

Parish of Effingham and Fetcham
2nd Parish Annual General Meeting held on 22nd April 2015
at Our Lady of Sorrows Hall

Present:

Fr John Inglis

Deacon Ian Wells

Michael Bray – Chairman PPT

Ben Kopieczek – Secretary – PPT

Chris Tailby – Parish Treasurer

Kathy Medlicott – PPT Adult Formation

And 28 parishioners

Tessa Wayne – PPT Adult Formation

Joanne Matthews – PPT Social and Events

Keith Walker – PPT Church Support and Teams

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

Introduction.

Michael Bray opened the meeting welcoming all who were attending and thanking them for coming. He pointed out that the Parish Planning Team was not formerly constituted as the Parish is still evolving and is not required to be by the Diocese but is in place to support Father John and Deacon Ian Wells in running the Parish. In contrast however the Parish Finance Committee is formerly constituted as required by the Diocese. He formally thanked the members of the PPT and the Parish Finance Committee (PFC) for all their commitment, hard and diligent work over the past year.

Sacristy and Services.

While the Church at OLOS is well served by several parishioners COHS is mainly covered by Kathy Medlicott. There was a real need for a Sacristan to look after the needs of the whole Parish and provide support for Father John. It was recognised at Easter that Louis De Bono's input was invaluable and he is a great loss in that role. However the Easter services were a big success thanks to all who were involved.

Finances.

Chris Tailby gave an overview of the Parish Finances showing that there had been a surplus during the year of £40,000. This was slightly down from last year when the surplus had been £51,000. Collections were down by about £7,000. That also reduces the Tax rebate for Gift Aid. There was no apparent reason for the reduction in offertory collections other than deaths, people moving away etc. We succeeded in reaching the target for claiming the GASD grant from the government. The appeals for extra contributions had been successful and resulted in additional funds which helped to offset the decline in contributions.. There was approx £10,000 in second collections which is the same as last year.

Costs are up as the parish is running two church premises and grounds and there was significant expenditure on the presbytery windows at Effingham during the year. In addition, we extended the cemetery which added to the costs. The development costs at both churches have been funded by the sale of St Alphege's Church at West Horsley.

Building Projects:

Deacon Ian Wells updated the AGM on the progress of the projects at both Churches. He was happy to report that there have been no financial surprises to date. The annex at COHS is complete, the hall has been demolished and the remedial work is underway to tarmac that area. The work at OLOS is underway and although there is now no contingency in the project costs there is the possibility that there will be a slight surplus. The surplus will however be used up by fixtures and fittings, e.g. the chairs will all be replaced when the new hall is complete.

The Quinquennial (running costs) for both churches will take up the balance over the next five years.

Adult Formation

This is spearheaded by both Kathy Medlicott and Tessa Wayne. They noted that there needs to be more publicity given to retreats which are often FOC and open to all.

The four Advent house groups studying "Evangelii Guardium" (Joy of the Gospel) took place over a 6 week period and were considered a big success. There were approx eight people in each group and the feedback was extremely positive. The Lent Group was run in four homes and focused on the first reading at the following Sunday Mass as well as on prayer and reflection on the Nicene Creed. A new study series will start in late spring or early summer with the content still to be finalised, but was likely to follow a similar theme of the Pope's exhortation to all to spread the Good News of the Gospel.

RCIA (Right of Christian Initiation of Adults) is an initiative which has been running for four years at COHS Fetcham, and this is the first year as a joint initiative with OLOS, Effingham using Fr John's recommended material. The aim is to open the door of the church to people considering becoming Catholics and ran for eighteen weeks. At the Easter vigil one participant was welcomed into the Catholic Church and another is to be confirmed shortly. Crossing the Threshold initiative at both Churches is continuing and seen as a long term project. Any Parishioner who knows someone who might be lapsed and looking for encouragement have been asked to let Fr John know

Kathy and Tessa have expressed their intention to step down from the joint role but will be available for advice and help as required. Michael Bray thanked both for their hard work and enthusiasm for the past three years and their support for the PPT.

The Parish Retreat has now been set for 23rd May at St Teresa's school. The Joy of the Gospel will be the theme and presented by Dom John Seddon from Chilworth. The Deanery Day of Reflection is to take place on 30th May at St Teresa's for Eucharistic Ministers

Fr John led a very successful retreat to the Holy Land earlier in the year. Next year's pilgrimage is to Rome and Assisi between 26 April - 1 May 2016 and because of the costs there might be some fund raising activities to assist in defraying the costs.

The Jubilee celebrations for the Diocese on the weekend 4/5 July 2015 have been finalised and will include a 2 day pilgrimage from Arundel to Brighton as well as a 24 Hour Vigil and Exposition of the Holy Sacrament. There will be 26 School Choirs attending and several Key speakers including Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor and Archbishop Rowan Williams as well as a presentation from the new Diocesan Bishop.

Youth.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes continue in a very successful format and maintain the attention of the Parish Youth.

It is felt that a lot more work needs doing in this area and a person is sought who will bring a lot of enthusiasm to this whole area. Particularly it is hoped to catch the very young and maintain their interest all the way through to late teens. Once a person is appointed it might be considered to ask Jack Regan, the Diocesan Youth Co-ordinator, to make a presentation at all Masses.

The Youth Quiz night on 7 March 2015 was very successful and raised £503.00 for CAFOD to pay for a well in Africa.

Church Support Church Support and Team's Coordination:

Keith Walker made an appeal for more volunteers for Extraordinary Ministers particularly for the OLOS 6pm Saturday evening Mass. Keith has also got the Parish website up and running very effectively.

Charitable Activities:

Chris Speirs coordinates this area. The four main charities are supported by the Parish are Cafod, Pitstop, APF/Missio and Fair Trade, as well as Michael and Mary Agius' Tanzanian charity.

It is under consideration to see whether the Society of St Vincent de Paul might be introduced to the Parish, though there is a high degree of input and a coordinator required for this to be successful.

Social.

Joanne Mathews and Michael Bray both reinforced the message that there is now one Parish with one set of events. Most events will be held at OLOS new hall and garden although small events were to be encouraged at Church of the Holy Spirit. The four main events are being planned including the Diocesan Jubilee Festival, 30 August Hog Roast at Effingham, 1st October Halls being blessed by our new Bishop and 3rd October Quiz Night.

Question time held last September was considered a major success and might be repeated this year. The questioning of the various parliamentary candidates as a Churches Together initiative was also considered to be a success.

The Grandparent group which meets every second Wednesday and run by Jean Wells is very successful and flourishing. Anybody was welcome to come along.

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 coordinated by Michael Bray who is happy to add anyone who wishes to this list. Keith Walker looks after the web site and reported that we get on average 200 views a day. It is very simple and user friendly and the address is: www.effinghamandfetcham.org.uk

AOB.

There is to be another Fly Fishing day on 16th May and all are welcome to attend. Ladies are particularly encouraged. Contact Jack Oliver for further details.

The RCIA is open to all and this is a no pressure initiative to encourage participation.

Ten young people will be confirmed at the deanery Church in Epsom this weekend.

Fair trade: a partner who can assist Kathy Medicott is sought for the Effingham end and involves collecting and returning the stock on a two monthly interval.

It was suggested that a Christmas poster be produced along the lines of the Easter poster.

The meeting finished with a prayer.