

St Francis of Assisi, Llay and Christ the King, Rossett

Parish AGM Report

15 September 2013 – 12 midday

Welcome

Dear fellow parishioners

This is my sixth annual report to the parish about the life and activities within the parish.

I'd like to thank you all for your support of the parish and the events that are organised by the various groups – your contribution to parish life is extremely important.

This report will hopefully give you a flavour of the things that go on in the parish and I would urge you to consider how you can best use the talents you have for the benefit of the parish.

Please remember that you can raise any queries or concerns about the parish at the AGM, or alternatively by attending one of the PAC/Parish meetings, that occur at least three times a year and are well publicised in the weekly parish bulletin. These meetings are open for all parishioners to attend, and minutes of the meetings are displayed at the back of church shortly after the meeting.

Altar Servers

Serving at the Altar during Mass or other services is a great honour. Anyone can apply to become an Altar Server after making their first Holy Communion if they attend Mass regularly.

The role of the Altar Server is very important because he/she is one of the closest persons to the Altar and to the Priest representing Jesus Christ during the celebration of the Holy Mass and the administration of the Sacraments. The service of the Altar Server is greatly appreciated by the church. A good Altar Server will give their service with major attention and respect. Their behaviour is a very important aspect because it can arise in other Servers that wish to serve on the Altar.

At the Annual Mass for Altar Servers, held in the Cathedral on 29 December 2012, three of our altar servers were enrolled as members of the Guild of St Stephen.

Anybody interested in becoming an altar server should contact Canon Lordan.

Prayer Groups in the Parish

PREGO meetings are held fortnightly on Monday evenings starting at 8pm. These are open to anyone from our parish and also from other Churches.

These meetings are led by the St Beuno's outreach team, and provide space to deepen the prayer life of individuals.

The theme taken is the readings of the following Sunday's Mass and there is no need to have been before, as each week is a "stand alone" event.

Safe Guarding in our Parish

Safeguarding is about preventing abuse. Abuse can take many forms – physical, emotional, basic neglect, sexual.

If you believe a child/vulnerable adult is in danger, you should take action and contact Social Services and/or the police.

If you have concerns or suspect that a child/vulnerable adult is suffering abuse, you should inform the parish representative:

Sharon Crump

Phone: 01978 855863

Email: sharon.crump@btinternet.com

Or contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator:

Keith McDonogh:

Phone: 01978 262726

Mobile: 07833 572161

Email: wrexham@copca.org.uk

The definition of a vulnerable adult is a person over 18 years of age who is, or may be, in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is, or may be, unable to take care of himself or herself, or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation.

"The Church recognises the personal dignity and right of children whom it has a special responsibility and duty of care. The Church, and individual members of it, undertake to do all in their power to create a safe environment for children and to prevent their physical, sexual or emotional abuse."

The Social and Fund Raising Group

Due to the current economic climate, a decision was made in January this year to reduce the number of fund raising events in the coming year. In making this decision we also took into account the healthy state of parish funds, the low attendance figures and participation of parishioners at events, and the potential for Sumy fund raising activities. However since the last AGM we have enjoyed the following:

- St Francis Feast Day celebration during October 2012
- Parish Music Hall Concert in aid of the Wednesday Club, during November, raising £288.50
- Christmas Draw and coffee morning, raising £763 for the general parish fund – December
- Bymbo Male Voice concert held at Llay Miners Institute, raised £294.50 for the general parish fund – March
- First Holy Communion coffee morning – June
- Summer outings for elderly parishioners during July and August, including Our Lady of Fatima Church, Bala, lunch and town, Moreton Garden Centre and St Winefride's Well, Holywell, lunch at the Pet Cemetery Brynford, and a visit to Franciscan Retreat Centre and National Shrine of St Pio, Pantasaph
- Hospitality for Bishop Peter's parish visitation

Future Planned Events include:

- St Francis Feast Day celebration - October 2013
- A concert in November to raise funds for the Wednesday club
- Annual Christmas draw and coffee morning for the parish funds

Membership - the current group began nearly three years ago with six members. However, since that time, four people have left the parish and consequently the group, leaving just two, Lorraine Pizzey and Alison Williams. If you would like to join the group or would like to contribute any suggestions or submit ideas for events, social or fundraising, please contact Lorraine on 01978 720078.

