

**ST ANNE'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2021
IN ST ANNE'S PARISH CENTRE**

Summary of the presentations.

Present

Fr Godric Timney, Fr Boniface Moran and Ann Barton (Chair) and 60 parishioners

1. **Welcome**

Ann welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained the structure of the meeting and that a number of participants would present reports with the help of Power Point slides. There would be time for questions and comments after each section of reports.

2. **Opening Prayer**

Fr Godric led the opening prayer.

3. **Pastoral Council Updates**

3.1 **Keeping Safe**

Claire Reed reported the response of the parish to the Covid pandemic. She included the following points:

- a team of over **20 volunteers** enabled the church to be opened for Mass, Weddings and Funerals whenever restrictions permitted it minimising the risk to parishioners
- more recently provision has moved forward for those waiting for the Sacraments of **First Holy Communion** and **Baptism**.

3.2 **Outreach and Communication**

Deacon Peter Mawtus reported the following points:

- the **refugee family** are now happily settled in Ormskirk
- the development of parishioner's skills and improved equipment has enhanced live streaming of Mass via FaceBook
- both the **parish web site** and **FaceBook page** have been greatly improved during the lockdowns
- **Zoom** has been extensively used during the pandemic and many parishioners have become expert users
- **Keeping in touch and cascading information via emails** will continue

3.3 **Synod Past and Future**

Deacon Des reported the progress of the Synod and Children's Liturgy of the Word. He included the following points:

- parish meetings have taken place on Zoom and feedback received
 - the Liverpool Synod Day took place via Zoom on 19 June 2021 and included inputs from Rome, the Papal Nuncio and ecumenical observers
 - 19 recommendations were voted on with the top 3 being:
 - lay ministry
 - young people/ young adults
 - evangelisation
-

- The Archdiocese Pastoral Plan is being developed for launch on 1st Sunday in Advent (28th Nov 21)
- St Anne's is already moving forward to enable the Synod vision become a reality. For example, the Children's Liturgy of the Word included liaising with St Anne's and St Bede's schools as well as promoting activities for children during Advent, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost

4. **Safeguarding**

Terry Graham reported on Safeguarding. She included the following points:

- the National Safeguarding Commission was being replaced by the Catholic Safeguarding Agency
- about 70 parishioners were cleared for activities with children and vulnerable people. Rechecking is ongoing and posters and pictures will be updated
- every parish meeting must have safeguarding on the agenda

5. **Environment Group**

Susan O'Halloran reported on the work of the Environment Group. She included the following points:

- the group is responding to Pope Francis' call
- work undertaken included how to make a Bug Hotel (named "Bee B and B" after a competition, won by Patrick) and planting a herb garden. Plans for November involve planting a grove of trees in the parish grounds using saplings provided by the Woodland Trust.

6. **Working with Young People**

Ann reported on behalf of Mike Price who was unable to attend the meeting. The following points were included:

- the main focus of the Youth Group has been on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.
- currently there are approximately 250 young people on the scheme from St Anne's, St Elizabeth's and from the wider community.
- limited expeditions, conforming to Government restrictions, have been possible at times when lockdown was eased
- the candidates have been involved in helping with various activities in the parish. Mike and the group were thanked by the meeting
- money raised from activities has been used to fund the expeditions

7. **Parish Finances**

Steve Jones reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. He included the following points:

- the audited accounts cover Sept 2019 to Aug 2020 with additional information provided on the present financial situation
- there had been a significant fall in cash donations due to church closures and attendance restrictions
- income was £143,000 while expenditure was £171,000. Net assets (which include the Church building, the priory, the parish centre etc.) are £770,000.
- a CollectTin card giving system has been installed enabling parishioners to donate by contactless payment

8. **The Roof**

Phil Wilkinson reported on the Roof Fund. He included the following points:

- £361,000 has been raised in total so far. £342,000 has been spent leaving a balance of £19,000.
- money was borrowed to complete the work on the nave roof and this has now been repaid
- work required on the side aisles is estimated at £120,000. With insufficient finances, this is being left for now as there are no signs of leaks.
- attention has turned to the tower with the need to install safe access so that information can be gathered on problems and possible costs

9. **Forward Planning**

Steve Jones reported that:

- live streaming of the Sunday 10:30 am Mass is to continue.
- special services such as funerals can also be streamed by arrangement.
- more volunteers were needed in order to lighten the load on the team

Ann Barton reported that:

- the PPC would revisit the results of the parish questionnaire issued in 2019 with a view to responding to these in the light of the pandemic.

10. **Report from the Parish Priest - Fr Godric**

- one of the challenges will be to reassure people that it is safe to be back in church and that worshipping as a community gives life to the parish
- parish groups and organisations were thanked for their continuing work through the lockdowns
- the challenge of how we support our young people is of paramount importance. New arrangements have been made during the pandemic. Both schools were thanked for the great contributions they make to the parish. The significance of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme in parish life was acknowledged.
- tremendous work was also being undertaken by the parish Environment Group
- John Abrahams and Brian Eccles were thanked for their sterling work in, among other things, attending to the parish grounds
- the on-going work of the Roof Fund Committee was praised.
- Fr Godric pointed out that he was never too busy if someone wanted to contact him – there would always be time.

11. **Any Other Business**

Monies collected through LOAF will continue to support the charities Mary's Meals and Hospice Africa.

12. **Closing prayer**

Fr Godric led the closing prayer.
