

**Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday 21st November 2010**

**Present:** Canon Bernard Massey, David Culley (Chair), Jane Dyer (Minutes), David Gabriel, Helen Lewis, Petronella Mason, Jake Preisner, Terry Quadling, Grainne Stables, Frank Tohill and 32 parishioners.

**1 Opening Prayer**

Canon Bernard opened the meeting with prayers and the Lord's Prayer.

**2 Apologies for Absence**

Alan White, Pat White, Fr Michael Walsh, Kelvin O'Shea.

**3 Minutes of last AGM**

The minutes of the last AGM held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2009 were presented and agreed.

**4 Matters arising**

*CRB checks:* Grainne Stables reported that progress had been made.

*Theme of the Month:* Brian Orchard thanked the PPC for including the Newman Hall Club in this scheme. David Culley reported that themes used had been 'Knowing God Better' course, CAFOD, Easter and Christmas, but there had not been an overwhelming number of requests.

**5 Parish Priest's Report (Canon Bernard Massey)**

Canon Bernard thanked the Parish for the warm reception he had received on his arrival at the Parish. However, he commented that some factors do not reflect us as a welcoming Parish and cited the fact that there is no outside light to the Church (just a security light), the hand rail is only on one side, and there is no disabled space in the car park. He said that there was a lot of work to be done both in the Church and the Presbytery – for example, the guttering needs replacing, the kitchen in the Presbytery needs updating and the ensuite in the flat needs attention. Canon Bernard informed those present that much decorating work is necessary and that he proposed to open up the meeting room in the Presbytery. He said that the likely expenditure for all the planned work is feasible within the monies available and reminded parishioners of the legacy received in June 2010 in the sum of £145,000.

Some work has already been carried out – the garage has been demolished and trees have been removed giving more light both for the flower room and the BCP hut.

Canon Bernard advised that he would be spending 2 days per week on Diocesan work as a result of which daily Mass times have had to be altered to accommodate this.

Replying to points raised by parishioners, Canon Bernard advised:

- The programme on the new timer for the heater would be reset so that there would be heating in the loft for choir rehearsal;
- The Poor Plate should be out at all times and any Second Collections would be taken in Church and brought up at the Offertory – parishioners would be advised in advance of any Second Collection through the medium of the Newsletter;
- The sound system in the Church needs to be checked in order to improve the acoustics.

## **6 Pastoral Council Report (David Culley)**

David Culley thanked the PPC and parishioners for their help throughout the year. The main news of the year had been the retirement of Canon Kevin and the arrival of Canon Bernard.

Following on last year's AGM, the PPC had set three objectives for 2010:

- i) Build a constructive relationship with St Antony's, Henbury (our twinned Parish);
- ii) Encourage adult parishioners on their faith journeys;
- iii) Use CAFOD resources to raise awareness of climate change and other international issues.

### *Working with St Antony's (David Culley)*

David Culley welcomed Mike Kavanagh and James King from St Antony's to the AGM. He reported that the Sacred Heart and St Antony's Councils had met for the first time in January followed by a number of social events and meetings with both Councils. It is hoped that a working party from both Parishes will organise a joint course/event during the coming year that will develop the relationship between the two communities.

News of Canon Kevin's retirement had raised the possibility of one priest serving the two Parishes and the effect on Mass times. Working together, a questionnaire was devised and distributed to gauge opinions about Mass times. The results had not been published as the news of Canon Bernard's arrival postponed the need for an immediate decision on this matter, but positive channels of communication have been opened up.

### *Knowing God Better (Jane Dyer)*

Jane Dyer spoke about the 'Knowing God Better' course which had been run in the autumn as part of the Development of the Spiritual Life of the Parish. This course is one of a Catholic Faith Exploration series or CaFE courses as they are known. The course took place over 7 weeks (on Tuesday evenings) and was held in the Presbytery. Each session consisted of a 30 minute video followed by informal

discussion in small groups and about 22-30 parishioners had attended. Feedback received had been positive and encouraging.

#### CAFOD (David Gabriel)

David Gabriel thanked the PPC and the Parish for their strong support for CAFOD throughout the year. The aim had been to weave CAFOD more into the fabric of the Parish and a working party had been set up which had met several times through the year.