The Wednesday Club

The Wednesday Club has been run by parishioners for many years and is an excellent opportunity to get out of the house to meet people on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

The Club is ecumenical and the afternoon starts about 1.30pm with the rosary.

There are usually a couple of games of bingo, afternoon tea and lots of time to have a friendly chat.

The afternoon usually finishes around 4 – 4.30pm.

The Wednesday Club also has an annual Christmas meal.

If anyone is interested in taking part please contact Margaret Thompson on 01978 752161 – helpers are needed, especially those who can assist with providing transport.

Sacramental Preparation

Within the last twelve months (between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2012) within our parish there has been:

7 baptisms
1 reception
17 first holy communions
1 confirmations
2 marriage
9 funerals

For the Sacrament of baptism and marriage parishioners should contact Canon Lordan for guidance on sacramental preparation.

For the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, this year's preparation starts soon. Any child who is in Year 3 or above, is eligible to make their First Holy Communion and if anyone has any questions about this Sacrament please contact Liz Davies on 01978 853866.

For the Sacrament of Confirmation, any child who is in Year 8 or above is eligible to receive this Sacrament.

For further information on the Sacrament of Confirmation please contact Canon Lordan.

(The parish has an average attendance at Mass at a weekend of 205.)

Missio

Since 1922, Missio has been the Catholic Church's official support organisation for overseas mission. The Pope specifically asks Missio to help bring the Good News of Christ to the world, especially in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. Missio cares for and supports the younger churches until they are able to be self-sufficient.

Missio raises awareness and fosters prayer and cooperation in the whole Church, with 120 offices worldwide; it is the only organisation which supports every one of the 1,069 mission dioceses of the world.

Missio exists through the generosity of Catholics. Thanks to them, they are able to respond in faith and love to the needs of our brothers and sisters, especially where poverty is most severe. Missio plays a crucial role in combating poverty, disease, injustice and exploitation.

The funds collected in each diocese of England and Wales are sent directly to local bishops in the mission territories.

Missio is a registered charity No.1056651, governed by a Trust Deed dated 18 June 1996, is part of the Pontifical Mission Societies worldwide network and does not receive grants from the Government or EU sources and does not keep investments.

You may know Missio as the Association for the Propagation of Faith, or APF, or even just by the little red boxes that are used for people to collect money.

In this Parish, our Missio representative is Erica Rowland, who arranges for the little red boxes to be emptied quarterly. If you would like more information, or would like to collect via the little red box please contact her on 0771 4921000

TCC - Together Creating Communities

TCC started in 1995 with just 7 member groups; one of these was our parish. They are ever expanding and currently have nearly 40 member groups including 21 churches of different faiths, 7 schools, the Wrexham Muslim Association, CAFOD, Get Fair and Transition Holywell & District.

TCC (Trefnu Cymunedol Cymru (Wales Community Organising) or Together Creating Communities) is a powerful alliance of diverse groups in North East Wales, acting on the basis of shared values.

It is a broad-based organisation meaning it is made up of many different faith and secular groups. They work together to take action on issues affecting our local communities. A representative Strategy Group meets monthly and agrees democratically on the issues and actions to be undertaken.

They believe that democratic process requires informed and active citizenship and they offer training and support to enable everyone, especially the 'powerless', to tell their story.

TCC believes that:

Every individual has a right to justice and to be treated with respect & dignity.

Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in decisions affecting their lives. Everyone should contribute to the common good.

Everyone CAN make a difference, have a voice, and have power when they work together.

