

Clergy

Fr Martin Morris (Parish Priest of St Teresa's and St Aidan's)

Fr Patrick McMahon (until December 2016)

Pastoral Council

Monica Arend-Trujillo

Sue Clarke

Kathleen Gregor

David Hastie (Minute Secretary)

Andrea Hayes (Communications Secretary)

Sheila Jackson (ex officio as Acting Head of St Teresa's Primary School)

Douglas Lamb

Michael Potts

Janet Wallbank (Chair)

Plant and Finance Committee

John Byrne (Deputy Chair)

Frank Conway

Brian Dale (Treasurer)

Mark Hayes (Chair)

Madeleine King (Deputy Treasurer)

Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council

Earlier this year I was on the beautiful island of South Uist during Holy Week. After a thirteen hour journey home on Saturday, I had just about recovered in time for 11 o' clock mass the next day. Perhaps because I had been away, or because I felt slightly detached having been travelling for so long, I saw St. Teresa's in a different light. It was almost as if I was visiting another parish for the first time and I saw our parish through fresh eyes.

It was Easter Sunday. Mass was, as you'd expect, a great celebration, but what struck me was how lively, welcoming and buzzing St. Teresa's felt. It is easy to take what we have for granted and to be aware of our faults and failings. Sometimes it's good to look afresh and to appreciate what we have. As we move forward in partnership with other churches, we shall benefit from other parishes' experience and expertise, but we can also be confident that we have something to offer. We have many volunteers who help the parish to run smoothly. We have, of course, a dedicated priest who has served us prayerfully over the last year. We have a diverse congregation, with new families and individuals joining the parish, each with something to bring to parish life.

As we go forward, I encourage you to look at St. Teresa's anew. Thank God for all that we have and then, where things can be improved or initiated, get involved so that we can all be part of Christ's body here at St. Teresa's.

Report from the Parish Priest

"Dear Parishioners, As I begin my second year here in St. Teresa's, I wish to express sincere thanks to all of you who have contributed to the life of the Parish, in so many different ways. Each of us have enable the growth of the Lord's Kingdom in this area, and we can see so much to be grateful

for in Parish life. So many warm hearted volunteers, of so many different groups and individuals who work with such unstinting zeal and commitment deserve thanks and gratitude for their energy and enthusiasm for the flourishing of our Parish. Thankyou to you all for your continued generosity and financial support for our Parish in the past year, which enables us to have such beautiful buildings and grounds for the life of this community.

We welcome our new Headteacher Mr. Vinny Turner and wish him many happy years in St. Teresa's school, he brings a wealth of experience with him.

The challenge of the new Parish Partnerships , for us in St. Mary's Jesmond, will continue to guide and encourage us in new ways and structures within the coming year, as we go Forward Together in Hope, guiding us especially in the development of Parish Catechesis, outreach Mission projects, and continued efforts to support our neighbouring Parishes. Thankyou once again for all you do, and with St. Paul let us always say," I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians: 4.13)

Fr. Martin

Welcomers Group

This group is open to all in the Parish and our aim is to provide a friendly and approachable welcome to all who come to our Church. We meet every two months or so to discuss how we can improve as a group and support others in the Parish and as a result we now try to be on hand for the other services which take place in Church such as Funerals to assist visitors to find facilities they may need, hymn books, toilets etc.

The Welcomers also work closely with the bakers in the Parish and the loyal group of volunteers who work so hard each Sunday to provide

coffee and cakes for us all and which we know is very much enjoyed by many. Over the past 12 months the donations given so generously at the coffee mornings have enabled the Welcomers to send £100 to each of the following causes :

- A Charity working with the Calais Refugees
- Changing Lives (previously Cyrenians)
- Grenfell Fire Fund
- Charity Work in the Yemen
- The Missions

The Prayer basket which we started is now used by many and a wonderful way for us all to share the gift of prayer.

We know that each one of you in your own special way help to make our Parish the welcoming place it is but if you would like to join us(DBS check needed) or help with baking or to assist at the coffee mornings or have any ideas how we can make our Parish a more prayerful and loving place please let us know by giving us your name and contact details.

Thank you

Margaret Brumwell

Spirituality

There are several ways to develop spirituality at St. Teresa's. Each month there is Eucharistic Exposition on a Sunday afternoon and a Rosary group meets monthly on a Thursday evening. Morning prayer is said before

weekday mass when there is a service. 'Exploring the Word of God' meets every Monday at 2.00 pm in the presbytery. The group looks at the readings for the following Sunday, resulting in a lively, wide-ranging discussion. Occasional 'Salt of the Earth' meetings have covered several topics, from a talk on Martin Luther to scripture based study. If you would like to find out more about any spiritual activities, or if you have any ideas about how to enhance the spiritual life of the parish, please speak to Fr. Martin or any member of the Parish Pastoral Council

Janet Wallbank

Liturgy Group

This year we established a Liturgy Group. It meets about four times a year to plan for the liturgical calendar for the next three months. The group has put on special Advent and Lent services, as well as organising the Harvest Festival and International Masses. This is an open group and a wonderful way for lay people to become more involved in the liturgy. Notices of meetings are in the news letter and the current group would welcome contributions and ideas from other parishioners.

