

Parish of Effingham and Fetcham

5th Parish Annual General Meeting held on 3 May 2018 at St Alphege Hall

Present:

Father John Inglis
Deacon Ian Wells
Michael Bray – Chairman PPT
David Evans – Chairman PFC
And 27 parishioners.

Keith Walker – Church Support
Brendan Kelly - Treasurer

Fr John opened the meeting with a prayer

Introduction

1. Michael Bray opened the meeting by welcoming all who had taken the time and trouble to come to this meeting of the parish community. He thanked Fr John and Deacon Ian Wells for their spiritual leadership, direction and many contributions to the life of the parish. He thanked all the members of the PPT and PFC who give so much of their time and skill to help Fr John run the parish, much of it unsung and unnoticed. He informed the meeting that much had gone on over the past year which would be covered and there were a number of initiatives being introduced this coming year. He closed by seeking more volunteers to come forward to help run the parish.

2. Tessa Wayne spoke briefly of her and Bernard's very grateful thanks for all the support and prayers they had received from parishioners in the recent weeks during the concerns for their grandson Benji and of the amazing generosity of their online charity funding response.

Sacristy and Services

3. Safeguarding. All Eucharistic Ministers and others who visit the housebound are required to be DBS checked at regular intervals. The majority of checks are out of date and these will be renewed over the coming months, probably done centrally in the parish one Saturday morning, with support from the Diocesan team. Ben Kopieczek and Rosann Miller have taken on the safeguarding role but are looking for more volunteers to assist.

4. Sacristan. The work of the sacristy is currently shared by Fr John and a number of parishioners. It would be very helpful if a person were to come forward to take on the role. It involves more than just preparing the Altars for Mass and includes making sure all items required are stocked and available.

5. New Initiatives. Deacon Ian updated the meeting on a number of initiatives that had started this past year, including:

- a. Eucharistic Adoration. Encouraged by the Bishop this now takes place at Our Lady of Sorrows Church on two days in the week. Michael Agius was thanked for his organising and he made a request for more volunteers to come forward to spend but one hour.
- b. Rosary for Vocations. Led by Marion Cutler this takes place on the first Friday of the month at 11.30am in Church of the Holy Spirit before the midday Mass. Numbers are currently small and more were encouraged to join.
- c. Prayer Group. A small group met in the Annex at COHS on Wednesdays after the 9.15am Mass during Lent and has continued. It will continue probably at the newly set up Divine Mercy Chapel in COHS.

d. Bereavement Support. Two Parishioners, Pauline Boulvard and Kathy Medicott, have undergone training and offer support for those recently or long term bereaved or who have suffered a loss. They are planning a further drop in session on Sat 12 May 18 between 11-12.30pm in the Annex at COHS.

6. Volunteer Mass. Last year ideas emerged for a Mass and refreshments to say thank you to all those who volunteer in the parish and beyond in recognition of their dedication and work. A date will be chosen and further details circulated.

Parish Financial Report

7. David Evans opened the report recording the parish's grateful thanks for the recently retired Treasurer Chris Tailby who had carried out the onerous task for the past five years and had made great strides to put the finances in order and ran them with significant efficiency and clarity. He then highlighted some key areas including:

- a. Health and Safety. Thanks go to Chris Spiers who leads on this important subject and has achieved a clean sweep of achieving the Diocesan goals for this subject.
- b. The presbytery at 5 Bell Lane has undergone a significant refurbish, at some cost, and is now let again and brings in some £15,000 a year in rent.
- c. Bank Balance. The parish has funds of approximately £150,000 which represents a reasonable cushion against an annual anticipated expenditure of £145,000-150,000.
- d. Donations. The Parish has made a £150 donation to St Lawrence's School for bibles for each student, has agreed to sponsor Confirmation age young parishioners to Lourdes at £150 per person and also two families to attend the World Meeting of Families in Dublin at £500 per family.

8. Brendan Kelly then reported on the accounts, summary copies of which had been on both church notice boards and were on seats at the meeting. He highlighted:

- a. The account showed a deficit of £18,000, but a donation of £20,000 was made to the Diocesan Priests' training fund so effectively it was breakeven. Gift Aid was a significant contributor to parish funds with some 80% of parishioners using the scheme, some £16,000 a year. Considering the parish has two churches, two houses and two halls the accounts are healthy.
- b. Buildings. The parish had a quinquennial review done a few years ago and the maintenance tasks highlighted were gradually being worked through at a cost to the parish.
- c. He recorded his thanks for all the hard work carried out by Sue Fisher who has responsibility for the parish Gift Aid scheme, a task that takes considerable time and detailed work.

9. Fr John had received a letter of thanks from Canon Brian Coyle Rector at the Seminary at Womersley for the parish's generous donation towards the refurbishment plans.

Adult Formation

10. Michael Bray spoke about a number of events that have taken place and some that are due this year in particular:

- a. Advent and Lent Sessions. Again, the parish had the benefit of Fr Laurence's deep knowledge and understanding of Scripture and all enjoyed the sessions. This Autumn the parish will be initiating Alpha which will start with the identification and training of a number of leaders before starting the course.

