

Minutes from the A.G.M. of St Thomas of Canterbury, Woodford Green

Sunday July 3rd 2016 at 12.30pm

Opening Prayer & Welcome – Fr Quentin OFM

Chairman's Introduction

Jeremy Davey introduced the meeting, provided details of the agenda.

Farewell from Retiring Chair – Jeremy Davey

Jeremy Davey explained that his time on the Council is now up and he will be retiring. He thanked all members of the Council for their help and wanted to give special thanks to Linda Taylor, David McLaughlin and Maureen Duke for their help and service on the Parish Council as they also stand down from the Parish Council. Jeremy also stated his sincere thanks to Fr. Quentin for his guidance.

Parish Finance Presentation

Brian Martin from the Finance Committee provided an update on the parish finances. Based on feedback from the previous AGM it was decided to provide handouts at the AGM in a clear and easy to read format to ensure total transparency.

Expenses have stayed static at £96,624

Offertories have remained much the same.

Gift Aid is up 40% on last year.

Social events generated £30,964

Investment income up 16%. In a low interest environment we are limited to how much income we can generate. How best to invest our funds is under discussion with Brentwood.

Overall income up 7%

Overall expenditure down 9% due to no big building works.

A Fabric Committee is now in place to look at the long and short term building and maintenance requirements of the Parish. £40,000 has been placed in a building maintenance reserve fund.

Presidents Report

Fr. Quentin welcomed all the attendees. He spoke of how pleased he was to see so many at the AGM (approx 60)

Fr. Quentin also expressed his gratitude to the Parish Council under Jeremy Davey's Leadership. He also thanked Linda Taylor, David McLaughlin and Maureen Duke for their service as they retire.

We need to think how Parishioners can take on more responsibility in the Parish as our Friar's are aging and there is a shortage of new Priest's in the world.

Fr Quentin also expressed delight at the wonderful Parish Concert last night and the successful 24 hours of Adoration.

15 people have stepped forward as potential Parish Council Members. We will hold a ballot and 11 people will be given a place to serve for 3 years on the Council.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 4th July at 8pm, where we will agree Officer positions.

Fr. Quentin spoke of the great work the Sub Committees are doing. E.g. the Becket Centre Sub Committee the IT Sub Committee and the Liturgical Sub Committee.

Questions / General Response

- A Parishioner asked why has the number of Alter Servers decreased. What can be done?
- Sister Sandra commented that we need parents to get involved in the Parish and take more responsibility. They could encourage their children to come forward as Alter Servers to help the Parish.
- Angela Barnes advised that is difficult to find readers for the bereavement service. Could Trinity pupils help?
- A readers training Workshop was organised but the notice was short. Can we receive more notice in the future?
- Mary is a reader at 6pm mass. She advised that at the Readers Training Workshop it was stated that young people should not read until 18 at mass. We need more clarity on training and mentoring for readers.
- Sister Sandra advised that the young readers at Chigwell Convent are very good. We should not restrict anyone because of age.
- Michelle Spears commented that pupils at Trinity gain qualifications in drama. We should encourage drama students to read at mass.
- Ms Harris asked should TELCO be accountable to the Parish Council?

- Michael Eggleton asked if the Parish Council Constitution could be reviewed. He also confirmed he is willing to help with this.
- Marie Morris asked if we can provide information to all Parishioners of the various sub committees to allow people to volunteer their services to the various sub committees. Can a list of sub committees be published and volunteers asked to come forward?
- Isabel Evans offered her services as a lawyer to the Parish even if she is not elected to serve on the Parish Council.

Motion

Paul Turpin put forward a motion.

Can we agree that we always hold the AGM in June or July rather than October

The motion was passed.

Steward of the Gospel – William Yeung

William Yeung gave a presentation on the role of the Steward of the Gospel.

- To help in Diocesan planning driven by Evangelism. Two full time posts are being appointed
- Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them ..
- To examine their own parish, to find out what is going on and pave the way for a plan for better evangelisation
- To begin to discern “which parish belongs to which” when it comes to working together in the future. In future clergy and others will almost certainly have to work across parish boundaries. The number of Priests coming into the Priesthood is decreasing. We need to ask how we can help.
- To be a source of creative inspiration, looking for new ways to evangelise.
- To be the voice of the laity when it comes to discerning the principles and priorities on which future plans will be based.
- To be the voice of the laity when it comes to implementing the agreed principles in the particular situation of their own parishes.

Bereavement Help – Angela Barnes

Angela Barnes gave a presentation on behalf of the Bereavement Group. She advised that they had increased their numbers as a result of leafleting other Parishes. As a result the support group has expanded. The support group meet monthly to help people in their hour of need with practical and emotional support.

Every November they have a Bereavement service at St Thomas of Canterbury. In the summer an Afternoon tea is held.

Election of Parish Council Members

All candidates at the meeting came forward to identify themselves.

The following candidates applied for a position on the Parish council:

- Jacqueline Edwards
- Michael Eggleton
- Isabel Evans
- Mary Leonard
- Robert Fernandes
- Jonathan Constable
- Paul Kinman
- Lesley Maeda
- Jonathan McGuire
- Edward McGurk
- Sue Musiu
- Michelle Spears
- Christopher Tranmer
- Paul Turpin
- Guy Williamson

All people present at the meeting were given a ballot paper to choose 11 members.

11 candidates were elected to serve on the Parish Council

- Jacqueline Edwards
- Michael Eggleton
- Isabel Evans
- Robert Fernandes
- Jonathan Constable
- Jonathan McGuire
- Sue Musiu
- Michelle Spears
- Christopher Tranmer
- Paul Turpin
- Guy Williamson

Executive members

- Fr Quentin OFM (President)
- Mathew Ives (Deacon)

- William Yeung (Steward of the Gospel)
- Michael O’Sullivan (Deanery Council)

2015 Officers not proposing to stand for 2016

- Alan Mair
- Maureen Duke
- Linda Taylor
- David McLaughlin
- Jeremy Davey

Closing Prayer

Fr. Quentin closed the meeting with a prayer.