Gift Aid

Anybody who pays tax can join the Gift Aid scheme, simply by filling in a form and either putting their collection money in Gift Aid envelopes or by setting up a Direct Debit. There is a simple form to fill if you need to leave the scheme because of a change in circumstances or because you are leaving the parish. For every pound you give, the government gives St. Teresa's 25 pence. This year some parishioners had to withdraw from the scheme but many other parishioners have joined. Thank you to everybody who contributes through Gift Aid, and to Brian Dale, who has encouraged new people to join.

Forward Together in Hope

As of part-way through this year, the Forward Together in Hope Representative role ceased to exist. Our parish is now represented by the Chair of the Pastoral Council and Fr Martin, at the local Partnership meeting. In addition the Chairs of the parish finance councils have also been meeting.

Up until that point, the FTH representative from St Dominic's and I, completed the Partnership Proposal Document and submitted it to the FTH team in November 2016. The proposals were considered in January by the Diocesan Board and Parishes were informed of the outcome in February 2017. 18 Partnerships were created across the Diocese. Our Partnership group was as suggested, ie St Teresa; St Aidan; Holy Name; St Dominic; St Anthony of Padua; St Lawrence; St Mary Forest Hall; Our Lady & St Vincent.

I am continuing to receive and distribute the Partnership news, which contains updates from the new formation teams. All FTH information is regularly updated and displayed on the noticeboard at the back of church and in the newsletter. Please continue to actively support our transition from Parish to Partnership. Sarah Bell

Partnership Development Group.

After the process of 'Forward Together in Hope' resulted in parishes forming partnerships, St. Teresa's became part of the St. Mary's Jesmond Partnership along with St. Aidan's, St. Mary's, St Anthony's, St. Lawrence's, St. Vincent's, St. Dominic's and Holy Name. Our Partnership Dean is Fr. Michael Campion from Holy Name.

The Partnership Development Group has been established to last for two years during which the partnership will draw up an action plan on the areas in which we can work together and establish some strategies and structures to enable us to do so.

Having met a few times, we are having a planning day in November to begin the process of looking at where we are and where we want to be at the end of the two years.

Please pray for the group as it undertakes a difficult task. We need to support individual parishes in their ministries while finding ways to do some things more effectively together. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us and that this process will see the beginning of a renewed Church in the East of the city.

Children's Liturgy.

We currently have 2 volunteers who are happy to lead Children's liturgy and 3 volunteers who is happy to help the leaders. We aim to run every week (excluding holidays) if possible. Children's Liturgy is held in the presbytery and requires 2 DBS cleared volunteers for each session, to comply with diocesan policy. As this is such an important part of our young peoples' experience of church, it would be great if more volunteers were able to come forward and help out. It gives a great deal of joy to the rest of the parish to see the enthusiasm and involvement of our younger parishioners. Please complete a yellow form or see one of the Welcomers, if you would like to help. *Sarah Bell*

Baby & Toddler Group

This group has run successfully for many years, on a Tuesday morning 9-11, term time only. 2 DBS cleared parish volunteers run the group and we welcome parishioners and non-parishioners. There are usually around 15 babies and toddlers attending every week. Our cost remain at £1.00 per family to allow as many people as possible to access the group and also allow us to give regular donations to the church for the use of the Hall. In the last year, these donations totalled approximately £510. The group also collected, together with our older young parishioners, for CAFOD gifts for life at Christmas. The church newsletter is usually displayed for anyone who wants to look at it over coffee and we advertise and encourage people to attend any parish events.

Sarah Bell

Altar Servers

Currently we have 4 regular altar servers and 2 or 3 occasional servers. We have a rota system and servers are divided into two sets and serve every other week.

Recruitment for new altar servers is ongoing in St. Teresa's school.

We have four new servers beginning their training this month. Training, with parental consent, takes place in church on Friday afternoons. After several weeks the trainees are allowed to wear an alb and be in the sanctuary as an observer. There are 4 servers currently training. Any child who does not attend St. Teresa's school and would like to train to become a server please contact Anne Grant.

