

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

Parish AGM Report

18 September 2011 – 12 midday

Dear fellow parishioners

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

Canon Lordan would like the PAC to be a forum where every parishioner is welcome to come and use the talents they have for the benefit of the parish. All PAC meetings are open to everyone.

Currently, there are about 8-10 regular attendees at the PAC/Parish Meetings, which is disappointing considering the size of our parish. I would urge all of you to consider how you could contribute more to parish life.

Please remember that you can raise any queries or concerns about the parish at these meetings. We meet about three times a year and I would reiterate that our meetings are open for all parishioners to attend, and minutes of the meetings are displayed at the back of church shortly after the meeting.

Anyone who would like more information can ask Canon Lordan or myself.

I'd like to thank you all for your support of the parish and the events that are organised by the various groups.

So without further ado – here is the annual report to the parish.....

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.

The Guild Promise

I offer myself to God almighty, to Blessed Mary, our mother,
and to our holy patron, Saint Stephen.

And I promise to do my best,
to serve regularly with reverence and understanding,
for the glory of God, the service of his
Church, and my own eternal salvation.

At the Mass of St Stephen, patron saint of altar servers, held in the Cathedral on 31 December 2010, one of our altar servers were enrolled as a member of the Guild of St Stephen.

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

Safe Guarding in our Parish

From 1st July 2008 the Catholic Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults was succeeded by the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service, and references to “Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection” were replaced by the term “Safeguarding”.

**The Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator is
Keith McDonogh:**

Phone: 01978 262726 Mobile: 07833 572161

Email: wrexham@copca.org.uk

In each parish of the Diocese at least one person is identified as the Local Safeguarding Representative.

**For our parish the representative is Sharon Crump:
Phone: 01978 855863 Email: sharon.crump@btinternet.com**

Her name and contact details are displayed at the back of both churches. She meets the Co-ordinator and Diocese Link Officer during the year to review safeguarding arrangements, share best practice and to keep updated on safeguarding developments.

“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.”

Recommendation 4 – A Programme for Action (The Nolan Report)

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 your parish representative , or
Contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator**

Definition of Vulnerable Adult-

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.’

Children’s Liturgy

Children who attend nursery classes/school, and who are happy to leave their parents for a short time, are welcome to join the primary school age children in the Parish Hall for The Liturgy of the Word – prayers, a simple penitential rite, readings of the day, and their response (a piece of work relating to the readings), which is offered as their gifts when they return to church for the offertory possession.

The 100 Club

Membership of the 100 club is open to anyone and costs £15 per year (the equivalent of £1.25 per month), the year beginning on 1st April.

At the end of every month all current members are automatically entered into a free draw with a 1st prize of £20.

The draws that take place at the end of June, September, December and March are jackpot draws with additional £50 jackpot prizes.

The balance of club funds left after payment of the prize draw money is donated to the parish.

This would mean that with 100 members we could raise £1060 for parish funds. However there are rather less than 100 members.

As the prize money is fixed, every extra member in the club means an extra £15 for parish funds.

The 100 club needs more members, please contact Ian Barlow for full membership details and 100 club rules on 01978 722494, or by e-mail at vibarlow@supanet.com

Prayer Groups in the Parish

The PREGO meetings will restart late September or early October. These will meet fortnightly on Monday evenings starting at 8 pm. These are open to anyone from our parish and also from other Churches.

Some of the members of the PREGO group above have asked the St. Beuno's Team to do the 9 month course based on 'The Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius'. This involves them meeting fortnightly on Mondays. These will meet on alternate Mondays to the PREGO groups. Thus there will always be a prayer group meeting every Monday. As the name suggests there are sets of exercises in order to get (and keep) you spiritually fit.

This is very much a life changing experience and involves quite a commitment from participants. Just as in studying a subject, such as maths, one exercise builds on those having gone before and for this reason it is not like a PREGO group where you can come when you like. It is part of the commitment to attend all meetings if at all possible. There are 10 people wishing to do this so far.

