

**Clergy**

Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Morris

Fr Patrick McMahon

**Pastoral Council:**

Janet Wallbank

Sue Clarke

Dave Hastie

Kathleen Gregor

Andrea Hayes

Sheila Jackson ( Headteacher)

Judy Price

Frank Conway

Doug Lamb

**Finance & Admin Committee**

John Byrne

Brian Dale

Anne Grant

Paul Grant

Mark Hayes (Acting Chair)

Helen Taylor

John Taylor

## **Chair's report**

2016 has been a milestone year so far. Firstly, congratulations to Fr. Michael and Fr. Paddy on their Golden Jubilees; they have given fifty years of faithful service and we pray that God will bless them as they continue in their ministries. Secondly, I would like to welcome Fr. Martin as he settles into a new parish and a new home. We pray that his ministry will be both fruitful and joyful and that we can work together to be a presence of Christ in Heaton.

The PPC helped to organise the Golden Jubilee celebrations but, as ever, so many more people were involved. We have an amazing group of people who ensured that the liturgies were prayerful and uplifting and the celebrations afterwards were welcoming and inclusive. Thank you to everybody who gave their support and made these events so memorable for Fr. Michael and Fr. Paddy.

The PPC has continued to oversee initiatives which have been established over the last few years, for example, an International Mass and contributions to the food and clothes bank. St. Teresa's hosted a day's conference by the Lay Dominicans on the Pope's Laudato Si which was both informative and challenging. We have started a monthly meeting, Salt of the Earth, which we hope will be diverse in the ways in which we can reflect on our faith.

We received our report from the diocese as a result of the Forward Together in Hope questionnaire. On the whole it was positive, reflecting how we have grown, our commitment to our parish and to our wider community. Now we are being asked to think about forming partnerships with other parishes. While it is understandable to find this threatening,

we may find that we gain from it as we form new ways to work together.

Our initial aims, as a Parish Pastoral Council were:

- To become a more welcoming and friendly parish
- To increase the focus on spiritual life
- To use the gifts of the whole community
- To involve the youth of the parish

We have certainly made progress in all of these areas but obviously there is more to do. If you would like to be involved in any of our activities, or suggest something new, please speak to one of the welcomers or fill in a yellow form. As we embark on a new phase, with a new priest and perhaps working more closely with other parishes, I hope that we shall all recognise our own gifts and use them in God's service here at St. Teresa's.

Janet Wallbank

## **Report from the Parish Priest**

In the short space of only six weeks since my arrival at St. Teresa's, I have seen how Blessed we are with so many dedicated people who work together for the good of the Parish and the whole community. There is much to be grateful for, especially in the work and ministries performed by so many parishioners who give of their time and effort for the building up of the Body of Christ. All of this has enabled the parish to continue on a daily basis and it is heartening to see such willing generosity from so many. So as I say 'Hello' I would also like to say 'thank you'. Thank you to all parishioners who have worked so hard, in so many ways, your contribution is vital, as we live out our faith today. My arrival in the Parish

coincides with the important Diocesan Initiative 'Forward Together in Hope' the basis of what our Faith Communities will look like in the near future. Thank you again for your hard work, commitment and giving. May the Holy Spirit guide us all in our future together, as we move forward in Hope.

Fr. Martin

### **Welcomers Group**

The welcomers group first met in November 2012 following a request from the pastoral council to move forward two of the four priorities set by the parish at the parish meeting earlier that year. The priorities set were:

1. To have a welcoming parish
2. That parishioners share their gifts and talents

The welcomers group is open to all in the parish, has a constructive and friendly meeting every two months and is currently regularly attended by Margaret Brumwell, Sheila Conway, Kelechi Dibia, Sheila Hamilton, Elizabeth Howell, Jean Potts, Beverley Prevatt Goldstein and Judy Whitfield.

In order to assist in making the parish a more welcoming place the welcomers introduced the custom of greeting parishioners before the weekend Masses and having twice monthly coffee mornings in the porch. Both have been appreciated by many in the parish. Both also depend on the goodwill and friendliness of many in the parish, not only in greeting, pouring coffee, making cakes, cleaning up but equally important in

sharing a friendly greeting, staying to chat during the coffee morning, making a small donation. These donations benefit our neighbours near and far with sums up to £100 going to:

- Medecins Sans Frontiers
- Newcastle Carers Group
- Nepal Earthquake Appeal
- Medical Aid for Palestinians
- Byker/ Heaton Fuel Poverty support

In order to assist with the sharing of talents and gifts we devised the parish information form, bit tedious to complete, but so useful in enabling us to serve our parish community. We have been able to utilise the computer skills in the parish to get this data base (nearly 300 now!) up and running but still some way to go.

