

The Sacred Heart Church, Wadhurst and St. Peter's Rotherfield

**Minutes of the Parish A.G.M. on Sunday 20 November 2016
In the Sacred Heart Annexe at 12:00 hours**

1. WELCOME	ACTION
<p>Jon Elsby welcomed 40 members of the Parish to the meeting.</p>	
2. OPENING PRAYER	
<p>Fr. Martin opened the meeting with a prayer.</p>	
3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
<p>Apologies received from Ann Glenney and Margaret Anderman.</p>	
4. Father Martin's address	
<p>Father Martin gave a brief rundown of the year, saying he was very pleased with the overall attendance at weekly Masses this year and noted that Mass at Christmas and Easter had been particularly well attended. He advised that there were now fifteen housebound parishioners and he expressed his thanks to the Eucharistic ministers, Mary Jenner, Joan Grace and Noel Kent for helping him to visit each week. He noted that a few parishioners had attended the Pilgrimage to the Holy Door at Our Lady of Consolation. He reported that Father Oliver Leavy had enjoyed his time spent at Sacred Heart and had been teaching us to sing. He expressed his thanks to those who contribute to Nourish every month and thanks also to those who generously supported other charities including Calais .</p>	
5. Chairman's address	
<p>Jon Elsby reported that it had been a busy year involving considerable discussion with the school over site development; he was glad that with the help of the diocese agreement had been reached and the first step involving creation of a path to the graveyard now complete. He expressed his thanks to Daphne Bagshawe for all her negotiations. He noted that the Quinquennial review had taken place involving inspection of the church and presbytery and the report was awaited. He thanked Peggy Purslowe for the enormous contribution she had made in covering events during the year for A&B News which have been collated in the Parish Report. He thanked everyone for their many contributions to the Parish including readers, altar servers, choristers, cleaners, coffee makers , Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, fund raisers and others, not least all members of the Parish and especially Father Martin. He noted that while many small parishes may be struggling, ours is thriving thanks to Father Martin and our welcoming of visitors who often then become permanent members. He announced that he was now stepping down as chair and would hand over to Daphne Bagshawe.</p>	
6. New chairman's address	
<p>Daphne Bagshawe expressed special thanks to Jon Elsby for acting as chairman through a very difficult period and she had always found him unfailingly kind, gentle and courteous; she was delighted that he will continue on the PCC and said that he would be a hard act to follow. She also expressed her appreciation of Father Martin under whose leadership she thought the parish was more united in working together; he had always given people the opportunity to serve the church in a multitude of ways. She also felt that the relationship with the school was now better than it had been for a long time and expressed her wish that the relationship of the school would deepen. She emphasized that we are a Parish with a school and there is a great deal of good will towards the school and we should be proud and show appreciation as we watch the children grow.</p>	

<p>7. FINANCE REPORT</p> <p>Greg O’Higgins, chair of the finance committee introduced himself and reported that the Parish had gone from a surplus to a £4,000 deficit in view of increasing costs, in particular certain items such as repairs and office equipment. Other items of expenditure were expected this year including the path which has yet to be paid for. He noted that income had remained much the same and there was a need to look for ways of increasing this. He advised that he plans to speak at Masses in order to address the challenge of raising more funds and ensure that newcomers are making appropriate use of giftaid. There was good news as well however for he reported that the Parish is growing with many new members. He was pleased to advise that Mike Collins has taken over responsibility for the accounts and that Simon Dunne and Nick Bagshawe continued to guard Parish finances. He expressed his thanks to the counters of parish collections coordinated by Jon Elsby and Richard O’Farrell, to John Whelan for ensuring tax efficient accounting and to Toni Buckley and Chrissie Sturgess for supporting the finance committee.</p>	<p>Greg O’Higgins</p>
<p>8. REVIEW OF THE PARISH REPORT</p> <p>The report was circulated to all members in the form of a presentation of all the articles Peggy Purslow had written over the year for the A&B news together with the report on Rotherfield and parishioners were invited to look at this rather than having it read out.</p> <p>It was reported that a letter had been received from a parishioner suggesting the need for a forum discussion prior to the AGM ; the issues raised by this proposition were discussed, but on balance those present at the AGM felt that it would be an unnecessary duplication of meetings. Daphne Bagshawe emphasized that it was important for the PPC to be aware of concerns and that parishioners were always welcome to make suggestions to members of the PPC throughout the year. She stressed that the PPC is a technically a powerless body which advises and supports the parish priest and it is then up to him to utilize that advice or not. She mentioned that there was a list on the wall in the annexe of PPC members but that this needs to be updated with photos. She invited PPC members who were present to stand and introduce themselves: Nick Bagshawe (particular responsibility finance) Toni Buckley (responsible for liturgy, who invited people to offer help with fundraising and mentioned there would be a cake sale to help raise funds after Mass on 11 December) Clare Kent (secretary responsible for minutes, who thanked everyone for their generosity in offering time, money and donations of goods for Calais and reported that 60 boxes had been taken to the warehouse for distribution to Dunkirk, Greece and Syria) Frances Dorr (responsible for Nourish collections) and George Micallef (recently appointed member with extensive commercial experience)</p> <p>Two new member of the PPC were also introduced, Jerome Curran and Ann Mulleneux and Fr Martin announced that a third new member Kate Purcell will also be appointed.</p>	<p>Parish secretary</p>
<p>9. CLOSING PRAYER</p> <p>Fr Martin closed the meeting with a prayer.</p>	
<p>10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>It was subsequently decided to hold the next PPC meeting on Monday 6 February at 7:30PM</p>	