

## **OLMSJ Parish AGM Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

### **Father David:**

Each year we should have an AGM where the Finance committee and the Parish Pastoral Council – the PPC- deliver their reports.

It is important that they speak to all of you, so I have decided to ask representatives of those committees to present their reports during the Homily time. There won't be any time for questions afterwards as we have to continue with the Mass, but members of the Finance committee and the PPC will be available at the back of the church after Mass to answer any of your questions.

### **So what have we done since our last AGM in January 2019?**

Since our last AGM in January 2019, like the rest of the country, we were hit hard by Covid. For the first time churches had to be closed and then carefully managed.

In that time sadly some of our parishioners have died. Our congregation is slowly returning to normal, but it is taking time.

During Covid, as stipulated by the government, younger members of our community came forward to volunteer as Stewards and did a fantastic job keeping us all safe.

As we started to move forward out of Covid the Stewards transitioned into Welcomers and are *still* doing a great job. I'm glad to say others have volunteered to be Welcomers and have added the role of Fire Warden to their ever-increasing job description. I'd like to thank them for all, on your behalf, for their hard work & dedication.

When Covid began we made initial phone calls to parishioners, starting with calls to the most vulnerable.

We had links to a group of volunteers who did the food shopping & collection of medicines for those who were housebound.

I established an email list from our parish data which enabled me to communicate weekly with all parishioners from our three parishes. Those who did not have an email account had the Newsletter posted to them. This means of communication still happens today.

Since the death of Cathy Pickles, who was our lead catechist, I took on the First Holy Communion programme, assisted by Barbara Jadrych. 13 children were involved in the programme and made their First Holy Communion this year. I

ran the Confirmation programme, assisted by Vicki Pent, and 5 candidates attended the Cathedral in Portsmouth to make their Confirmation.

**LINDA:** Fr David and I, are Foundation Governors at our Catholic Primary school and during Covid we celebrated Lent and Advent assemblies via Zoom with the children. We now attend in person to celebrate Mass and other Liturgies. This has brought back a real connection between the parish and our young people. The link between parish and school is further enhanced by being able to follow the progress of the children through our parish newsletter.

After the death of our Queen, Elizabeth II, we held a Requiem Mass here which the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for the New Forest was in attendance as were children from our school, who gave their time freely, as it was a Bank holiday, to be involved.

Another link between the school and the parish was through the Blessing of the Animals service on the feast of St Francis of Assisi which was attended by children from the school, parents, grandparents, and parishioners.

When the school wanted to develop an orchard the parishioners from our 3 parishes raised over £600 which funded the orchard, various plants and gardening tools for use by their new gardening club.

Our CWL has been very generous to the school donating a tree for the orchard, a Willow tree which the school dedicated to the memory of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II, plants to enhance the school grounds and supplying Sunflower plants as a competition to see who could grow the tallest Sunflower. Other parishioners have supplied plants too, for which the school is very grateful.

For the Queen's Jubilee our parish too had 'Jubilee fever' as we enjoyed our own 'Street party' in the car park.

In addition to supporting the school, the CWL meets once a month. They support many charities such as Stella Maris (the Apostleship of the Sea). Each Christmas the sailors receive a gift of chocolate. warm gloves & scarves and toiletries from the CWL.

Our SVP is flourishing too. The nine active members of our SVP are engaged in providing support in a number of guises to people in our communities. These include befriending visits and telephone calls and practical support with everyday tasks such as shopping, transport and dog-walking. They are also

providing some regular hours of respite for family members. They have continued to provide appropriate financial support to families in our community and school.

Fr David, Nichola Kirby and Mike Reynolds represent OLMSJ at Churches Together Lymington & Pennington and support ecumenical events in the town.

We have been busy evangelising in the simplest of ways too, thanks to Frances Walker and her team who have brought back Saturday morning refreshments once a month, they have revitalised the Friendship club and introduced the new Rumikub game starting a new group. These new ventures have drawn in many people from outside the parish.

Our newly refurbished 'book store' cum library in Joseph's place has been drawing people in too! Our thanks to Olivia Cowan, her friend Liz and Kay Malepedi for the hours they have spent sorting through the books and putting them into alphabetical order, bringing it up to date and making the new 'book store' a success!

Refreshments after Mass on a Sunday has returned, and the parish has started to socialise again.

Since Covid our flower team has had more volunteers, led by 'Chief petal' Vicki Pent, and the group is now blooming!

And now it is 'business as usual' and we must build on all the good work which has taken place over the last year and begin to look forward.

Fr David has reconvened the PPC and new members have joined and they are working hard together to move the parish forward.

We have a Parish Finance Committee. It has 5 members plus Fr David. Gerry Heneghan- Chair, Frances Walker- parish accountant, plus Neil Jenkins, Nichola Kirby and myself in the role of Health & Safety Co-Ordinator.

I will now hand you over to Frances from the Finance Committee, who will present an overview of the parish finances.

(6 mins)

## **FRANCES' REPORT**

Magdalen: I am Magdalen Chadbourn, and I am the newly appointed Chair of the PPC. I volunteered as a Steward during Covid and have now morphed into a Welcomer and recently a Fire Warden.

I have been in the parish since 2006 and generally attend Saturday night Mass, but now that I am a Welcomer you may see me at either Mass. I was glad I volunteered during Covid as I have met so many parishioners coming through that door and I value being part of this community.

Before my retirement I worked for 30 years for Marks and Spencer and will hopefully bring some of my management experience to the PPC.

The PPC has recently been reconvened after the pandemic and has been fortunate to retain some of the more experienced members plus added some new members, all of whom bring different skills to the group which should complement each other. The PPC has 10 members plus Fr David (*will ask whoever is at which mass to just stand up so parishioners can put a name to a face*)

Myself

Olivia Cowan

Linda Guilding

Pete Lawes

Cathryn Lawrence

Vicki Pent

Eileen Rayner

Mike Reynolds

Keith Stuttaford

Rini Stuttaford

The purpose of the PPC is to ensure that the parish is fulfilling, as far as possible, its responsibilities with regard to the Mission of the Church, the Liturgical and Sacramental life of the parish. The pastoral care of parishioners and our community and social life.

We represent each one of you so if you ever have a comment or concern about life in our parish, either email it to the parish office or speak to one of our PPC members who you will see regularly at Mass, and we will do our best to answer your question or take it to the next PPC meeting for discussion.