A broad-based community organisation is one where groups of people organise themselves for action in the public realm for the good their families and communities. This ensures local communities have the power to affect decisions made about them. TCC trains leaders, with regular 24 hour training.

Anyone interested in finding out more about TCC or getting involved with their work can contact them on 01978 262588, or via their website - www.tcc-wales.org.uk

The 100 Club

In April the 100 Club was taken on by Roger Chandler and a drive to get new members was started.

For just £15, members have their number entered into 10 monthly draws to win one of 3 cash prizes, with additional jackpots in June and December of up to £125.

A membership form was created and place it with your subscription in the box provided at the back of the church.

Anyone interested in joining can find membership forms at the back of Church, or can contact Roger on rogerchandler99@gmail.com.

It has been suggested that funds raised by the parish 100 Club should be better utilised by being given to a specific cause rather than assimilation into the parish general fund.

It is therefore proposed therefore that funds raised be used to aid the spiritual formation of individual (not a group) young people i.e. up to the age of 21yrs. If the proposal is accepted, steps will be taken to set up the governance of the funds.

Rotas

There are rotas organised for all Masses for readers and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

The contacts for these rotas are as follows:

Readers' rota

Saturday 6.00pm Mass (Llay) & Sunday
11.00am Mass (Llay) – Geraldine Downing
Sunday 9.00am Mass (Rossett) - Judith Done

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist rota

Saturday 6.00pm Mass (Llay) & Sunday
11.00am Mass (Llay) – Geraldine Downing
Sunday 9.00am Mass (Rossett) – Helen
Zammit-Willson

There is also a cleaning and flower rota and the contact for these rotas are as follows:

Llay	Geraldine Downing
Rossett	Lorraine Aves

The Sumy Group

Canon Lordan and 5 parishioners visited Sumy for 7 days in September 2012. We enjoyed the hospitality of Fr Voitek and Sumy parishioners. We visited sick and aged parishioners, a disabled children's centre, participated in their parish social/concert, visited an art museum and children's technical centre for after-school activities. Many old friendships were renewed. The visit included a day in their associated parish of Konotop, where we were warmly welcomed by Fr Zbigniew and parishioners. The final night was spent in Kiev, and the following morning we visited the newly opened Radio Maria, managed by Fr Alexei (who visited our parish a few years ago).

The annual Soup Supper with Carols event was held in Llay parish hall on 7th December. It was a sell-out, and a very enjoyable evening, attended by parishioners and friends of all ages. Over £1,200 was raised for the Sumy Soup Kitchen.

On 21st April, the usual Sale of Cakes and Coffee Morning event was held in the parish hall. Many parishioners supported this event, and practically all the delicious home produce was sold. Nearly £1,500 was raised for nursing care of Valentina, a bed bound Sumy parishioner, whom we were able to visit last September.

On 30th June the parish held a Duck Race at Nant Mill, Coedpoeth, which raised £1,059 for Sumy. The weather stayed fine for the duration and everyone, including the ducks, (we rescued an extra four lost from a previous race day) enjoyed the excitement!! All in all a very enjoyable and successful afternoon!!

Now we are preparing to celebrate the feast of St Francis of Assisi as usual with coffee and refreshments after Mass on 6th October, but this time including an exhibition of Sumy visit photos and a live link with Sumy via Skype.

It has been proposed that we invite parishioners from Konotop to be our guests again in 2014, and in preparation for this a budget estimate has been prepared for consideration.