The Property Group

Jobs completed mid 2010 – mid 2011

- repaired faulty/missing pointing for Llay church and presbytery
- hall fascias, and hi-level windows and sills painted
- conifers beside hall trimmed and shortened (Crown Inn supplied skip)
- Rossett church redecorated internally and externally
- Llay hall vandalised roof slates replaced
- Llay hall side exit and fire escape doors replaced
- presbytery kitchen door replaced
- greenhouse broken glass replaced
- fixed 4 sticking radiator valves in hall
- faulty presbytery doorbell replaced
- Rossett church building concrete corner sections repaired
- Llay hedges trimmed (road, side and presbytery garden)
- Llay garden trees managed (minor and major surgery)
- Llay presbytery fence posts replaced

The Sumy Group

- In early December, on the first Friday of Advent we held the annual 'Soup Supper with Carols by Candlelight'. The hall was full of parishioners and children, who all enjoyed 5 delicious homemade soups, followed by carols. Alison Williams organised a draw, and in total we raised over £1,000 for the Sumy Soup Kitchen.
- In February several ladies organised the annual Sale of Cakes, and raised over £1,000 for support for Valentina, a Sumy parishioner who has been confined to bed for about 30 years. She relies on our help for the cost of nurses and medication etc.
- Additional funds were raised for Sumy by Lorraine Pizzey at a Car Boot sale in the summer.
- The PAC decided that we should organise a visit to Sumy next year if enough parishioners are interested.

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.

TCC - Together Creating Communities

Charity No: 1086434

The parish has been in membership of TCC since 1995.

TCC is made up of thirty two groups across North East Wales, largely faith based, from a range of denominations, the Wrexham Mosque, schools, including St Joseph's and St Richard Gwyn, a disability group and Flintshire Friends of the Earth. TCC works on issues that are of concern to its member groups. Working this way strengthens community and the democratic process. TCC also offers training courses in Community Organising, which is what Barack Obama is famous for before he became a lawyer and then ran for president.

This last year TCC has been involved in many campaigns, including:

- Participatory Budgeting - initiated in Wales by TCC, PB has now become mainstream in many public organisations in North Wales and beyond including Gwent Police, Denbighshire County Council Leisure Services and a number of Housing Associations and Community Councils.
 - Health Services Review - in response to TCC's intervention involving 2 Welsh Assembly AMs, The Betsicadwaladr University Health Board Trust has withdrawn proposals for cuts in maternity and children's services at North Wales' hospitals and gone back to the drawing board.
 - Accountability Meetings - we held accountability meetings in 4 constituencies prior to the Welsh Assembly elections. Relationships were established with all the successful candidates. The meeting in Delyn constituency was hosted and chaired by the Sixth Form pupils of St. Richard Gwyn High School, Flint.
 - Parkinson's UK Specialist Nurse - after 5 years of campaigning, a specialist Parkinson's nurse has been appointed to the Wrexham Maelor Hospital meaning that local patients no longer need to travel 50 miles for specialist support.
 - Living Wage - Following TCC's work with UNISON locally to compile a report about wages in Wrexham, revealing how many were not receiving a living wage, a group of over 600 women employed by the local council have now been lifted to above £7 per hour.
- 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 Social and Fund Raising Group

The committee has worked with other groups throughout the year to raise funds for our parish and for our friends in Sumy.

Events with which we have been involved in the past year include:

- The Easter hamper raffle and coffee morning
- Youth Mass coffee morning
- First Holy Communion party
- Car boot sale
- Floral Art workshop
- August Coffee morning
- Parish Picnic

Planned events are :-

- St. Francis Celebration
- Alyn Singers concert
- Christmas Concert
- Christmas Raffle
- January Family Bingo

The committee meets early in January to draft a plan for the year. A meeting is then held a few weeks before most events to organise details. Membership of the committee is flexible, in that anyone is welcome to attend in an ongoing capacity, or on an ad hoc basis, to help with a specific event. Some people prefer not to be involved with the meetings but let us know that they are happy to muck in and help out at the events.

Please contact chair of the committee Lorraine Pizzey on 01978 720078 if you have any ideas/enthusiasm/contacts and would like to become involved in any aspect of social and fundraising activities in the parish. All our meetings are very **INFORMAL.**

Sacramental Preparation

Within the last twelve months (between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010) within our parish there has been:

11 baptisms
0 marriage
3 funerals

In addition 6 children received First Holy Communion on 3 July 2011 and 7 young people were Confirmed by the Bishop on 12 December 2010.

