

St George and the English Martyrs



Parish Pastoral Council Annual General Meeting - 17th November 2014

Council Report

Membership of PPC

Father Graham Smith	- Parish Priest
Frank McEvoy	- Elected (Chair)
Chris McPhillips	- Elected (Vice-Chair)
Graham Alcock	- Parish Treasurer
Charlotte Alexander	- Elected
Bernard Chalk	- Elected
Adrienne Davison	- PP nominee
Suzanne Halvey	- Elected
Jill Bryan*	- PP nominee
Kelvin Ncube	- PP nominee
Paul Schofield	- Chair of Finance Committee
Annabelle Smith	- HT St George's School
Chris Wallen	- Elected
Val McEvoy	- Secretary

Changes to the membership of the Council since the last AGM are indicated with an asterisk. We welcome Jill Bryan who replaces Chris Hodges as a Parish Priest nominee. Our thanks to Chris for her support and commitment during her time as a PPC member.

There have been 5 PPC meetings since November 2014.

A variety of topics and events have taken place since the AGM last year. A brief summary is listed below:

Parish Coach Trip to Ingatestone Hall – May 2014

This was a well-attended and enjoyable trip to the 'birth place' of our parish. We were met by Lord Petre and given a memorable tour. The first priest to travel to Shoeburyness and say mass for the military personnel staying here was sent from Ingatestone Hall c1832. The trip also included a visit to the Catholic parish church of Ingatestone and a talk by the parish priest Fr David Manson.

Parish Mission – July 2014

A considerable amount of time was spent in preparation for the parish mission. Sharon Chambers was appointed as the coordinator and a group of parishioners took on the responsibility of organising the various aspects of the mission visit. These included; catering, home visits, transport, advertising, prayer, hospitality, ecumenism and social events. Many thanks to all who organised and recruited teams to make all of this possible.

The mission was well received by our parishioners, the various events, services and masses well attended. Catering and hospitality was appreciated by all.

The mission team called at nearly all of the houses registered with the parish. Though not everyone was in, a note was left giving details of the mission events and services.

Bishop Alan's Visit – July 2014

A memorable mass was celebrated to mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of St Georges Church. Afterwards a social in the church hall afterwards was attended by our new Bishop who seemingly managed to talk to nearly everyone there!

Following last year's AGM the following topics were included in discussions at PPC meetings:

- To review the front entrance lighting of St George's Church.
The new external light has been adjusted following concerns that the glare may be distracting whilst using the steps.
- The purchase of a new permanent noticeboard to be erected by the main entrance of St Georges was delayed following the decision to amend the mass times. Now the timings have been approved its completion is expected before Christmas.
- Fr Graham is to consider additional ways of promoting adoration in the parish
- Following an offer of the possible formation of an SVP group in the parish, Fr Graham is hoping they will take the lead in setting up a befriending group.
- The sound system is now installed and tested. It includes a new 'loop' system and new radio microphones. Feedback from parishioners has been very positive.
- Lighting, especially in the Blessed Sacrament chapel, is to be reviewed with a view to some of it being upgraded/replaced.
- The maintenance and repairs of our church buildings (and the considerable cost) continues to be discussed – also see finance report.

Births, Marriages, Deaths and Mass Attendance (during the past year).

Attendance	465 (weekly average)
Baptisms	21
Marriages	0
Deaths	20

Also:

Confirmations	8
RCIA	6

Thank you

May I take this opportunity to thank sincerely our Parish Priest Fr Graham for his guidance and support and secondly your representatives on the Parish Council for their ideas and hard work over the last year.

Finally may I also thank the large band of dedicated parishioners who organise and run many activities and events and those who support the running of the parish and maintenance of the parish building and grounds through their voluntary work. Our continuing development lies in us all continuing to give generously of our time and talents to help build our community.

Please note that all of the minutes of the meetings and finance reports are available for download on the parish website and paper copies are displayed for a short period of time at the back of both the churches (following approval at the PPC meeting).

Frank McEvoy
Chairman