

Parish Annual General Meeting
St Thomas of Canterbury, Woodford Green
Sunday 17th July 2022

Item 1 Welcome

Fr Quentin welcomed around 40 members of our Parish to the AGM.

The meeting commenced with an opening prayer.

Item 2 Minutes of the last AGM (2021)

Approved

Item 3 Chair's Annual Report

Kit Tranmer presented his report:

This year the church started to get running again properly after the time away due to COVID 19. All things accomplished this year by various teams in the parish were listed such as the roofing project, heating project, volunteers evening, Summer Fete etc.

A survey for the audio and visual apparatus in the church had been conducted and the audio portion of the works has received approval, it was felt at this time the visual aspect was not required. Planning for the new work is well advanced.

The Becket Centre upstairs has undergone renovation and the renovation to the Henrietta Suite is currently being discussed. Thanks was given to the team for their work on this.

The Health and Safety team have worked to bring the church up to standard as per the insurance's guidelines. A special thanks was also given to the Fabric Team for all their help in this.

Bernard Bourdillon raised a query regarding bike racks, he expressed that in conversations with other parishioners and his family it was felt a bicycle rack was required within the grounds of the church. Michelle Spears confirmed the plans for the bicycle racks will be presented to the Parish Council at there next meeting and a plan put in place for their implementation if they are approved.

Mike Murphy requested an update on the potential handrail that was too be installed within the church. Kit Tranmer informed the group designs had been previously drawn from an architect to ascertain the best way to do this and these were presented to the friars however it was felt this was not required at current time and the matter was shelved. Kit expressed his concern with the danger of this decision.

Item 4 Parish Finance

Brian Martin presented the report on behalf of the Parish Finance Committee. He referred to the booklet that had been circulated at the meeting and the accounts displayed in the foyer. The following points were highlighted:

Restoration Appeal

We are now in the 3rd year of the 5-year appeal for the restoration fund, a lot of work has been completed to date including the heating, roofing, and redecoration of the church porch. The work completed in the Beckett Centre has not been taken out of the restoration fund as it wasn't accounted for in these figures.

Income

The income of the Parish increased by 13% from last year however lags from pre-pandemic rates this. It was particularly mentioned money received from Gift aid tax refunds represent a large portion of income with accounts from 2021/2022 showing a rebate of over £37,000.

Future expenditure

Looking ahead the future expenditure regarding the restoration project has been accounted for including the repayment to the Friars for the heating, redecoration of the Henrietta suite and the audio for the church, exacting figures for all works are not available.

The committee wished to record and acknowledge the Parishioners generosity and continual support of the Parish. The Parish is in a sound financial state as is summarised in the attached balance sheet considering the work that has been undertaken this year.

The finance committee wishes to acknowledge and thank the role of all contributors to the work completed within the parish this year.

Individuals who wished to join the Finance Committee were encouraged to do so as one of the members has stepped down.

General questions from the floor.

Bernard Bourdillion expressed concern there was a slight decrease in the regular income to the Church and likely attributed this to the current economic environment and recommended the Parish start to look at alternative sources of income such as the use of the Beckett Centre and the car parking. Kit Tranmer confirmed the Beckett Centre committee was currently working on plans for the Henrietta Suite renovation.

Bernard Hunter asked for an update regarding the youth leader situation which had previously been raised at a past AGM. Kit Tranmer confirmed there had been

lengthy discussion with the 2 other parishes involved (St Ann Line/Our Lady Of Lourdes) and, after one of the parishes had announced its reservations, the decision was taken not to go ahead with this at this stage due to conflicting ideas as to what would be involved. Sarah Dodds mentioned it we are not completely aware of what the 'youth' wish for within the parish and to ask them so we can tailor our services.

A few members of the Parish raised concern about wellbeing of the children in the parish considering the current change in a cost of living and how we were to support them regarding the safeguarding aspects. Bernard Bourdillon mentioned the grants available to these children if they are in financial difficulty and are unable to afford things. Small group leaders were encouraged to come forward and claim these grants as the groups shouldn't be taking these costs on themselves.

Quentin confirmed the Diocese are creating safeguarding guidelines and the relevant people will be trained and audited in these he also questioned the procedure for obtaining these grants and why these were not being used. The importance of following procedure and reporting lines was reiterated to the group. Quentin requested to add this item to the next Parish Council agenda.

Janet Morris expressed concern the brownies/guides/rainbows hadn't been consulted regarding the Beckett Centre renovation and requested when plans had been created that they will consult the relevant parties.

Item 6 Nominations

Quentin confirmed we have 3 new applications to be members of the parish council and together with those re-applying we still have not reached the maximum number allowed in the constitution. He therefore suggested all were approved to be elected on the council.

Approved unanimously