

Parish AGM - 14th July 2024

Note: minutes of the 2023 AGM, Finance report, balance sheet, PPC report and proposed constitution changes documents had been advertised in the newsletter and posted on the web site as well as being posted on the church noticeboard for 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

Attendees – Fr Michael Copps, Bernard Hunter, Brian Martin, Fr Quentin, 28 Parishioners

Opening Prayer – Fr Michael

Introduction – Fr Michael talked about welcoming people and about the need for parishioners to be more involved in the Church, especially as our priests are able to do less.

Minutes of the last AGM

Approved by show of hands (proposed by Geoff Craft, seconded by Donna Patros)
There were no matters arising.

Financial Statements

BM thanked Paul Turpin, Bernard Bourdillon and Geraldine for their assistance in producing the Finance Booklet

He noted that further Mental Health contributions to the schools & sponsor of project supporting a youth social awareness program fell into this FY and so are not reflected in the PFC Annual Report 2023/2024

Heating and Audio have been paid for.

Restoration Fund – Fund closed in March 2024. Letters sent out to thank individual Donors to the Appeal. Any further contributions will be transferred to the Parish's general reserves

We are in a good position to use some funds to re-decorate/re-design the Becket Centre

Questions and comments from the floor:

- a) **Thank you for the balance sheet, which is very clear. What does the Parish do to help those who are worse off? Do we give to Charities?**

It was noted that the Parish does make various Donations. £21,000 RFM (?), 27,000 Diocese (?) and that PPC discusses how to spend Parish Funds not Finance Committee.

- b) **Parish has a healthy Bank Account. We should use the Funds for Parishioners and our own community. People contribute to Charities as individuals.**

- c) **What is the Diocesan Quota**
This quota is decided by the Diocese of Brentwood; although up on 22/23, it is in line with previous contributions
- d) **It was noted that the Finance Team look at all a/c's expenditure e.g. utilities regularly**
- e) **The Quinquennial Survey Report covers a large amount of work over 5 years. Will this look to repair the damp in the retro chapel?**
Yes, That and all necessary repairs will be covered. The damp has been addressed, and when we know that was successful the plastering will be repaired.
- f) **Why has there been a delay on the renovation of the Becket Centre?**
The Becket Centre Committee has not been able to agree how much needs to be done. This decision was very recently passed to the PPC and is being looked at. The differing views highlight that we need to decide what the purpose of the centre is. Bernard Hunter promised to ensure that the PPC develops proposals as soon as possible, and shares them with the parish together with their reasoning.

Elections

New PPC Members – the appointment of 3 applicants to the PPC was agreed by show of hands with no objections. They are Robin Shearmur, Patricia Jolly & Martin Sharkey.

Retiring PPC members, Kit Tranmer, Michelle Spears, Rob Fernandes, Paul Turpin and Mike O'Sullivan have had to step down according to the constitution. The meeting applauded them for their hard work over the past 9 years.

Someone asked when resigning PPC members can apply to return. It was noted that there was no time limit in the Constitution.

A parishioner (Cynthia) had missed the nomination date would like to be on the PPC. To be followed up later the PPC can co-opt new members, as allowed for in the Constitution).

PPC – Annual Report – July 2023 – July 2024

The PPC need to stimulate parishioners to engage them to help in the running of the Parish

AGM of PPC – Accepted – No questions arising

Proposed changes to the PPC Constitution

There were no questions. The revisions were accepted by show of hands, with no objections.

Cell Groups – a presentation by Peter Robson

We are called to evangelise, but we don't know how, and approaching others 'cold' does not seem right. How can we approach others, and they approach us in a less challenging and scary way? A Cell Group concentrates on the 5 'W's': Welfare, Welcome, Wisdom, Word, Worship

It can be easier to invite people to your home than to Mass. Cell Groups can encourage people to talk about their faith e.g. What has God done for you this week?
A Cell Group has started, and we hope to develop more of them organically.

General Questions from the Floor

- 1 The Church can be quite cold at 6pm Mass. This was not on the log but has been noted by Bernard Hunter. Parishioners were encouraged to mention these issues to the Parish Office or during one of the PPC surgeries (which have stopped at present due to the lack of response) to get this on the log where it will be directed to the correct team to resolve.
- 2 Bill Taylor from the Chigwell Convent spoke about the future changes at the Convent. There are still daily Masses and a Mass on Sunday at 10am. This is shown in the Newsletter. Concern was raised about the Chigwell Community. Bernard Hunter offered to speak to Bill after the meeting.

Closing Prayer – Fr Michael