

St George and the English Martyrs



Parish Pastoral Council Annual General Meeting on 18th November 2013

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Welcome and Report by Chair of Parish Council
Including items raised by parishioners: Co-ordination of fund-raising events and Lourdes Youth fund-raising.
4. Report by Father Graham
Including items raised by parishioners: Family Consultation Document and Adoration
5. Financial Report
6. Open Forum

Parish Council Report

Membership of PPC

Father Graham Smith	- Parish Priest
Frank McEvoy	- Chair
Chris McPhillips*	- Vice-Chair
Graham Alcock	- Parish Treasurer
Charlotte Alexander	- Elected
Bernard Chalk*	- Elected
Adrienne Davison	- PP nominee
Suzanne Halvey	- Elected
Christine Hodges	- 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. There have been 5 PPC meetings since March 2013.

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

- To review the appearance of the outside of St George's Church. A new external light has been installed and has improved the appearance of the front of the church. Quotes have been obtained for a permanent noticeboard to be erected by the main entrance – completion expected before Christmas.
- To confirm that donations could be sought for weddings and funerals. Fr Graham confirmed although charges are not to be levied, donations will be encouraged to help defray the running costs of the church.
- The efficiency of the sound/loop system at St George's is to be checked. On-going intermittent problems have been addressed during the year, but have resurfaced and a professional survey has been commissioned.
- It was confirmed that Coffee Mornings at St George's continue to be a mixture of Charity and parish groups, with some of the parish funds helping to contribute to the cost of heating, lighting, etc.

The 75th Anniversary of St George's in 2014

Since this was mentioned at the last AGM, considerable planning and thought has taken place at all our meetings, into how best to celebrate this milestone for our community.

It was decided that:

- A talk by Fr Paul Keen on the English Martyrs will be held on 4th May 2014.
- The Bishop to preside over a Mass on 9th July.
- A parish mission be held from 12th – 27th July 2014 – led by the Sion Community.

Other events (dates TBC):

- Mission 'launch' around the Feast of St George
- Possible trip to Ingatestone Hall (where our first parish priest George Last was sent from)
- It is also proposed to produce a 2014 Calendar featuring photos of the Churches over the years.
- Fr Graham has provided a sketch for a 'coat of arms' for the parish. This idea will be developed and a final draft displayed.

Based on these and other suggestions the following items were also discussed by the Council:

- The creation of a Memorial Book for the parish. This would have a double page for each day of the year and parishioners would be invited to submit names of deceased family members for inclusion in the book. This is now in place and located at St George's - names will be added gradually over the coming years.
- Sound system in St Georges - testing and improvements. Awaiting a detailed report from a sound company.
- Redecoration of St Gregory's. This is now complete.
- Coffee Morning rota 2014. Due to heavy demand this is prepared for the coming year in advance, with requests for inclusion coordinated by Sharon in the office.
- New Parish Website. An updated and comprehensive website is nearing completion and will hopefully be launched in the coming weeks.
- Fundraising and Social Events Diary. Fr Graham has asked us to place as many events in next year's diary as possible. In the past there have been several clashes and to avoid this, all parishioners planning to book an event are asked to check with Sharon/Office in the first instance.
- Family Masses. These continue to be very well attended. Our thanks to Sarah, Emma, Dave and many others for making these possible.
- Youth Masses. Fr Graham has started incorporating a youth-centred Mass on a regular basis on a Saturday evening, followed by a social event in the hall.
- St Edmunds - 'Poppets' lease renewed. The playgroup continues to hire the facilities in Great Wakering.
- St Georges School Newsletter. The Head teacher has kindly provided printed copies of the school newsletter which are available in the porches of both St Gregory's and St George's.
- Parish Archivist - Tony Shead. Tony has been very busy collating photos and artefacts as well as researching the history of the Catholic Church in this area. Anyone who has any materials of interest is asked to contact him.
- Fr Graham has asked that a flag pole be erected on St George's tower. Enquiries have confirmed that no planning permission is required. It is hoped that a quote will be obtained shortly.
- It was noted that a 'food bank' has been set up at the Shoebury Baptist Church, where items that are distributed to the needy are collected - an item has been included in our newsletter advertising this venture. It was also noted that as a parish we continue to collect items for the Homeless Centre.
- The area to the rear of St George's Church has been cleared and various items of rubbish removed. Although the site is much safer it is still unsuitable for general use as the ground is uneven and should only be used as an 'emergency exit'. The area to the side of the hall/garage is also scheduled to be cleared.
- A review of 'first aid' facilities was carried out by Chris McPhillips and various items renewed/purchased, including new 'incident' books.

The Our Lady of Walsingham Chapel

The commissioning of the two stained glass windows is complete as is the final repair and redecoration of the chapel. Shorter benches have been positioned adjacent to the chapel area to facilitate movement.

Diocesan Pastoral Council

Adrienne reported that she had attended the recent DPC meeting with Helena Cochrane. Parishes were asked to list what they hope to achieve over the next 5 years, with their priorities and this will be shared with the new Bishop.

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

Attendance **450**(average weekly)

Baptisms **13**

Marriages

Deaths **18**

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.

Frank McEvoy
Chairman