

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

Parish AGM Report

18 September 2016 - midday

AGENDA

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Approval of minutes from last AGM
4. Action points from last AGM
5. Consideration of the AGM Report
6. Issues from Parishioners
7. Issues from the parish priest
8. AOB
9. Closing Prayer

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; to book-keep the parish accounts and to compile and produce the Annual Parish Financial Statement; to co-ordinate the gift aid scheme within the parish and to maintain the relevant records to enable a claim to be made to HMRC.

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

EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE For the third year running I am sad to report that despite issuing a plea no parishioners are willing to volunteer to help keep the grounds in Llay reasonably tidy e.g. sweeping around the buildings, cleaning down the exterior doors and weeding outside the church hall entrance. This means that very often the exterior looks rather neglected and unloved.

PARISH SERVICE There are many ways in which we can each serve the parish. Not least of which there are many practical tasks that need doing on an ongoing basis and which are necessary to keep our buildings and parish life healthy. Please consider if you think you can offer some time to the well-being of the parish and if so please contact either the parish office or Canon. Please don't think that because you see someone else doing something that help in that area is not required – this is not the case. What things? Flower arranging, musicians, cleaning either inside or outside, hospitality; gardening; property maintenance; financial acumen, helping to serve on the repository, willing to bake cakes, make sandwiches etc, able to transport people to Mass or other parish events etc. These are just a few ideas to get you thinking.

PROPERTY REPORT

Christ the King

- Loose floor tile fixed

Grounds

- Hedge trimming at Rosset and Llay

Parish Hall, Llay

- Spotlights replaced
- A pole for banners etc has been installed over the stage
Gutter blockage removed
- Kitchen paintwork touched up

St Francis of Assisi

- Further lighting above the organ
- Entrance sign fixed to side door and the door closer adjusted
- Repair of floor bubbles in the church flooring by contractor
- Gas leak in boiler room repaired
- Ceiling plaster in toilet repaired and toilet painted

Money Matters for Year Ending 5 April 2016
Main Parish Account

Unrestricted Income	£	Restricted Funds (collections unavailable for general parish use)	£
Gift Aided offertories	24,236.57	Apostleship of the Sea	301.05
Plate/loose offertories	14,897.15	CAFOD Family Fast Day	775.63
Second Collections	1,102.95	CAFOD Harvest Fast Day	600.85
General donations for parish use	205.99	Catholic Media Fund	126.26
Votive Offerings	749.55	Crib Offerings	265.79
Repository/Piety Stall	1,029.75	Holy Places	452.97
Catholic Newspapers/periodicals	1,063.54	Home Mission Sunday	188.03
Fundraising activities-Gross	2,661.87	Lenten Alms	649.85
Hall	120.00	Peters Pence	340.28
Other Income	991.44	World Mission Sunday – MISSIO	502.43
Interest – Bank Acct and DIDS	76.15	Bishop’s Day for Life	205.04
Income from solar panels – hall	1,817.43	PACT	2.00
Income from solar panels – presbytery	2,071.62	PAX Christi	243.40
Tax refund on gift aid donations	8,639.37	Racial Justice Sunday	282.92
Gift Aid donations-unrestricted	300.00	SPUC	267.99
Easter and Christmas Offerings	4,535.18	Sumy	2,882.25
Reversal of 2014-2015 Adjustment	23.13	Nightingale House	1,550.00
Total Unrestricted Income	64,521.69	Total Restricted Funds	9,636.74

Unrestricted Expenditure		Account Balances as at 5 April 2016	
Employees	5,046.56	Parish Account (includes Sumy balance)	59,560.69
Clergy costs	6,496.59	Diocesan Internal Deposit Scheme	80,187.21
Travel & Hospitality	1,172.70	Petty Cash	200.00
Office expenses	2,703.02	Total	139,947.90
Domestic & establishment costs	8,716.16		
Property costs	6,343.27	SUMY	
Liturgical and Pastoral costs	3,851.91	Balance Brought Forward from 2015	4505.20
Diocesan Levy	11,111.00	Amount collected in year 2015-2016	2882.25
Bank Charges	548.55	Money paid over	4200.00
Other Costs	5363.20	Balance Carried Forward to 2016-2017	3187.45
Building Account closed & monies transferred to main bank account	- (6,417.42)		
Total Unrestricted Expenditure	44,935.54		

Notes

1. Income less expenditure is £19,586.15. However there are liabilities of £4750 as at 5 April 2016
2. Increase in funds from 6 April 2015 is £12,092

3. Closure of Accounts

The parish was advised at the last AGM that the Building Reserve Account and the Sumy Account would each be closed and the monies transferred to the parish account. This has now been completed. The Building Reserve balance of £6417.42 was transferred into the general funds. The Sumy funds are also in the parish account but are reserved for Sumy expenditure only. The balance is as above.