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 started on 17 September. 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 Vicky Barlow on 01978 722494 or by email at: vibarlow@supanet.com

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

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)	Oonagh Thompson
Sunday 9.00am Mass (Rossett)	Judith Done
Sunday 11.00am Mass (Llay)	Margaret Robbins

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist rota

Saturday 6.00pm Mass (Llay)	Oonagh Thompson
Sunday 9.00am Mass (Rossett)	Helen Zammit-Willson
Sunday 11.00am Mass (Llay)	Margaret Robbins

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

Llay	Margaret Robbins
Rossett	Lorraine Aves

Thank you

Without all the people who help in the running of the parish, it would be a very different place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who “does their bit” for the parish. These are the unsung heroes of our parish.

If you would like to do more – have a look at the groups that are available – or just have a word with the Parish Secretary (Margaret Robbins) – who can point you in the right direction.

Whether it is practical help you could offer (e.g. cleaning the church, providing transport for the Wednesday Club, etc.), or something more spiritual (e.g. being a member of the Legion of Mary) – you will be very welcome!!!

Money Matters for Year Ending 5 April 2010

Main Parish Account

Income

Gift Aided offertories	£24,648.68
Non Gift Aided offertories	£14,850.23
General donations for parish use	£90.00
Votive offerings	£712.60
Repository/piety store	£1,506.76
Catholic newspapers/periodicals	£1,189.30
Fundraising activities - gross	£1,267.59
Summy Payments	£2,000.00
Interest on investments	£1.24
Tax refund on gift aid donations	£7,186.91
Wedding, baptism and other liturgical fees	£25.00
Funeral and cemetery fees	£0.00
Easter & Christmas Offerings banked	£0.00
Mass stipends - Masses offered	£15.03
Foundation Masses offered	£0.00
	£53,493.34

Opening balance of parish account

Total income this year	£53,493.34
Total expenditure this year	£45,003.39
Surplus	£8,489.95

Closing balance of parish account

£70,077.53

Expenditure

Wages - administration	£3,424.96
Wages - other	£728.04
Supply priests	£900.00
Priest's allowance	£1,500.00
Priest's National Insurance	-£255.22
Retreats and conferences	£522.00
Stipends, stole fees & Christmas Offerings, etc	£1,761.00
Travel expenses - priest	£152.75
Stationery and postage	£528.78
Photocopying charges	£203.23
Telephone and fax	£495.99
Legal fees	£196.18
Equipment lease & purchase	£1,556.31
Food and drink for personal use	£1,458.09
General housekeeping costs	£391.05
Council Tax	£1,009.67
Heat and light - electricity	£3,185.42
Heat and light - gas	£1,056.49
Water rates	£716.04
Insurance	£1,513.30
Grounds Maintenance	£1,555.30
Minor repairs and maintenance	£815.01
Major repairs - church	£2,931.41
Major repairs - Presbytery	£2,648.92
Major repairs - hall	£325.00
Fixtures, fittings and furnishings	£230.94
Altar, liturgy and flowers	£15.60
Pastoral development	£4,474.84
Votive candles	£629.80
Fund raising costs	£161.12
Diocesan levies	£5,696.69
Piety stall	£2,706.77
Catholic newspapers/periodicals	£846.56
Bank charges	£406.35
Cytun	£15.00
TCC	£500.00

£45,003.39

Collections

Apostleship of the Sea	£ 270.76
Bishop's Fund	£ 303.50
CAFOD Family Fast Day	£ 568.62
CAFOD Harvest Fast Day	£ 564.30
Catholic Education Service	£ 209.30
Church Student's Fund	£ 263.00
Crib Offerings (HCPT)	£ 145.45
Peter's Pence	£ 207.60
World Mission Sunday – APF	£ 197.99
Pax Christi	£ 179.75
Day for Life	£ 135.45
Columban Mission	£ 555.75
Papal Visit	£ 361.70
Church Missions	£ 605.00

Other Parish Accounts

Building Account

Opening Balance	£ 14,588.25
Income	£ 1,185.50
Outgoings	£ NIL
Closing Balance	£ 16,473.75

NB. Capital expenditure has been met from main parish account, and no money was drawn from the building account.

Sumy Account

Opening Balance	£ 2,453.92
Income	£ 5,260.075
Outgoings	£ 7,983.22
Closing Balance	- £ 269.23