The Property Group

Jobs completed October 2012 – September 2013

- Llay sound system amplifier/speakers/microphones improved
- DynoRod rectified boiler room drainage
- Hall kitchen redecorated
- Hall kitchen notice board installed
- New Christmas crib made for Llay
- Switch for hall extraction fans installed in hall kitchen
- Llay guttering replacement and roof repairs completed (snow damage)
- Loose door handle covers fixed (hall and office)
- Ladies WC soap dispenser relocated over washbasin
- Gents WC extraction fan and photoswitch replaced
- Hinged kneeler in choir loft repaired
- Drainage grid in front of hall cleaned out
- Gas meter cabinet installed (brick enclosure was demolished by grass cutters)
- Quadrilent stay fitted to hall kitchen window
- Rossett hedge trimmed
- Llay hedges trimmed, cuttings taken to recycle centre
- Power socket for Christmas crib installed in narthex
- Faulty electrical socket in boiler room replaced

The members of Property Group are:

Dave Bebbington
Kevin Campbell
John Fernee
John Hogan
Mick McManus
Bernard Rawbone
Mike Smiga

Report from the Parish Secretary

DUTIES Employed 10 hours per week and attends the office between 10.00am – 3.00pm Tuesday and Thursday. Role: to provide administrative support to the parish priest and parishioners.

Requests for masses and celebration of the sacraments are to be made direct to the parish priest.

OFFICE We have replaced and upgraded the computer facilities in the parish office. The parish accounts are now computerised.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE We held our first ecumenical advent carol service here in the parish last year. The event was a collaborative venture by our own parish; St Martin of Tours and the Llay Community of the Nazarene. It was very well attended in fact the church was full to capacity. It was a great start to Advent and was especially fruitful in our fellowship with other Christians within our community. Due to its success it has been decided to continue with this coming together in prayer and preparation for Christmas.

FOOD BANK Thanks to an appeal, we have 6 drivers who take turn to deliver the donated food to the food bank.

CLEANING The parish in Llay now has 7 ladies who have volunteered to clean the church each week. We are very grateful for their efforts and time to serve in this way. This is a beautiful way of serving the Lord – keeping His house clean.

Also in Llay, we have engaged the services of a window cleaner who sees to both the exterior and interior windows. Additionally he also cleans the Upvc frames and sills. Martin is fully insured and has carried out a risk assessment.

Despite two appeals we have not had any response from parishioners with regard to keeping the grounds reasonably tidy e.g. sweeping around the buildings, cleaning down the exterior doors and weeding outside the church hall entrance. The parish really would benefit if two or three would step forward to do this task. If you can give your time to this service please contact the parish office.

GARDENING The lawn cutting is contracted out but the presbytery garden is not. We are very grateful to Jim Concannon and his wife for their work on the garden during the summer. If anyone else can help to keep the shrubs in shape please contact the parish office.

FLOWER ARRANGERS The current team of five ladies would gladly welcome anyone who would like to join them. There is no cost to the arranger other than time, the cost of the flowers is borne by the parish. If you would like to try your hand or you are already pretty adept at flower arranging please contact the parish office. This is another beautiful way of serving the Lord.

REPOSITORY I hope that the repository meets the needs of the parishioners. It is a facility of service for religious articles rather than a fund raising activity although it does raise some. We have taken delivery of new display cabinets which means we can show more of the stock. It is of course better if someone is in attendance at each mass but without help I cannot meet that need. If you would like to share the staffing of the repository please get in touch with me at the parish office.