- The Lent 'Give It Up Campaign' had been launched with a very well attended Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper; and the total raised, including the CAFOD Lent Boxes and the Fast Day Collection, came to £2736 which was more than the target.
- The Parish had responded generously, as usual, to two major emergencies – raising £2599 for the victims of the Haiti earthquake and £1694 for the victims of the Pakistan floods.
- The Harvest Fast Day had raised £1429 – this brought the overall total raised to £8458.
- About 25-30 parishioners had signed the campaign Act on Poverty card which addresses, among other issues, climate change.
- The year had ended with a Wine & Cheese Evening which was very well attended at which Peter and Margaret Harvey gave a most interesting talk on Cambodia and their work there.
- It is proposed to keep the CAFOD working group active and to hold further events with support for Connect 2 Cambodia a possibility.

#### **7 Ecumenical Report (Frank Tothill)**

Frank Tothill reported that The Churches Together in the Westbury Area (CTWA) had continued its regular programme of Ministers' Meetings, Forum Meetings and Sunday evening Ecumenical Joint Services.

The format for the Ecumenical Lent Groups had been different this year with larger groups meeting at the various CTWA member churches – this seemed to work well. An Arts Festival on an environmental theme – Connect 2010 – was held in June. Many local organisations were involved and most events were well attended.

At the start of the year, it was agreed that CTWA's activities need to move forward to the next step in Ecumenism as, although successful, they have remained unchanged for some time. This is now under consideration.

#### **8 Treasurer's Report (Gerry Calderbank)**

Gerry Calderbank presented the Income and Expenditure figures for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 showing a deficit of £3595.

Gift Aided donations were 64.4% of Offertory donations and 69.6% when the tax refunds were included: a slight increase on the previous year. Unless the Government announce otherwise, the rate at which Charities can claim tax refunds on Gift Aided donations will fall in April 2011 from 28.2% to 25%. We would then receive approximately £900 less per annum.

It was explained that our reserves are in two accounts controlled by the Diocese. The Common Investment Fund is unit linked and therefore fluctuates in value, and the General Deposit Fund (GDF) pays a fluctuating rate of interest. GDF interest was down to 2% in 2009 (1 ½% in 2010) and it was that reduction which resulted in our Investment Income falling by £3K approximately in 2009.

We received a legacy of £145,000 in June 2010 which will help our Investment Income but there will be heavy expenditure this year.

An increase in the number of 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections in 2010 has meant that the Poor Plate collections have suffered. It was explained that Poor Plate donations go to our Parish Project, helping Fr Danny O'Sullivan in Peru, and other causes helping the poor, such as our own SVP Society. The Treasurer asked whether there would be agreement to sending £2,500 of the legacy received this year to Fr Danny and this received the approval of the meeting. Also, following questions, it was agreed that distributions from the Poor Plate collections should be mentioned in the Newsletter.

## **9 Newman Hall Accounts (Gerry Calderbank/Chris Torpy)**

Chris Torpy reported that on taking over as Hall Manager his two main priorities had been to remove any asbestos and to make the electrics safe. Over the past three years a heavy programme of essential works, improvements and maintenance has been carried out and this cost is reflected in the figures shown. There is still more work to be done, such as the roof.

The Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 show a deficit of £2049.65. However, it was noted that the £2000 loan from the Parish has since been repaid; also that there will be significant savings in refuse Disposal charges as a result of a new contract with SITA, and reduced Electricity charges as a result of switching to Southern Electric from EDF.

There is a high level of bookings made for the coming year and the financial position of the Hall should be quite healthy again by the end of 2010. It was noted that bookings are already being taken for 2013/2014.

## **10 Election of Parish Pastoral Councillors**

David Culley advised the meeting that Helen Lewis would be retiring from the Council and he thanked her for her valuable contribution to the Council.

Nominations for the vacant place were requested and Mary Templer was duly proposed and seconded: David Culley welcomed her to the Council.

The other Council members expressed their willingness to continue to serve and were duly re-elected.

## **11 Priorities for 2011**

The following suggestions were put forward:

- *Help for the wider community:* support for the Friends of the Holy Land and SVP.
- *Faith development for the post 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion children:* formation of a group to provide more support after 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion.
- *Spiritual Development of the Parish:* catechesis on the New Translation of the Roman Missal; another CaFE course to be run in the spring.

David Culley said that these suggestions would be discussed at the next PPC meeting and working parties set up to implement same.

It was noted that

- The 'Diary of God' course had already been provisionally booked for the autumn;
- A programme of events for Advent had been drawn up and this would be published in the Newsletter.

## **12 Any Other Business**

Canon Bernard advised that:

- No decision regarding change of Mass times would be made until the situation arose where there was one priest serving 2 parishes.
- There would be Services of Reconciliation on 16<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30 pm and 7.00 pm.

## **13 Closing Prayer**

Canon Bernard closed the meeting with a prayer.