers attended our annual renewal day.

Louise Kidd

Fr said that he was grateful for the catechetical work being undertaken in the parish it is of the foremost importance to the life of the church

No Questions

KIT

The group has completed its basic work of identifying parishioners and their addresses in Rutland. Raymond has transferred the information into a software package specially designed for PCC record-keeping; this will require constant attention to ensure that the dataset is kept up to date. The cycle of visits throughout the parish has been completed in readiness for a future Mission. Parishioners by and large, warmly welcomed these visits.

Denys Hancock

Denys added that there were great blessings from having Mass said in one's home. Fr Stephen felt that this was important work for the KIT team and would welcome

House Masses in all rural parts of the parish. It was noted that Masses have been said around the villages in the past (particularly in Reformation days) and to a question DH said that attendance at masses are not restricted to parishioners from that area.

HELP

In brief our help group continues as before and we are continuing to visit as many people as is possible. We are not progressing in visiting more than before, but about the same number around twelve a month sometimes up to twenty. However those visited welcome our support and further referrals are welcome. By its very nature our work is deemed confidential both by the visitors and the client.

Monique Pryke

There were no additional questions.

Adult Formation

The CaFE course on the Creed was run three times during the year. The best attended was during Lent, when 15-18 people turned up for each session. This course was very well received and most attendees found the material extremely stimulating, challenging and very powerful. Several commented that it was a faith-enhancing and life-enhancing experience.

An RCIA course was run once a week from September until Easter. This required the commitment of four catechists plus someone to run the audiovisual equipment over a prolonged period of time. Two enquirers, already baptized Christians, took the course and were received into full communion with the Church by Fr Stephen at the Ester Vigil. A third person took the course as preparation for Confirmation in June.

Two further CaFE courses, on the Mass and on Scripture, have been purchased.

There were no additional questions

Churches Together

The parish was well represented at the Christian Unity week service in January. We did not have a visiting preacher for the Pulpit Exchange that week due to illness but I went to the Congregational Church.

A number of parishioners participated in Lenten House groups which discussed "The Cross" based on the York Ecumenical Course.

Again we were very well represented at the Good Friday Walk of Witness through Oakham.

Several of our ladies put in a lot of hard work at the Wednesday Lunches held in the Congregational Hall over the year.

The Pentecost Party in the Park was not well supported by the parish. Mr. & Mrs. Brophy bravely staffed a 'St Joseph's stall' all afternoon. Only a handful of other parishioners attended the event.

Raymond Keogh

It was pointed out that the group was losing volunteers through age. More are needed particularly on Wednesdays between 10 and 3.00.

Fund Raising

We had another successful year of fundraising- with the summer fair in July 2009, a flower arranging workshop, the Christmas Bazaar and raffle and most recently the Quiz and Pudding evening. For the full amounts raised see the parish financial report

Anne De Kremer

Anne said that she had been asked that now the debt had been paid where is the money going. The reply was to the running of the parish. Father pointed out that other big projects needed to be undertaken.

- 1. we may need new tiles across the sanctuary as the present one, hidden by the carpet, had degraded*
- 2. Usage of the stable block still needs to be resolved*
- 3. The organ is badly placed and worn out. A new organ is being sought. The expense is in rebuilding a nearly new model. There would also be additional associated removal costs*

In response to a question about where to erect it, Fr replied that the only place was at the rear of the church the seating that would be lost could probably be made up in the original site

Additional points were raised about the use of a reconciliation room and provision of a better baptismal font site.

Praise was made about the provision of the new lights on the altar.

Liturgy and Music

Probably the main development this year was a meeting of 'interested parties' to prepare and plan the Holy Week and Easter liturgies; it is hoped to develop this into a proper liturgical committee. The 10.30 choir continues to sing, encouraged first by Fr Tom and now by Fr Stephen, although we are still small in number. We could also do with one more organist at 10.30am. William Fox a student at Oakham School has begun to play at 6.30pm on Saturday.

Our servers continue to exercise their ministry unobtrusively and effectively. They are a great of older and younger parishioners working together.

Ann Moynihan

It was asked whether William receives any remuneration for his work. The negative answer encouraged the questioner to ask whether he had ever received any form of official gratitude for his efforts. It was suggested that a letter of thanks should come from the PCC with, perhaps, the addition of a book token. This was agreed by all.

Children's Liturgy

The children's liturgy continues to be well attended. There are 11 'catechists'. Parents and catechists very much appreciate Fr Stephen's clear support and encouragement of the group.

The success of the family Mass at Pentecost has encouraged Anne m and Hanna to organise more throughout the year. Thank you again Fr Stephen for your support.

We would like to enquire if other adults would like to assist. The next definite 'fixture' will be youth Sunday on the Feast of Christ the King. The intention is to involve as many as possible of the young people who were confirmed in June as well as other teenagers in the parish.

Hanna Coomber

From the floor there was great praise for the provision of the children's liturgy group, which was reiterated by all present.

4. Finance Report

The balance sheet was distributed prior to the meeting.

There were several notable events during the last year; we paid off the roof loan and we have had a revised lighting scheme for the Church. We are also receiving a regular quarterly income from the lease of the former Social Centre on Mill Street. Our income from the Gift Aid tax refund was at an all time high, due in part to our organiser in clawing back contributions from previous years but also from the continued levels of contributions from parishioners. We are well positioned for the coming year.

Terry Slattery

A question raised from the floor related to the apparent unfairness of the parish having to underwrite the travel expenses incurred for work undertaken for the diocese (Fr Tom made frequent visits to Nottingham). Terry replied that this was being addressed urgently but had not been resolved. There were similar questions being raised about the income received from the Social Centre.

Terry praised the work of Peter Martin who had claimed back £5-6K from the Revenue for tax paid in previous years.

4. AOB

An issue raised from the floor asking about the effectiveness of the rota for readers at Mass. Louise thanked the questioner and said the matter of readers and Eucharistic Ministers had been considered at length in a recent PCC meeting which stressed the importance of this role within the church. The chairman said that the diocese whilst acknowledging the importance of this role no longer held training days for readers and that they were now held 'in house'. However, she said that the point was well made and that she would personally deal with it.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and for the contributions from those present. She pointed out that parishioners were always welcome to bring forward urgent matters, which could be dealt with at the PCC quarterly meetings.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 12.40.