

## **ST AIDAN'S PARISH AGM 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

I would like to warmly welcome you all to our AGM, my name is John Hannacher and I am chair of the parish council and would like to say a few words about the activities of the various parish ministries and then Sue Finch will talk about parish finances.

The Parish Council meets quarterly and the minutes are posted on the Parish website as are the minutes of this meeting. We have some gaps but photographs and names of those on the Parish council are posted on the wall in the Narthex.

The parish's major expense this year has been the complete renovation of the presbytery following Fr Roy's decision to move here from Our Lady's. Details of the costs will be covered by Sue in her Finance report and I'm sure we all welcome Fr Roy to St Aidan's and wish him a long and happy future here.

We recently said goodbye to Mike and Mary Allen to begin their new life in Ireland. They have both made major contributions to parish life in the 50+ years they lived here and they will be missed.

Two questions raised at last year's AGM: -

Memorial Garden – we are in the process of installing a sign to show whose ashes have been laid in our memorial garden. This has taken some time to arrange as there have been a number of other smaller ongoing projects this year.

A question was asked about a memorial for Fr. Ken and the Parish Council's view is that we all remember Fr. Ken very fondly but do not feel this is something he would want money to be spent on.

Following a request at mass in September last year, support for the local Ukrainian community has been forthcoming with parishioners helping with tutoring, English language, workplace mentoring and supplying items of furniture. In March of this year a number of parishioners attended the moving film Children's Voices at The Elgiva, on the second anniversary of the war, which was subsequently shown at our weekend masses

Let me now read the reports from the other parish ministries.

### **Formation**

Our Catechists have been preparing children for their First Holy Communion and 8 children received theirs at mass on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June, names are being sought for next year, please contact the Parish Secretary.

A successful Confirmation programme was run this year and Bishop David confirmed 27 young people from 4 parishes at St Aidan's on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024..

Baptismal preparation also continues with Julie Stewart and a number of children and adults have been baptised this year.

Thanks to all our dedicated catechists for carrying out this important work.

## **Social & Cultural - (Deirdre Lay)**

Social and Cultural is a key part of parish life with regular Sunday coffee mornings and monthly parish lunches.

We had a very successful volunteers social on the 16<sup>th</sup> July last year. Volunteers from both St Aidan's and Our Lady's were invited and we catered for a total of 83 people and our next volunteer social will take place following this AGM.

We had our annual celebration of the Feast of St Aidan with a Walk followed by a BBQ on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August. This was well supported with 95 at the BBQ with 38 taking part in the walk. Fundraising for the youth group totalled £436. This year's celebration will be on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September after the school holidays.

The Grand Draw took place on 17<sup>th</sup> December raising a total of £1343.00 after expenses.

Following a successful quiz last year preparations are being made to repeat it in the autumn of this year.

We would welcome new volunteers for both coffee and the parish lunch to come forward. If you think this is something you might like to help with please contact Debbie our Parish Secretary on our Parish e-mail who will forward your details to Deirdre.

## **Ecumenical - (Vivianne Gattoc)**

We continue to participate in ecumenical activities in the local area and Fr. Roy now also attends the regular meeting of the Churches Together group with Vivianne.

This is the forum where the various activities are planned to include the Remembrance Service in Little Chalfont on 12<sup>th</sup> November and Carols on the green on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

A picnic lunch is also taking place at Westwood Park today.

## **Liturgy - (Vince Smith)**

The Liturgy Group at St. Aidans provides resources that enhance our collective worship in areas such as music, readers, altar servers, Eucharistic Ministers etc. and there are many who contribute with some being less visible than others.

At St Aidan's we can broadcast (stream) our weekend masses so that those who cannot attend in person for whatever reason can at least participate. This service is also available to view at any time.

Although the call on the streaming facility is not as common as it was, hopefully it's reassuring to those who, for whatever reason, cannot come to mass that there is a way they can participate - albeit remotely.

A common theme I'm sure you'll hear from the reports of all ministries is the request for more support to spread the load on those who offer their service and time so generously. Whether it's readers, Eucharistic Ministers, singers or musicians there is always room for more.

In conclusion my thanks again to those who have generously given up their time and talent across all areas and look forward to welcoming anyone else who feels they'd like to be included.

## **Youth**

It has been a mixed year for Youth in St Aidan's. We have a healthy number of young people serving on the altar, which is good, but it has proved difficult to translate that into a thriving Youth ministry in the parish.

A Youth session was held at Restore Hope in Latimer with young people from the Ukrainian community which was appreciated but it struggled because of transport issues.

It is intended to make a new start with a monthly Youth Mass and the possibility of meeting afterwards in the church hall.

## **Maintenance – (Finbarr O'Donoghue)**

In addition to the regular maintenance task that takes place throughout the year the following actions have been completed since last year's AGM:

- Car park line painting successfully completed.
- Assessment of all concrete within St Aidan's properties undertaken & the diocese has deemed us free from RAAC (Concrete degradation issue).
- Fire risk assessment undertaken in the parish hall & no major risks were identified.
- Current problem identified with damaged drains just outside St Aidan's boundary. Thames water currently investigating.

After a quotation of around £3800 was received to replace the malfunctioning window winding mechanisms in the church it was decided not to go ahead at this stage

I would like to acknowledge Deirdre's help throughout the year with all maintenance issues ... it's been invaluable.

## **Pastoral Area (Peter Kirk)**

Regular meetings are held in the parishes within the enlarged Pastoral Area and our parish is represented by Father Roy, Joanna Hale and Peter Kirk.

The objectives of the Pastoral Area Council, under the guidance of our Clergy, are for parishes to work as closely as possible with each other and to share in best practice for the good of everyone within the Pastoral Area.

The focus this year has been on the series of Emmaus Talks – 2 of which were hosted by St Aidan's and the Pastoral Area Services booklet which is issued at Easter and Christmas.

## **Conclusion**

A word of thanks to those people who regularly donate food for the Chiltern Foodbank by placing items in the box in the Narthex.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank everyone who gives their time freely in support of the parish in so many ways, as always we would like more parishioners to volunteer.

I would like to conclude with a thank you to Fr. Roy for his stewardship of the parish, Deacon David Curtis, my fellow members of the parish council and Deborah Rogers our parish secretary.

**John Hannacher 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024**