A third priority of the parish was the religious life of the parish and we started the prayer basket so that we can share the gift of prayer and support each other.

We know that each of us is in our own way sharing our gifts and making our parish a more welcoming place. But we need more help to do this together:

- Can you join us in greeting (DBS check needed), or baking or serving at the coffee morning?
- Can you join us in the coffee morning in the porch, even for a little while?

- Have you completed your parish information form? Is there something you can offer? Is there something you need? Tell us again!
- Do put your prayer in the prayer basket. Its anonymous.
- What do you think we should be doing?

Tell one of the welcomers and join us at our meetings!

### **Spirituality**

The spiritual life of the Church continues to grow through regular spiritual activities:

the celebration of the Eucharist at weekly and daily mass; the Good News and Exploring the Word of God groups. During Lent, we met weekly to follow the diocesan “Seven Faces of Mercy” programme. Each session was led by a different person, which gave us a range of perspectives. This led us to start monthly Salt of the Earth meetings which provide parishioners with opportunities to reflect on different aspects of their faith in a variety of ways. Some parishioners have attended a course on Catholic spirituality entitled 'Do You Love Me?' and some have attended days of renewal and retreat at Minsteracres. The Year of Mercy has invited us all to deepen our relationship with Jesus and to encourage others to renew their commitment. Although we have a range of meetings to nurture spirituality, if you would like any other activities, please contact me, Fr. Martin or Fr. Paddy so that we can grow and flourish as a faith community.

*Janet Wallbank*

### **Forward Together in Hope**

This Diocesan programme, initiated by Bishop Seamus has now been running since 2014. We have been given more information about the Diocese than ever before and been consulted (in depth) about the way forward for Parish life. Parishioners responded in great numbers in St Teresa’s, to complete the main questionnaire and this was reflected in the “Observations” document we received back from the FTH team this summer.

This document was a commentary on our questionnaire responses – some of the comments include: “ *Your community is very involved with ...the quality of life of others in the wider local community ... with the quality of life of others in the wider world*”. Also, very importantly, considering our next steps: “*Your community is very open to the possibility of developing closer relationships with neighbouring local communities*”

The next stage we have been asked to consider is working in partnership with other Parishes. Parishioners have been asked to fill in short form and also attend a meeting to consider this. Fr Martin, Fr Patrick and I have attended a Deanery meeting to look at partnerships and all parishioners have been invited to attend a Vicariate meeting on the same topic.

A Partnership Proposal document then needs to be completed by the Parishes working together, given back to their parishes to review and sent to the FTH team by the end of November. These documents will form a plan to be considered by the Bishop and decisions made on partnerships next year.

All FTH information is regularly updated and displayed on the noticeboard at the back of church and in the newsletter. Please continue to think about and pray for a successful transition to new Parish arrangements across our Diocese.

*Sarah Bell*

### **Children's Liturgy.**

We currently have 3 volunteers who are happy to lead Children's liturgy and 1 volunteer who is happy to help any of the leaders. We would love 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*

### **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**

This year sadly saw the death of Paul Ruane who has led the group with his amazing fiddle playing for many years. His requiem mass was a tribute to a life lived with great joy and service to others. He will be greatly missed.

The music group continues to support the parish liturgy throughout the year with fortnightly masses including 5 special masses for children's communion preparation

There have been many joyous occasions this year but Fr. Michael's jubilee mass stands out as a very happy and uplifting liturgy. We were very grateful for the talents of Martin Hoile and Cath, Dave and all the singers from St. Robert's , Fenham who came to support the group.

We joined together again for our first music group wedding in July where Helen, one of our clarinet players was married to John.

We continue to work closely with Maggie and Rita our organists to provide music all year round and have made the Easter liturgies very much a joint effort.

We're grateful to our younger musicians now away at college or working in other cities who always offer their talents at Easter and Christmas. This year we added an international dimension to our carols as Kelechi taught us a rousing Igbo chorus "Bia Ja Yamma"

We hope to add more international songs to our repertoire and would be happy to receive new ideas.

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

*Andrea Hayes*

## Ecumenism

St. Teresa's is an important part of the family of churches in Heaton. Our relationship with other churches has become very close in recent years and continues to develop.

This year has been a time of celebrations and changes in our Churches Together group; as well as FR. Michael's retirement, Diana Macnaughton vicar of St. Silas has retired and Mark Elder, Heaton Baptist minister will be taking up a new post in Worcester at the end of October.

A sad change has been the loss of Elim church from our group as their pastor and congregation felt they needed to put all their efforts into the new Dream Centre on Heaton Rd.

We have worked and prayed together as a Christian community in Heaton supporting our local community and the wider world.