Music Group

The music group continues to support liturgies in the parish, playing every fortnight throughout the year. We have been blessed with help from parishioners for our international masses with songs from the Philippines and drummers from the African Mass group (St. Joseph's , Gateshead). We also provided music for extra services such as the bereavement mass and Blue Christmas service .

We continue to work closely with Maggie and Rita our organists to provide music all year round and have made the Easter& Christmas liturgies very much a joint effort. A special thankyou to Maggie for playing for Fr. Paddy's retirement mass in May.

If you play an instrument or enjoy singing, please come along and join us.

Andrea Hayes

Ecumenism

It has been another very busy year for our local churches with the 2017 Heaton Festival being a high point. Over 12,000 people joined together in Heaton Park to celebrate all that's good about living together in Heaton. Over 40 members of our congregation acted as volunteers in the run up to the festival and on the day in many roles.

The Peace Walk, was initiated by children from Heaton Manor school and organised by the Mosque & Churches, coming together in Heaton Park to show solidarity in the face of violence in the world.

The Christmas presents event provided 260 gifts for the homeless at the People's Kitchen

Thanks also to the clever craftspeople who raised a smile around Heaton with their messages of good will attached to knitted Christmas Angels.

We have continued to meet and worship together with joint activities for Lent and Easter. The churches are grateful to the children and staff of St. Teresa's for their wonderful liturgical dance at the Good Friday service on Hadrian Square.

I'd also like to thank our small dedicated group of youngsters, Owen, Daniel and Dominic who have offered their time Heaton Park maintaining our Heaton Churches plot.

Details of activities and meetings and links to all the Heaton Churches can be found on our parish website.

Andrea Hayes

Youth Activities

We are now in the second year of running the **John Paul II** award in the parish. This is co-ordinated by St Mary's Catholic School and young Parishioners in Year 12 & 13 can sign up for Bronze, Silver or Gold awards in their local parish. The award requires voluntary work in the school and the parish over a set period of time. Young Parishioners have also been carrying out the Volunteer strand of their Duke of Edinburgh award in the parish.

Youth Sunday mass was supported by young parishioners, who also held a fundraising coffee morning afterwards. This went towards **CAFOD Gifts for life**, which was a fundraising theme up until Christmas and again leading up to Easter. All cakes and refreshments made and sold during that period, went towards supporting CAFOD.

The Fairtrade stall continues to be run by our young parishioner in the church porch on the first weekend of each month after both masses. In

addition extra funds were raised during Fairtrade fortnight for the Fairtrade charity, which is always well supported by parishioners.

There were no first communions last year, as the Diocese is changing to Year 4 for First communions. Preparation has started again this year.

Confirmation is being run this year in the Partnership grouping, with the support and leadership of St Mary's Catholic School. It is planned to run the next programme of Confirmations, wholly within the Partnership and train Catechists from each Parish. The Confirmation mass will take place in November in St Teresa's Church.

Church Cleaners

We are a small band of volunteers fighting the war against dust and cobwebs. We meet after 10.00am Mass on the last Friday of each month and our cleaning duties usually involve vacuuming and dusting and takes about an hour followed by coffee and biscuits. We also put in some extra shifts at Christmas and Easter or if there is any special events i.e. Confirmations.

We have just lost a regular member of our team Edmund due to work commitments and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his support. If there is anyone out there who can give us some of their time, not necessarily every month, we would be delighted to hear from you, just give your name and contact details to a Welcomer at Mass. Thank you

Margaret Brumwell

Tuesday Ladies

Our group Catholic Women's League which many years ago had over 90 members. Now we are 9 but continue to meet and raise funds for the parish and two charities each year. Last year these were the People's Kitchen and St. Mary's Hospice.

We meet every Tuesday at 2pm in the presbytery for activities including Bingo , quizzes, coffee and chat. We also organise lunches and evening meals out in the Summer months. New members our very welcome to come along and enjoy some good company

Anne Knowles

Parish Social Events

In addition to all of our regular events, outlined on the Social Calendar, new Partnership events are available to us. A number of parishioners enjoyed a Pilgrimage to Holy Island in August, together with representatives of most of the parishes in the Partnership. A forthcoming trip to York is also proving to be popular and we can continue to build on these joint events, which will also help to build a strong Partnership Foundation.

EVENT	DETAILS	PURPOSE
Porch Coffee Mornings	After 11am mass in church	Social: to meet other parishioners
Special Coffee Mornings Eg Fairtrade fortnight, Youth Sunday	Generally held in church hall after special masses or services in church	Social Fundraising: for various charities
Parish Quiz	First Thursday of every month in St Teresa's club 8pm	Social Fundraising: for various charities
Summer Fair and Christmas Fair	Usually 1 st Saturday of July and last Saturday of November	Fundraising: for parish and school Social: to build links between parish and school
Evening Social Events	MASH auction Occasional events held in church hall involving other groups in diocese	Fundraising: for charities working within the diocese or further afield e.g. Lourdes fund, medical aid projects Social: to build links with other parishes and groups within our diocese and local area
Parish Meal	Held in a local restaurant in February	Social: to give parishioners the opportunity to meet socially

Report of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee here presents its report and accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2017. A presentation of the longer term trends will be made at the AGM, last year's slides can be found on the Parish website.