Extracts From 2015-2016 Parish Accounts

Funds		6 April 2015	5 April 2016
○ Current (No.1 Account)		33,506	59,561
○ Diocesan Internal Deposit Scheme (DIDs)		80,111	80,187
○ Business Reserve Account		9,611	
○ Sumy Account		4,395	
○ Petty Cash		233	200
○ TOTAL		127,856	139,948
○ NET ASSETS		127,856	139,948
○ INCREASE IN FUNDS			12,092

NOTES		UNRESTRICTED INCOME	
○ Sumy Account closed		○ Offertories	45,072
○ Building Account closed		○ Tax Refund	8,639
Fundraising		○ Fundraising	2,662
○ 100 Club	1,425	○ Solar Panel Income	3,889
○ Christmas Draw	648	○ Other Income	4,236
○ Mile of Pennies	589		64,499
Bank Interest		UNRESTRICTED EXPENDITURE	
○ DIDs	76	○ Lay employees	-5,047
○ Business Reserve	4	○ Clergy costs	-6,497
Solar Panel Income		○ Travel & Hospitality	-1,173
○ Hall	1,817	○ Office expenses	-2,703
○ Presbytery	2,072	○ Establishment costs	-8,716
Other Income		○ Property costs	-6,343
○ Bishops Fund	304	○ Liturgical & Pastoral costs	-3,852
○ Church Students	305	○ Diocesan levy	-11,111
○ Poor Parishes	17	○ Other costs	-5,912
○ Donations	206		-51,353
○ Votive Offerings	750	RESTRICTED INCOME	
○ Repository	1,030	○ N & D Collections	4,672
○ Newspapers	1,064	○ Restricted Parish Collections	796
○ Books	218	○ Sumy	2,882
○ Hall	120	○ Nightingale House	1,550
		○ Other	8
			9,909
Sumy income in year	1,149	RESTRICTED EXPENDITURE	
○ Soup Supper	328	○ N & D Collections	-4,408
○ Book Sales	1,405	○ Restricted Parish collections	-796
○ Cake Stall	-4,200	○ Sumy	-4,200
Sumy Expenditure in year		○ Nightingale House	-1,550
Sumy Carry Forward	3,187	○ Other	-8
to 2016-2017			-10,962
Liabilities	-4,750	NET TOTAL INCOME	
			12,092

Notes from meeting with Bishop Peter held 18 August 2016
In respect of proposed changes in Llay and Rossett Parish

Attendees: Bishop Peter, Alan McDonald, Ashley Rogers, Carol Williams, Helen Zammit-Willson

Bishop Peter said that the proposed to Llay and Rossett parish (the building of a new church in Rossett and closing the church in Llay) had not been based on any in-depth analysis – but this is why a professional appraisal of the options would be carried out prior to any definite decision being made.

His decision making process on all the changes announced had been based on the fact that having three Masses in a parish tied a priest to serving that parish, if there was two Masses the priest could cover one other Mass, and if there was only one Mass, then a priest could cover three parishes.

In Llay and Rossett parish, the numbers of attendees at Mass were too many for either church building, and as Llay was nearer geographically to the Cathedral than Rossett, Rossett had been chosen as the location for a new church to create a better geographical spread.

Additionally, the building at Rossett had a greater scope for demolition and rebuild due to its structure than the more substantial building at Llay.

The other issues that would need to be taken into account in any appraisal was the distribution of parishioners, any transport issues for parishioners, the ability to attain planning permission, car parking (dependent on the local authority policy in respect of “green” issues), etc.

Any appraisal would be done professionally, this would enable the decision to be made on factual issues rather than sentiment, and it would also ensure a wider range of information would be available. The appraisal would also look at the wider picture across the deanery, as any decision regarding location of a church and Mass times would have a knock on effect for other parishes in respect of which church/Mass time would be attended by individuals.

Another significant factor was the building of HMP Berwyn (due to open 2017). This establishment would not have a priest chaplain appointed, but would have a lay chaplain. However, the Ministry of Justice would probably request that the Bishop facilitate 2 Masses per week (separate Masses for segregated and unsegregated inmates). The population of the prison was to be 2106, of which between 350 and 450 are likely to be Catholic. There also tends to be a higher percentage of Catholics who attend Mass in a prison, and 25-30 baptisms per year, with a similar number of confirmations.

In respect of whether a new church would also have a presbytery, the Bishop stated it was more likely that a house would be bought in the locality as this was more flexible than purpose built priest accommodation on site. This also followed the modern view that a priest’s house was his home rather than an extension of the parish property. However, the church would be designed so as to allow room for a parish office and other rooms, and also so that the size of the church could be adjusted. This could then mean a smaller space could be used for weekday Masses, and space could be created for community use.

Whilst financial neutrality could not be guaranteed, this was another factor that the appraisal could inform, and this would look at the anticipated funds that could be released by the sale of the surplus site (wherever that is).

Consideration of extending the Llay church is not ruled out, but it depends on the recommendations made by the appraisal once that is carried out. The consideration of a totally different alternative site was also not ruled out, although gaining planning permission for a rebuild would probably be easier than a new build – but again this is what the appraisal would inform.

The Bishop anticipates that work on the appraisal would commence almost immediately, but this would

likely be a five year project from the start of an appraisal to the completion of a new church. He appreciate that parishioners have a sentimental attachment to both Llay and Rossett churches, but changes are necessary to deal with the issues. He would encourage parishioners to focus on the positive aspects of the changes in that the building of a new church is a big statement of faith, and the parish would benefit from facilities that were newer and bigger.

Information from census information was discussed, which showed that the population of Rossett and Llay was declining. This contrasted to the forecast for more homes, but this was because households tended to be smaller. There was also conflicting information on the effects on the population when HMP Berwyn was complete e.g. would prison officers' move to the area, or would they prefer to live further away and commute? Would there be a more transient population where inmates' families move to the area for the duration of the inmates' sentence?

The Bishop wanted to involve parishioners in the decision making process as much as possible to ensure that all factors were considered prior to the decision being made – but the decision itself would be for the Bishop to make. They could be involved in drawing up the issues that the appraisal would consider and they could meet with the company undertaking the appraisal to discuss their views.

The Bishop asked for parishioners to view the changes as positive, to be involved and to make a commitment to continue to attend Mass within their community.