

Parish of Effingham and Fetcham
1st Parish Annual General Meeting held on 27th April 2014
in the hall of the Church of the Holy Spirit Fetcham

Present:

Fr John Inglis

Deacon Ian Wells

Michael Bray – Chairman PPT

Ben Kopieczek – Secretary – PPT

Chris Tailby – Parish Treasurer

Kathy Medicott – PPT Adult Formation

And 56 parishioners

Tessa Wayne – PPT Adult Formation

Joanne Matthews – PPT Social and Events

Chris Spiers – PPT Charities

Keith Walker – PPT Church Support and

Teams/Website

Amy Jackson – PPT Youth

Fr John opened the meeting with a prayer of Thanks for all our gifts.

Introduction. Michael Bray opened the meeting with a brief overview and history of the joining together of the Parishes. He pointed out that the changes since Fr John had joined had been kept to a minimum and that the main changes to date had been the minor changes of Mass times at both churches and also the moving of the Tabernacle at Church of the Holy Spirit (COHS).

Sacristy and Services. Michael gave mention to the two Masses of the Anointing of the Sick and Housebound, one of which has taken place on 26 Apr 14 and the other to take place in November. He made a special mention of thanks to Louis Debono for all his hard work throughout the year and especially over Christmas and Easter where he ensured that all the services were very well covered by those serving and assisting.

Finances. Chris Tailby gave an overview of the Parish Finances showing that there had been a surplus during the year of £51,724.00. Most of the work since February 2013 has been in amalgamating the two Church accounts and bringing them together so that the new Parish has only one set of accounts. Chris made mention that almost £20,000 of this had been Gift Aid Tax Rebate from the Government and impressed upon those present of the importance for Tax payers to contribute to the Parish through the use of Gift Aid to keep that level of contribution consistent. Sue Fisher has now taken over the administering of the Gift Aid from Dan Meehan and is very happy to answer any questions. He recorded the Parish's grateful thanks for all the many years of devoted service by Dan Meehan on the Parish Accounts and Gift Aid Scheme.

Building Projects. Deacon Ian Wells gave a presentation on the Diocesan approved building projects at both churches. Our Lady of Sorrows (OLOS) is to have a new two storey hall built in the copse at Effingham. Planning Approval had been given and tenders have been received. It is expected that work will start during July and complete in January 2015. COHS Fetcham is to have an annexe built on the side of the church for which Planning Permission had been obtained and tenders will go out for this work to commence. Deacon Ian explained that it was felt that it is important to keep both churches running as there was expected to be natural growth in both the congregations at both churches which is currently running at between 400 – 450 parishioners. This growth was likely to come from increased house building in the parish area, demographics and the "Pope Francis" effect.

Adult Formation. This had been ably led by Kathy Medicott and Tessa Wayne. There has been and continues to be a big focus on the Jubilee celebrations for the Diocese in 2015 and as requested by Bishop Kieran there have been two series of sessions on Vatican 2 Constitutions aimed at improving our understanding of that important changes that the Council started. The Advent and Lent Groups are continuing at both Churches and parishioners involvement is very important to keep these happening. RCIA and Crossing the Threshold Initiatives are starting in the Parish, led by Greg Hickey. There are two pilgrimages in the planning process, one in the UK and one in 2015 to the Holy Land. The Holy Land trip is expected to cost in the region of £1,200.00 per person.

Youth. Amy Jackson gave a brief overview of the Youth initiatives and it was reinforced that there is a need for more involvement to engage the Youth post First Holy Communion to Confirmation as well as after Confirmation. There is a youth questionnaire being generated that aims to gain a better understanding of what might encourage more participation in Church and Parish activities as well a

building on the Faith. A Mother and Toddler group (Faith in the Family) has been started at Effingham and new members are actively being sought. Children's liturgy is well attended and particular thanks go to Nick Tucker. There are two teenagers from the Parish going to Lourdes as Redshirts on the Diocesan Pilgrimage in July. There are other possible initiatives being planned with other local parishes and the Web Site section is being added to on a regular basis. One suggestion from Penny Osborne was perhaps to plan 4 x residential weekends for Confirmation candidates rather than 2 hour sessions spread over a longer period of months.

Church Support Church Support and Team's Coordination. Keith Walker made an appeal for more volunteers for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers particularly for the OLOS 6pm Saturday evening Mass. There is to be a Deanery Eucharistic Ministers' Day of Recollection on the 31 May 14 at St Theresa's School. Two Reader's training workshops have also been organised on 27 and 29 May 14. Keith has also got the Parish website up and running: www.effinghamandfetcham.org.uk a significant task for which he was thanked by the Parish.

Charitable Activities. Chris Spiers pointed out that contributions to charities have been very generous over the years and continue to be so. The four main charities supported by the Parish both financially and spiritually are Cafod, Pitstop, Missio and the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage.

Social. Joanne Mathews has taken on the organisation of Social Activities for the parish with the assistance of a small team from both churches. The main goal for all the social activities is to try and integrate both congregations so that although there are two churches there are one parish and one community. The Parish calendar was circulated at the meeting, is on the Parish website and will be put on the porch notice boards at both churches. The next most pressing engagement is the Dinner Dance for the Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage. Tickets have been reduced to £10.00 a head to encourage as many as possible to come and enjoy a great evening's entertainment and it is requested that participants will assist with providing a dish for sharing.

Communication. Apart from the weekly newsletter and announcements after each Mass an email is on occasion sent out to bring to everyone's attention a particular piece of information. This is blind copied to all recipients so that contact details remain confidential. Please let Michael Bray know your Email address if you would like to receive these messages. There have also been three reports by the PPT handed out to all parishioners.

Fr John is proposing to hold a "surgery" every Tuesday evening for 1 hour. This will be held on alternate weeks at each church.

Feedback from the Floor. There was an offer from Benoit Witchells to look at the sustainability specifications for both the proposed building works. This includes materials being used and heating specifications etc. so as to ensure maximum efficiency is attained going forward and not just the bare minimum to comply with building regulations.

The question was asked as to why the Easter Liturgy had taken place at COHS and not OLOS. Fr John responded that COHS is a much bigger church and so able to accommodate larger numbers and so it was felt that the Liturgy should be held in Fetcham.

A proposal was made that some sort of plaque should be sited to recognise that St Alphedge Church was once a Catholic Church. Michael agreed to follow this up.

The meeting finished with a prayer.

Ben Kopieczek
PPT Secretary
30 April 2014

Michael Bray
PPT Chairman