The financial position of the Parish remains stable. Compared with the previous year, our total income for general purposes rose from £59,598 to £61,689. After paying for repairs and renewals, we once again broke even for the year, with a small surplus of £733 compared with £322 last year. Our reserves remain just under £65,000.

Spending on repairs and renewals was down from £23,350 to £13,385. This was offset by increased spending, mostly on energy, which rose from £7,958 to £14,207. These figures are distorted by a refund received in 2016 and an overpayment in 2017 we expect to recover: the underlying energy spend rose from £10,264 to £12,233.

£4,513 of the reserves were earmarked for St Teresa's School: this account is credited with the value of the school's share of the summer fair each year and the cost in 2013 of extending the school's security fence to include the church, less the parish's contributions to the school, mainly for the upkeep of the Forest School.

Comparing this year with last, our income from renting out the Hall increased to a new record of £11,725, thanks to the dedication and hard work of Anne Grant, to whom we are most grateful. We also gratefully received a £2,000 contribution from St Aidan's towards the maintenance

of our joint parish priest, Fr Martin. We contributed £500 to Heaton Churches Together towards the cost of the 2017 Heaton Festival.

Our collections rose very slightly once again, from £32,732 to £33,229. We can expect a significant boost from new Gift Aiders next year because the tax rebate comes a year behind. The Summer and Christmas fairs continued to generate nearly £3,700. Our special collections, for the wider Church outside the Parish, increased further from £4,741 to £5,231. These figures understate parishioners' generosity because they do not include money raised within the Parish that goes directly to the charities concerned.

The Committee this year included John Byrne (Deputy Chair), Frank Conway, Brian Dale (Treasurer), and Madeleine King (Deputy Treasurer). Fr Martin and the Committee would like to thank the many others involved in keeping the Parish solvent, including Conrad Cairns and Janet Wallbank (Gift Aid returns) and Tony Ingoe (sidesmen organiser).

Mark Hayes

Chair of the Finance Committee, 4 July 2017

Income and expenditure account		
Years ended 31 March	2016	2017
Income from congregation		
Special collections	4,741	5,231
Income for general purposes	59,598	61,689
General expenses	<u>29,780</u>	<u>38,839</u>
Basic surplus	29,818	22,850
Contribution to School	1,235	3,435
Contribution to Diocese	4,911	5,297
Surplus before repairs and renewals	23,672	14,118
Repairs and renewals	23,350	13,385
Overall surplus/(deficit)	322	733
Movement on special collections	(155)	-
Change in reserves	167	733

Notes to the accounts		
Years ended 31 March	2016	2017
Income for general purposes		
Offeratories	32,732	33,229
Gift Aid rebate	5,064	4,879
Other Donations & misc. net income	8,275	8,196
	<u>46,071</u>	<u>46,304</u>
Other income		
rents	9,851	11,725
fundraising net of expenses	3,676	3,660
	<u>59,598</u>	<u>61,689</u>
General expenses		
Church requisites	1,921	2,721
Administration	9,905	11,164
Housekeeping	1,645	1,841
Electric, gas and water	7,958	14,207
Clergy allowances and cars	8,078	8,277
Miscellaneous	273	629
	<u>29,780</u>	<u>38,839</u>
Reserves		
Bank current account	21,868	17,722
Diocesan account	42,291	47,170
total assets	<u>64,159</u>	<u>64,892</u>
School reserve	6,243	4,513
General reserve	57,916	60,379
	<u>64,159</u>	<u>64,892</u>

Parish Statistics

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Baptisms	34	28	34	28	31
Receptions	1	1	2	8	0
Confirmations	1	2	16	3	10
Marriages	3	3	4	6	4
Deaths	16	11	10	18	21
Mass attendance	236	223	242	200	237
Gift Aiders	77	75	70	69	64
% of collection covered by Gift Aid		59%	55%	50%	57%
estimated total donors		128	128	139	113
average weekly offering		4.57	4.64	4.53	5.65
in 2017 money		4.86	4.88	4.70	5.65

Notes

Figures for mass attendance, etc are from the Northern Catholic Calendar for the year indicated but refer to two years earlier. The average weekly offering is based on Gift Aid donations and used to estimate the total number of donors.