

**ST GEORGE'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
19th November 2017 at 6.00pm.**

Apologies: received from Sharon Chambers and Annabelle Delgado

The meeting was attended by 22 parishioners and 14 members of the Parish Council.

Father Brett opened the meeting with a prayer.

Welcome by Chair of Pastoral Council and Report

Frank McEvoy welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined membership of the PPC. He extended thanks to Charlotte Alexander who has now stepped down from the PPC due to other personal commitments. Father Brett has appointed Brian Fitzgerald and co-opted Sharon Chambers as Parish Administrator to the Council.

Frank briefly outlined areas of his annual report which had been circulated and are attached to these minutes. He thanked Fr Brett for his guidance and support, the representatives on the Parish Council, both past and present, for their ideas and hard work over the last year and also the dedicated parishioners who organise and run many activities and events and those who support the running of the parish and maintenance of the parish buildings and grounds through their voluntary work.

Frank reported: Mass attendance – 381 average weekly from October figures.

Baptisms – 13. Marriages - 3. Deaths - 12 (plus 8 out of parish conducted by Fr Brett). Confirmations – 14. RCIA -3. First Holy Communion – 31.

Report by Parish Treasurer.

Graham briefly explained his Finance report and balance sheet which had been circulated to the meeting which are attached to these minutes. He also mentioned that an “easy to read” version would be provided to all parishioners with the newsletter over the weekend of 25/26 November. Points raised:

- Gift aid envelopes to be made more visible in the porches for visitors and this will be publicised in the newsletter.
- Valuation of St. Edmunds prior to selling was considerably higher than anticipated.

Tony Castle extended a vote of thanks to Graham for his expertise in providing such clear and precise reports for the parish. This was seconded by Tony Barrett. Frank also expressed thanks to Graham knowing that the parish finances are in safe hands.

Report by Steward of the Gospel

Paul Gwilliam briefly outlined his report which had been circulated to the meeting.

- Paul explained that the Bishop has prepared a video presentation which will be shown to all parishes after Masses over the weekend of 2nd/3rd December.
- Caroline Braybrook said she felt it would be a good idea if Pastoral letters from the Bishop could be presented in the same way.
- Frank said that he has attended a couple of the Diocese meetings on behalf of Paul from which the main theme from all parishes has been sustainability.
- Helena Cochrane said that she had recently attended a Diocesan Catechists meeting and a course is being launched on line by the Bishop in January for the first pilot scheme with certificates being awarded for successful completion.

Report by Father Brett

Fr Brett thanked everyone for helping to give him more meaning and purpose to his ministry. He said he is anxious about possible restructuring in the Diocese as "Working Together to Evangelise the Diocese" flagged up many concerns.

- Important to continue to build our community to get more people involved, so we should try to target and encourage others to help share responsibility. He would like to see the parish self-sustainable in operations and administration when looking to the future.
- Projector system – sound is a bit diffused when playing DVD's at the moment so the purchase of new speakers will be considered for inclusion in the budget for next year.
- Many comments received from visitors on how friendly our parish is. A testament to the life of this community.
- Suzanne and Brian, as part of Team 669, are stepping back from organising the summer fayre and Shawn will call a meeting in the new year to consider the future organisation of this event.

Father Brett extended his thanks to all the team but especially to Graham and Frank, and all parishioners for supporting him and the life of the Parish.

He also extended thanks to Sharon for the fantastic job she does as parish Administrator and all her support in relieving him of much pressure.

Open Forum

- Dave Townsend said he a projector/screen could be set up at St. Gregory's for showing the Bishop's message but Fr. Brett said this will need to be considered by him.
- Caroline Braybrook said she loved being part of the parish life and extended a particular thanks to Margaret and John Munson for the wonderful work they do in maintaining the church gardens at St. George's. Margaret said they have a team of 6, including those who keep the grass maintained and thanks were extended to all. She also said thank you to Katy McGurk for the Parish Facebook page and to Frank for the excellent Georgian magazine.
- Simon Smalley said that the number of people attending Eucharistic Services was particularly low at the moment. Jacque Paterson said that this also applies to Adoration/Benediction. It was agreed that an article would be included in the newsletter to encourage parishioners to support these services.
- On behalf of Fr Brett and the parish, Tony Barrett said he would like to record thanks to the parishioners who very kindly let Fr Brett have the use of the family property in Thorpe Bay during the time that the Presbytery was being refurbished.

Frank extended thanks to everyone for attending. The meeting closed following a prayer and blessing by Fr Brett.