

Our Lady & St. Joseph's Parish Meeting

held on Friday 5th October at 7.30 pm

Present: Fr. Dennis Cassidy and approximately 35 parishioners

The meeting opened with a prayer by Fr Dennis at 7.37 pm

Financial Report

Father Dennis expressed his gratitude for the effort made by parishioners over the last year to increase offertory collections, using standing orders for church offerings and using the Gift Aid Declaration to claim tax back from the government. Thanks was expressed to Chris Issott & Sheila Forde for producing the figures and the handout.

Chris Issott reported that the parish is now running at a level that is covering cost and repaying debt. The Diocesan debt has decreased mainly due to the legacy that was left by a parishioner. Through Parish fundraising, there is now a pool of funds for smaller building projects in the Parish. The picture is generally more positive.

Social Report

Fr Dennis was pleased to note that the social life of the Parish has grown as a by-product of the efforts of the Fundraising Committee. He felt encouraged by the enthusiasm that has been generated from the forthcoming social and fundraising events.

Mass for All Souls - Friday 2nd November

Fr Dennis will invite all families who have had a bereavement to attend a special Mass at St Joseph's Church, and a special invitation will be sent to those who have had a bereavement during the year from last All Soul's Feast Day. The Mass will include a service with memorial candles and will be followed by a social get-together in St Joseph's School Hall.

Parish Family Ceilidh - Saturday 20th October

Eddie Kelly reported that ticket sales have been slow so far and encouraged parishioners to buy tickets and publicise the event. Parishioners have been asked to volunteer to provide food for the event by taking a ticket on the board at the back of church, even if they cannot come to the event.

Garden Party - Sunday 19th August

Tony Nolan asked for feedback for the event and most of the audience gave positive feedback and would like to see the event held again. The consensus was that people who attended had a very enjoyable time even though the weather put a damper on things. Tony advised that the event had not been set out to be a fundraiser, but due to the generosity of parishioners who provided food and drink, the event raised £330 for the Parish Buildings Fund.

200 Club

Tony advised running the 200 Club this past year has been a learning curve and that there were some teething issues about payments and standing orders in the rush at the beginning of the year to get it up and running. He advised that membership forms with a set of rules will be available within the next 2 weeks for everyone wishing to continue their membership of the 200 Club. The set of rules have been implemented so that we are compliant with the Gambling Act. The membership is open to everyone over 16. Payment by Standing Order is preferred, however cheques for the full year's subscription is acceptable.

Sale of the Haworth Property

Fr Dennis expressed that the journey so far has been frustratingly slow. It's been 2 years since plans were put in place to sell the house. However, the house cannot be put up for sale until plans and planning permission are in place.

The initial plans presented earlier this year were not workable. Fr Dennis and the Buildings Committee listened to feedback from parishioners and revised plans have now been produced to build the extension at the back of the existing church building, especially after Trevor Cox showed that it was viable to do so. The Architect is now able to apply for initial planning permission once funds are made available next week.

Estimates can then be obtained for the cost of the work.

As it is a non-conservation area and the trees have no preservation orders on them, Tony does not expect objections being raised.

There will be 2 disabled parking spaces, disabled toilet facilities and a ramp to be compliant with new building regulations. The work will also include improving access and surrounding ground areas for social activities.

The plans that have been displayed tonight will go forward to Bradford Council Planning Department next week.

While planning permission is awaited, there will be a great deal of preparatory work, such as clearing space, pruning trees, request for help to get parishioners involved with the building committee, seeking skills within the parish for people who can help and quote for work to be done, local contractors.

As we cannot achieve any building work on the extension from the current financial position of the Parish, the property, which is estimated to realise between £300,000 and £450,000 needs to be sold first before building work can commence.

The Diocesan rules, as it stands at present, is that 25% of the proceeds has to be deducted for the benefit of the Diocese. The Parish Council had written to Bishop Marcus after his visit to the Parish in June to ask if this could be waived in view of the efforts the parish has made with increasing offertory contributions and the fundraising. The Bishop did acknowledge the letter and advised that he was seeking advice from the finance section of the Diocese. Father Dennis is presently following up on this matter and will advise as soon as he has any news.

The Dioceses had indicated that the proceeds from the sale of the property are for 1) build a new hall at Haworth, 2) restoration work at St Joseph's Church and 3) repay the Diocesan debt. Now, Fr Dennis feels that the first 2 will have to take priority over the repayment of the debt.

Any Other Matters

Rosemary Monaghan felt that the food donations have been few and neglected. It was suggested that a push be made for food bank donations. Margaret Ward suggested it would be a good time to start now being the Harvest season.

Rosemary Monaghan expressed her thanks to everyone who worked hard behind the scenes to make things happen and work in the Parish.

Fr Dennis advised that he will be meeting with Jason Davies and a builder about the possibility of modernising the toilets and improving the space at St Joseph's Sacristy to make it more user friendly for small social activities, like tea & coffee morning.

The meeting ended in prayer by Fr Dennis at 8.10 pm followed by the 200 Club Draw.

200 Club Draw Results

1st prize of £100: No 174 - Daniel Parker

4 £10 prizes:

No 137: Jason Davies

No 61: Michael Kennedy

No 33: William Forde

No 37: Rita Horrocks