

**ST ANNE'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2023
IN ST ANNE'S PARISH CENTRE**

Present

Fr Godric Timney, Ann Barton (Chair) and 65 parishioners

1. **Welcome**

Ann welcomed everyone to the meeting. Fr Godric led the opening prayer.

2. **Actions following last year's meeting**

Cost of Living Crisis

Sources of help during the cost-of-living crisis were researched, identified and published including what help was available and where help was needed.

Future of the parish

In response to the suggestions made at the meeting and afterwards many parish events and activities have taken place or are being organised, including:

- parish meetings held to discuss ideas for Advent and Lent
- organised talks, including Benedictine Spirituality, Lectio Divina, "The Letter".
- planning a retreat day for men.
- launching of the ladies' social group.
- celebrations and parties including: an outdoor Mass in September, Fr Godric's 60 year as a Monk, learning how to Craft, The Jetsons, 70 years anniversary of St Anne's UCM foundation and many more.
- establishing stronger links with Edge Hill University.
- Fair Trade audit carried out and CAFOD's Big Letter signing event.
- completion and hanging of the quilt, "The Fullness of Life".
- participation in the Churches Together "Fun Day".
- developing synodality at the local level.

3. **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding oversight for our Benedictine parish of St Anne's is moving from the archdiocese to the Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS).

RLSS is an independent team of safeguarding professionals offering safeguarding services to the Religious of the Catholic Church in England and Wales (<https://religioussafeguarding.org/>).

Training on RLSS procedures will soon take place, allowing clearances for new volunteers and any re-checking required (DBS) to resume. Our parish Safeguarding Representative, Terry Graham, will be very happy to answer any further questions you may have.

4. **Deanery Synodal Council**

Joan Bill spoke on the work of the West Lancashire Deanery Synodal Council to which our parish belongs. She described the work of the council so far which has been mainly focused on gathering information about the member parishes with a view to enabling the parishes to work together and support each other.

Further information will appear in the parish Bulletin.

5. **Youth Group**

Mike Price spoke about the activities of the Youth Group. The Duke of Edinburgh award is the core activity, with 88 enthusiastic young people following programmes towards bronze, silver and gold awards. Of these, 17 had taken part in the Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Volunteers had gained further qualifications towards leading outdoor expeditions.

Fr Godric thanked Mike and his team for their invaluable work.

Ann thanked the Children's Liturgy Group and the Uniformed Groups for the great work they do with the young people of the parish. The newly set up Squirrels got a special mention.

6. **Finance Update**

Report on end of year accounts

Steve Jones, Finance Committee chairperson, gave his report.

Audited accounts covered Sept 2021 to Aug 2022 and Sep 2022 to Aug 2023.

In 2021-2022, income was £134,000 while expenditure was £168,000.

In 2022-2023, income was £167,000 while expenditure was £194,000.

Net assets as of August 2023 (which include the Church building, the priory, the parish centre etc.) are £797,000.

Thank you to everyone who has increased their donations recently and those who have elected to Gift-Aid their donations. This makes a huge difference.

Roof update

The first aid, sanctuary, nave and sacristy phases have been completed. Work on the side aisles, a relatively straightforward job, has been deferred.

The main task is the tower. The most recent estimate is £120,000 while the roof funds current total is £54,000. Work is planned to start in the New Year.

Steve thanked everyone who continues to contribute to or raises funds for this.

Pastoral Centre update

A parish meeting was held in April to discuss the future of the pastoral centre.

Selling the site for development and building another centre is still under consideration. Repairing the leaking roof would cost about £150,000. A specialist damp contractor is to be engaged to investigate damp and mould in the basement.

Support for Parish LOAF Charities

The meeting agreed that the parish would continue to support:

- Hospice Africa (<https://www.hospice-africa.org/>) and
- Mary's Meals (<https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>).

Health and Safety Training

Steve reported that 27 people have undertaken Health & Safety training. Annual risk assessments for the parish are being carried out.

Repairing the Memorial at the back of church.

Ormsbys have removed the broken pieces from the memorial that came away from the wall. They are investigating if any of it might be replaced.

7. **Live Simply**

Parishioners were invited to form discussion groups and submit written responses to how the parish may grow its ambition to Live Simply.

The responses were collected. See Appendix 1.

A brief discussion took place on ideas submitted by the groups, with a reminder that to work, ideas needed people willing to take them forward.

With donations of food and other items soon able to be left at the back of church, an appeal was made for volunteers to transport these items to Ormskirk's Food Bank store and to the refugee centre in Skelmersdale.

8. **Final Words and Closing prayer**

Fr Godric thanked parishioners for the support that makes the parish a vibrant community that was looking forward to an exciting future.

He thanked Ann for her work as chair of the Parish Pastoral Council. He thanked John Abraham for his excellent service as de facto "clerk of works" and appealed for parishioners with practical skills to come forward to help carry on this work.

Fr Godric then led the closing prayer.

Appendix 1

Live Simply Suggestions from St Anne's Church Ormskirk AGM With Parish, Schools and home working together on these issues.

Food, purchases & economising

- Demonstrate a "route path" of food to Bank (help understanding of complicated path)
- Set up a donation link, for people to donate cash instead of food that needs transporting. The foodbank can then purchase what is needed.
- Improve information about how to donate to food bank and refugee centre.
- Use D of E volunteers to move /load food bank donations from church with help of parents – on a rota basis.
- Give more to the Food Bank.
- Encourage meat-free days and preventing food waste. Eat local.
- Buy Fair Trade if possible.
- Try and buy local produce to avoid large travel costs.
- LIVE SIMPLY DAYS and donate funds where most need is decided.
- Saving paper - numbers on hymn boards rather than print sheets for 2 x Sundays per month.
- Increase recycling (especially recycling cans from parish centre kitchen)
- Reducing car journeys when possible.
- Consider alternatives to flying.
- Look at electricity provider.
- House insulation. Thicker carpet underlay increases insulation. Solar panels and batteries.

Support for Parish & for individuals

- Ask parents of both schools to donate directly to the parish. They benefit from the good schools in our parish and many would be happy to donate. Set up a direct line for gift aid.
- Identify people's needs – temporary support while need exists. SVP.
- Travel to church – Parish minibus

Publicity & Communication

- Use the parish Facebook page to promote what we do – remind people of Food Bank needs – attach useful pages – freecycle for families
- Use Facebook group to promote: community choir, pre-loved uniform, room hire, ladies social, family swop shop, free donation page etc
- Promote room hire through school bulletins / website.
- Promotion of St Annes and St Bede's pre-loved uniform services – provide links to access services. Newsletter / Facebook page
- Each group to have opportunity to showcase their charity offers / work that has been done.
- Quarterly open parish council meeting for parishioners to attend after Sunday Mass

Nature. Gardening Club. More planting of bee friendly plants. Increase biodiversity.

Palestine/Israel Situation & Other Faiths

- Consider how to get involved with the situation in Palestine / Israel
- Other faiths and getting to know / offer support to them – like we have Churches Together. Faiths together – maybe start at Edge Hill – Muslim community.
- Prayer Chain. Pray for peace at same time – every home lights a candle during Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land
- Contact non-Christian faiths at colleges and universities.
- Interfaith groups disagreeing agreeing safe space for all faiths.