

Agenda

- Opening Prayer by Fr Leo
- Financial report by Deacon James Hurst
- Property report by Julianne Whipp
 - Transparency
 - Brief explanation
- SVP report by Maura Barrett
- The Mass
 - Times
 - Sung Liturgy
 - Fr Leo's Sermons
- Press Officer
- Parish Magazine
- Parish report
- Archivist

Parish Forum OLISE

Sunday 28th November

2021 at 11:30



Financial Report

In spite of lockdown, Parish funds are healthy because of Parishioner generosity, many more paying by direct debit and a number of donations. A full report will be produced after the end of the financial year. (Probably in March)

Property Report

- On behalf of the Property and Finance committee, Julianne thanked all of those who continued, sometimes virtually, during lockdown and have now returned to support the Parish.
- Nikki Ellis -Our Treasurer who-voluntarily- keeps our accounts in excellent order.
- Deacon James for working with Nikki and reporting to the Committee.
- The Finance and Property Committee, who meet every month to scrutinise the figures and check reconciliation.
- Counters who count and bank cash each week.
- Kasia, who is responsible for the counters to the committee, raises and pays invoices, controls petty cash, makes parish centre bookings and keeps the diary so that she knows who is on the premises at all times, for insurance purposes.
- Members of the Property and Finance Committee who monitor and take care of the Parish properties.
- Jo, who keeps the church and Parish centre beautiful for us.
- John, who is here every day and voluntarily takes care of many of the essential jobs eg, Bins, clearing rubbish and managing the car park.
- Alice and her flower arrangers.
- Teams who have returned to make tea and coffee after Mass on Sunday.

- Colin the gardener, here and at Kirtling
- Larry, who looks after the courtyard and premises with John.
- Lots of the individual jobs that the committee take on- monitoring use of utilities, minor repairs- How many are aware that David B. has renewed the filters in the heating system at the start of winter and washed and removed those ready for next season-keeping us all safer with the air we breathe.
- David H helped Fr Christopher to move and lots of jobs that needed to be done at the Presbytery.
- Lots of people who helped during lockdown.
- Julienne apologised if she had failed to mention anyone or anything but said that they were all very much appreciated for the work they do for the love of their Parish.
- Thank you to all users for cleaning and tidying up after themselves, not leaving food in the refrigerators or biscuits that may never be consumed. There is no evidence of rodents but we do have ants.
- There are so many other aspects that have to be taken care of and then there are many who help with the Liturgy and Mass, Teaching First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes and it is wonderful to see Sue, our senior Sacristan back.
- We have just had a health and Safety and Fire Safety review and await the report.

Apart from the ongoing care that continues, the biggest projects during lockdown were:

- 1) The window that blew out in the strong winds at Kirtling -an insurance job - the specialist glazier has warned us to keep an eye on the others, as they are not in a good state. We obtained a part funding grant from Cambridge Historic Churches 7 years ago to protect them with metal grills outside but they are deteriorating inside.
- 2) The mains electric cable was found to cross diagonally the graveyard at Kirtling- meaning the loss of many potential graves. It was moved last year to overcome this and the diagram of where it is now is in the sacristy at Kirtling.
- 3) The drains here were cleared by the Jockey Club- most of the silt that causes the problem is from them. The water is still forced from the road into our drains.
- 4) The front door will have a new spring in the next 2 weeks. Lots of minor areas to be taken care of as always.

SVP (by Maura Barrett)

- St Vincent de Paul society was in abeyance in Newmarket but with the help of the Holy Spirit became active in 2018. Since then, SVP have been able to visit vulnerable people in their homes and offer friendship and support they require.
- Over the recent years plans were made to offer hot lunches to families who, if they were in school would receive free school meals. With the hit of Covid this then

became the food parcel project, which saw over a period of 33 weeks the delivery of 2,900 food parcels offering 29,000 meals.

- With the beginning of the 'new normal' SVP began to once again visit the vulnerable in their homes, hospitals and nursing homes. As well as to start a pop-up foodbank held at OLISE every Thursday.
- Since then, SVP is delighted to report that the Hot lunches for families are now up and running during the holidays and during the Christmas period will be delivering Christmas hampers to people in need.

The Mass

- Currently we have Mass on Sundays at 10:30am this means that once Fr Leo has finished Mass at Kirtling he has to rush back to Newmarket to prepare for Mass, leaving him with no time to see parishioners there. It was suggested and approved by a majority vote that in January of 2022 Sunday mass at Newmarket will not be at 11am instead of 10:30am.
- With regard to sermons Fr Leo has recently purchased new microphones which have improved the sound quality of the Mass. As well as this, since lockdown, we have also begun to live stream masses which have helped those who are unable to attend mass. These live streamed videos seem to be a good method of reaching the sick and housebound. The only issues found have been that quite often it is hard to hear the music group.
- To improve the sound system for the music group we have decided to look into purchasing new microphones and a control panel which will allow us to monitor the sounds and mics so that the organ doesn't drown out the sound of the other instruments and singing etc.
- To test out the sound systems for the music group we will be consulting Simon, Mario, Alex, Lisanne and Steve.
- As well as purchasing new microphone we must have mic training so that people know how to use them so that people can in fact hear them.

Press Officer

- The question was raised whether we should have something more than just the weekly newsletter, for example a magazine like we used to have which was run by the contact group. Ideas were discussed about producing a magazine or a pamphlet at Easter and Christmas to update people of what is going on at the church.
- If we were to have a magazine it would be a team production however due to lack of volunteers, we could just try revamp the newsletter as well as try advertise it more on the website.

Other discussion points

- It was discussed that we should try to expand the work of the SVP to possibly work with other churches as well as to advertise events more locally. For example, it would be nice to have a life-sized crib in one of the empty rookery windows to remind people of what Christmas is really about.
- We are planning on updating the website, we will be changing its layout, how things like the newsletter are found as well as adding in more information onto the website regarding matters like charities and volunteering.

Archivist

- We are in search of an archivist group led by Deacon John to transcribe the history of our parish; this would include things like newspaper cuttings and important events which have happened in the life of the parish. This will then be published on our website.

Synod

- With regards to the synod the meeting which have been held so far have not seen a great turnout. The Synod team is thinking of ways to encourage people to participate attending these sessions and answering the question posed by the Pope.
- The question will be posted on our website and we will continue to host discussion groups. If people feel they would rather answer the question anonymously you are very welcome to drop letters into the letterbox on the side of the parish centre or in the narthex creative suggestions box.

Building Presbytery

- Plans for the presbytery and a bungalow for retired clergy has been postponed for the last several years partly due to covid and lack of funding. Over the recent months discussion have taken place to start building the presbytery and bungalow. However due to prices of materials going up drastically due to the lockdown it would be extremely expensive to start the building process now.