Money Matters for Year Ending 5 April 2013

Main Parish Account

Income		Expenditure	
Gift aided offertories	23477.07	Wages-administration	3693.50
Non gift aided offertories	15612.62	Wages-other	735.79
General donations for parish use	6557.52	Supply priests	600.00
Altar and flowers	203.60	Priests allowance	1579.74
Votive Offerings	585.31	Retreats and conferences	304.00
Repository/Piety Stall	1684.34	Stipends, stole fees & Christmas offerings etc.	2666.50
Catholic Newspapers/periodicals	1107.66	Travel expenses – priest	2938.15
Fundraising activities-Gross	1657.43	Travel expenses – other	4.00
Gift aid donations-unrestricted	29.75	Stationery and postage	807.95
Tax refund on gift aid donations	12330.71	Photocopying chares	149.09
Wedding, baptism and other liturgical fees	11.26	Printing	889.59
Funeral and cemetery fees	1552.50	Telephone & fax	900.71
Other	400.00	Other office expenses	123.95
Total Income	71545.44	Food and drink for personal use	373.19
		Food and drink for non-personal use	574.83
		General housekeeping costs	1282.75
Opening balance of parish account	66767.59	Council Tax	1068.80
		Heat and light-electricity	-2066.44
Total income this year 2012/2013	71545.44	Heat and light-gas	1437.24
		Water rates	854.46
Total expenditure this year 2012/2013	45554.69	Insurance	1518.73
		Grounds maintenance	1377.00
Surplus	25990.75	Minor repairs and maintenance	3127.73
		Fixtures, fittings & furnishings	103.16
Closing balance of parish account	92758.34	Altar, liturgy, flowers	1470.39
		Pastoral development	321.01
		Gross fund raising costs	381.08
		Diocesan Levies	3184.57
		Repository/piety stall	2312.07
		Catholic newspapers/periodicals	1248.41
		Bank Charges	451.95
		TCC	
		Bishop Edwin Retirement Gift	350.00
		Sumy	
		Total Expenditure	36542.90

COLLECTIONS (restricted funds inc above)

Apostleship of the Sea	244.30
Bishops Fund	429.88
*CAFOD Family Fast Day	716.40
*CAFOD Harvest Fast Day	599.10
CAFOD Syria	149.00
*Catholic Education Service	251.50
*Church Students Fund	349.00
Crib Offerings	128.65
Holy Places	453.40
Lenten Alms	556.40
Peters Pence	203.90
Poor Missions Fund	315.25
SPUC	381.25
*Poor Parishes	344.80
Home Mission	208.90
*CCN	135.84
Pax Christi	150.50
Wrexham Young Carers	234.30
Day for Life	167.30
Bishop Edwin Collection	316.00

OTHER PARISH ACCOUNTS

Reserve Account (formerly building fund account)

Opening balance	4758.78
Income	1580.86
Expenditure	0.00
Closing Balance	6339.64

Sumy Account

Opening balance	841.10
Income	3029.45
Expenditure	2799.61
Closing balance	1070.94

*denotes the collection is mandatory

Budget Estimate for possible Konotop Visitors' Programme - summer 2014

Assume Fr Zbigniew and 5 parishioners for 10 days

Note: Basis 2010 visit

Item	Cost £	
6 air tickets Kiev - Manchester @ £330	£1,980.00	
5 visas @ £85 (Fr Z does not need one)	£425.00	
Spending money - 6 @ £70	£420.00	
Manchester Airport car park (x 2)	£10.00	
Tour Guide (no receipt)	£40.00	
Chester Cathedral	£36.00	
Chester Boat trip for 9	£45.00	
10 pin Bowling	£90.00	
Car parking x 2	£5.00	
Ice creams	£12.00	
Refreshments at bowling	£9.00	
St.Winefrides Well entrance	£8.00	
Pub Lunch for the men	£55.00	
Entrance to Beeston Castle	£25.00	
Car Park	£5.00	
Coach for parish day out (£350?) paid by parish		£350.00
Entrance to Conwy Castle (for group)	£30.00	
Tram to Great Orme	£35.00	
Llandudno Boat ride	£6.00	
Swallow Falls 7 x £1	£7.00	
Donation to Liverpool Cathedral	£10.00	
Lunches	£45.00	
Tunnel tolls, car parking x 2 cars	£15.00	
Coffees	£7.00	
Museum entrance	£15.00	
Coach to Alton Towers (£350?) paid by parish	£350.00	
Alton Towers tickets (6 @ £23)	£138.00	
Photos for Sumy group	£30.00	
Visit to Chirk Castle - castle entrance	£65.00	
Teas, refreshments		
Manchester Airport carpark (2 cars x £4)	£8.00	
TOTAL:	£4,276.00	

The cost of 2 coaches, + other minor expenses was historically paid from parish funds.

The Bishop always contributed £1,000 per annum to our Sumy Fund.

The balance has to be raised by the Social and Fundraising Committee.