

Parish of St. Helen's Ongar & St. Margaret's Doddinghurst  
18<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting of Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)  
Venue – The Presbytery, Ongar.  
Date and time - 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018, 7pm

Present

Rev. Father Emile Nkumu, President  
Brian Sainsbury, Chairperson  
B. Wrobel, Secretary  
R. Fagan, Parish Finance committee member.  
A. Chapman, Steward of The Gospel  
A. Robertson  
S. Wrobel  
M. Payne  
C. Terry  
M. Adams  
L. Bourke  
A. McGill  
J. Gay  
S. McIntosh  
A. Trew  
S. Muckleston  
S. Fahey  
J. Smith  
A. Sainsbury

Apologies

Frankie Harmon  
P. Maxwell

- 1.1 Brian welcomed people to the meeting and offered refreshments. Father Emile led the group in an opening prayer.
- 1.2 **Apologies** were recorded, and an attendee record was completed.
- 2.1 **Minutes of last meeting.** Brian explained that the last AGM was in July 2016. Following this, there was a period without a Council, and the PPC was reconstituted in March 2017. Therefore, it was not felt appropriate to hold an AGM in 2017. At the reconstitution meeting in March, Officers were appointed and the Constitution reviewed.
- 2.2 **Matters arising** – none
3. **President's report** (Appendix 1) Father Emile presented his President's report and thanked everyone sincerely for their good team work and the continuing support he receives. Father summarised the Mass attendance and other church activities and interactions within the parish. Father Emile told us that our generosity and leadership deserves praise and that this makes Doddinghurst and Ongar Parish a very special place.
4. **Chair's report** (Appendix 2) Brian reflected that Father Emile has been with us two years now and That he is a kindly and humble man and a great example to us. Brian reminded us that Bishop Alan is engaged in a review to solve the solution of declining numbers of clergy and this may lead to change in the years to come. In this time of uncertainty, it is even more important to work together and avoid miscommunication and misunderstanding. Our small congregation leads to a special feeling of warmth and friendship during our services and although we are small we are a very active community. Brian thanked all the various people within the parish who give their time to undertake all the necessary tasks within the two churches and to those who support our spiritual needs.

5. **Constitution.** Brian shared the Constitution for The Parish Council with the group. The only significant change from the previous constitution was that the quorum had reduced from eight to six and that B. Wrobel would assist with secretarial duties. The Constitution was proposed and seconded and accepted by the Council.
6. **Treasurers Report.** (Appendix 3) This was presented to the group by Robert Fagan and showed an overall reduction in the parish debt. The importance of good financial governance was discussed such as turning off lights and finding the best value suppliers. Robert told us how diligent Bessem, the parish administrator has been in supporting this. The challenges of budget-management in such a small congregation were acknowledged and the need to be careful when requesting donations as parishioners were already very generous with both their time and financial support. The amount raised from 'gift aid' is better than many similar parishes, but we will continue to encourage all tax-payers to sign up to this, and to consider increasing their weekly contribution, if it has been the same amount for some years.
7. **Any Other Business**
  - 7.1 S.Wrobel asked that if parishioners have ideas on how to generate income, who should they inform? Brian said that this should come to the PPC in the first instance and if the idea required a venue, the PPC would liaise with the hall committee. The option of renting out some car parking places during the day to a local business was explored as a possible income stream.
  - 7.2 Alan Chapman our Steward of the Gospel thanked everyone for their kindness and support during his first year in the role.
  - 7.3 Robert commented that the attendance at exposition of the blessed sacrament might be increased if it is in the weekly newsletter as not everyone was aware of it.
  - 7.4 Brian thanked everyone, again for engaging with the Parish Pastoral Council. he reminded us that we have come through a time of flux and, that as a small, widely spread parish, it was important to maintain good communication.
8. **Date of next meeting** will be 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in The Presbytery.
9. Father Emile led us in a concluding prayer and the meeting was closed.