- b. Brendan Kelly kindly led Care in the Family sessions in the Autumn to support parents of teenagers to manage these challenging years. The sessions were not well attended but those that did turn up gained much benefit. He has agreed to repeat the sessions.
- c. Parish Outing to Goring on Sea. Marion Cutler organised and ran a very successful coach trip in Sep 17 to see the replica Sistine Chapel ceiling in the church there. Some 50 parishioners had an enjoyable and fun day out.
- d. Parish Pilgrimage. This coach journey to Northern France will take place between 3-9 Sep 18 led by Fr John. More people are encouraged to join this great opportunity to visit places of pilgrimage and interest including Lisieux, Rouen, Chartres and Versailles. An invitation will be sent to neighbouring parishes.

11. Michael Bray briefed the meeting on progress with the Bishop's Diocese 2030 plan. He thanked all who responded to the questions posed by Bishop Richard and informed the meeting that the answers, and those of other parishes, had been presented to the Bishop at a number of meetings. The Bishop and a small advisory group were going through the information with the aim of producing a plan by the Autumn 2018. In the meantime, there has been much reorganisation and change at DABCEC and in the Diocesan Committees plus the sale of St Cuthman's.

12. The PPT has started to pick up a number of interesting ideas put forward by parishioners which will evolve over the coming months including Lourdes sponsorship, continuous prayer groups, catechist training, more events such as evening speaker led sessions and closer cooperation with nearby parishes.

Youth and families

13. With apologies from Jean Wells Deacon Ian drew attention to the need to engage with families with young children in particular as the seed corn of the parish. There was an active children's liturgy and he had tried to encourage families to join the Epsom youth group but without success. We will do some further research with Guildford and Weybridge. The key is to identify a young adult to take on the leadership role. Unlike larger town parishes we are unable to fund a youth worker but may be able to share with other nearby parishes. The next Confirmation Group starts in Sep 18.

14. Deacon Ian informed the meeting of the success of the Grandparents Group which goes from strength to strength with well attended monthly meetings, including one recently at which Mary Sherrington spoke about her work with the Alzheimer's Association.

Church Support and Team Coordination

15. Keith Walker reminded the meeting that the Deanery Eucharistic Ministers Day is taking place at St Teresa's School on 2 Jun 18. More Eucharistic Ministers and Readers were being sought.

16. Marion Cutler leads the Legion of Mary group, a small number of parishioners who meet regularly and conduct home visits to those in need. If more information is required do speak to Marion or Fr John.

17. Social Concerns. For some time the PPT has been considering starting up a Social Concerns group, along the lines of SVP but without the structure. The aim would be to provide extra people for home visits and in due course maybe a group able to help people with small DIY and other tasks. Again volunteers are encouraged to come forward to lead and to join the small band who have indicated a willingness to be involved.

18. The Meeting Room. Initiated by Mary Agius the parish operates a Friday lunch session for the homeless and less well off which has proved to be much needed in the area and has been a success. Apparently the Meeting Room has found a room at Leatherhead Football Club for Monday lunchtimes and hope to expand the days in use which may impact of the St Alphege usage. The organiser Graham was particularly appreciative of the work done for the Friday lunches which were described as “fantastically well organised and helpful”.

Charity Activities.

19. The parish supported CAFOD, Lourdes, Pitstop/Meeting room and Aid to the Church in Need plus the many second collections initiated by the Diocese which parishioners generously support.

20. With apologies from Chris Spiers Michael Bray reminded all of the great support the parish had given to CAFOD over the year, the special collections and continuing support.

21. Do and Raise. From an idea of and driven by Kit Oliver this group meets in the Annex at COHS fortnightly to meet and chat, learn new skills and make goods for sale. As part of the group Kit has produced a book that has sold out and raised £541 in support of Benji’s ears. Thanks for much of the organisation must go to Jo Bray, Carolyn Trott and others.

22. Connect. A Churches Together Initiative in Effingham led by Gill Walker this group meets fortnightly in St Lawrence’s Hall and provides a venue for those with Dementia and especially their carers to meet socially and chat about concerns and issues. They are seeking more male volunteer helpers.

Social and Events

23. With apologies from Jo Matthews Michael Bray spoke about the success of last year’s Hog Roast and confirmed a similar event would be held on 1 Jul 18 with sign up sheets going out soon. It was a great parish family occasion and all were encouraged to sign up early as it is very popular.

24. Liz Cross informed the meeting that the Christmas Supper would take place at the end of November in St Alphege Hall. She also raised the idea of having another New Parishioners lunch to welcome those recently arrived (since the last lunch). She would identify suitable dates in the Autumn.

25. Fr John thanked Liz Cross and Teresa Penegar for their continuing dedication to providing tea and coffee after the Sunday 9am Mass every Sunday.

Communication

26. Keith Walker reminded all of the parish website that runs very successfully and has some 130 “hits” each day which is good news. He also reminded all that Michael bray runs the Parish email circulation and that he would be updating the permissions in the light of the Government GDPR rules which come into effect at the end of May 18.

Any Other Business

27. Bishop's Pastoral Visit to the Parish. Deacon Ian informed the meeting that the Bishop would be paying a formal Pastoral Visitation to the Parish on the weekend 3 and 4 Nov 18. The visit would include a blessing of new stained-glass windows at the COHS in recognition of the church's Golden Jubilee (50 years), Mass at both churches and social gatherings. More details would be forthcoming and a small team would start to develop and organise this important weekend in the life of our parish. He asked for parishioners to come forward with suggestions of VIP guests we should invite including local national and local politicians, other church leaders etc.

28. There being no other items for discussion Fr John closed the meeting with a blessing at 8pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Bray', written in a cursive style.

Michael Bray
Chairman PPT
14 May 2018