

YOUR PPC

A very useful PC meeting was held recently which was preceded by Mass. Fr. Emile, who wishes that all future meetings commence with Mass, expressed his thanks to all those who attended and participated in the meeting. The Agenda was curtailed in order to discuss more pressing matters. Minutes of the meeting will be completed in due course but, in the meantime, some important issues that arose are noted below.

1. Financial Accounts for the four month period ended 5th August were presented to the meeting. These accounts are summarised overleaf and show a profit of £5,927.81 which had arisen, in the main, as a result of income tax reclaimed under the Gift Aid scheme. Please also refer to the accompanying notes to the accounts. There is a need for all of us to consider and to participate in social and fund-raising events in the days to come in order that we cover our anticipated expenditure for the remainder of the financial year. Whilst the Balance Sheet shows that we have bank and cash balances of £5,697.83 as at 8th August, 2016, it is worth noting that our current healthy financial position is due, in the main, to the legacy of £45,000 that we had received in the last financial year from the Estate of Lesley Boyall, Deceased. Our thanks were recorded for Brendan Dunn, as Finance Officer, and for Bernie Adams, as Gift Aid Officer, for their continued hard work.
2. The role of Steward of the Gospel was presented by Christina Aston, our newly appointed Parish Representative (our Steward). Christina outlined the anticipated and serious shortage of Priests within the Diocese in the not too distant future. She stressed the very real need for us, as parishioners, to embark upon an era of evangelisation within our Parish and within the wider community. Christina will address all parishioners in the near future and explain the thinking behind the broader issues of evangelisation as promoted by the Diocese. Christina will commence a period of discernment and involvement for all parishioners.
3. Health and Safety (H&S) issues were also discussed. It was reported that our Parish was the only one to have 'completely' passed the recent annual H&S inspection undertaken for and on behalf of the Diocese. Many parishioners, but especially Chris Beith, have undertaken, and continue to undertake, much hard work in ensuring that we are H&S compliant. And so we need to give thanks in two areas. Firstly, to Chris for his hard and loyal work and expertise over many years, and, secondly, to the extremely generous legacy (as mentioned above) from the Estate of Lesley Boyall, Deceased, that underwrote in many ways the many thousands of pounds incurred by the Parish over the last few years in respect of the financial costs of H&S compliance. Sadly, we still have need for an H&S Officer to replace Chris at Doddinghurst and it was agreed that two things would now be pursued, being: (i) that the Parish Hall Committee at St. Margaret's will consider collectively acting as an 'H&S Officer' at Doddinghurst, and (ii) that we will need to consider appointing external contractors to undertake six monthly H&S reviews in order to ensure that the Parish remains fully H&S compliant.