The Christmas presents event again provided over 200 gifts for the homeless at the People's Kitchen and this year the Christmas Angels provided gifts for children in St. Silas parish who were in great need.

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

A fantastic effort was made by all the churches to provide for refugees in the camp in Dunkirk in conjunction with our local councillors.

Other joint activities this year were

- Celebration of Christian Unity at Heaton Methodist Church
- Lent courses at Heaton Churches churches open to all
- Good Friday walk of witness supported by musicians from Heaton Baptist, Dancers from St. Teresa's school and with prayerful contributions from clergy from every church in Heaton attended by over 100 people.
- The Dawn service in the park on Easter morning; a firm favourite with early risers, with breakfast hosted in St. Teresa's Church Hall.
- Volunteers working together to refurbish Martha & Mary's café

- The Open Doors event in September which welcomed the local community to come in to all the churches down Heaton Rd.

I'd also like to thank our dedicated group of youngsters, Owen, Daniel, Rory, Kieran and Dominic who offered their time over the summer in Heaton Park keeping the thistles at bay in 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*

## Report on Youth Activities

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

This year 24 children made their First Holy Communion in May. They were prepared for the sacrament by a team of catechists, under the leadership of their class teachers Catherine McKenzie and Tracy Allan-Baker. We would like to especially thank Fr Michael and Janet Purdy for their invaluable support and close working relationship with parents. Both have recently retired from their posts within the parish and will be greatly missed.

The First Holy Communion celebration this year was a memorable event, enabling the whole parish to come together and join in this special celebration. Once again, the children raised funds at coffee mornings held after First Holy Communion masses. A total of £325 was raised which went towards supporting a village in Malawi. We congratulate the children and their families for this excellent effort.

### CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Although this year confirmations were not held in St Teresa's, our recently confirmed young people were invited to a parish trip to The Source, a monthly gathering for Y9 to Y12 students in St Mary's Cathedral.

The idea of follow up events and spiritual, social and service to others after confirmation, is something which we hope can be explored further. Following Fr. Michael's final Sunday mass in the parish two of our young parishioners presented him with a framed keepsake of photographs of the two confirmation groups he led. Some of the ideas from the course he developed were used in the new diocesan confirmation guidelines released last year.

#### JOHN PAUL II AWARDS

The John Paul II award scheme is an initiative from Ireland recently introduced into our diocese enabling young people to take an active part in the life of their Church – in the life of their community and society. Two sixth form students from St Mary's School have been assigned to our parish and can be seen helping with the Fairtrade stall, church fairs and other activities. We wish them luck in completing their award.

#### FAIRTRADE

For several years, the Fairtrade stall has been run in the Church porch by young parishioners on the first weekend of each month after both masses. This year we raised £150 during Fairtrade fortnight through a coffee morning and quiz. The money was donated to Fairtrade charities to help producers in developing countries.

#### CAFOD GIFTS FOR LIFE

This is a youth inspired venture started by some of our young confirmation parishioners and their families two years ago. This was an original idea from the young people of our Parish. They raise funds through cake stalls and coffee mornings following key parish events and use the money to buy CAFOD gifts for life on behalf of the parish. Such initiative in young people is to be applauded and as a parish we thank them.

#### LOURDES YOUTH

This year once again young members of our parish travelled to Lourdes with the youth section of the Hexham and Newcastle Diocesan Pilgrimage

to help sick and disabled pilgrims. They included sixth form students from St Mary's school, university students and young workers including one of the young teachers from our school. If any young people in the parish, aged 16-25, feel they would like to join the Lourdes Youth section on next year's pilgrimage, please contact us for further details.

#### CITY YOUTH GROUP

The City Youth Group, a group of adults with a special interest in Youth Ministry, was formed following the mission to our secondary schools in 2013 and meetings have been regularly attended by Fr Michael and other parish members. The group produces regular newsletters reporting on current activities in our three catholic high schools. This is distributed in parishes throughout the city. Our parish was the first in the city to contribute parish news to the bulletin, reporting on our confirmation group and CAFOD Gifts for Life. The group is also supporting students attending the Flame congress in Wembley next year via fundraising at the November parish quiz. Anyone wishing to become involved in the group would be most welcome.

#### SUMMARY

We are very fortunate to have so many active young people associated with our parish, giving their time and talents to help others. We wish them every success in their futures and we pray for them as they continue on their faith journey.

*Patricia Henzell*

#### **Church Cleaners**

We meet after 10.00am Mass on the last Friday of each month and our cleaning duties usually take about an hour followed by a coffee and biscuit. We also do some extra cleaning at Christmas and Easter these dates being advertised in the Parish Bulletin.

Several of our team have given many, many years dedicated to church cleaning but are now getting on in years and looking to “retire” therefore we would be delighted to welcome new volunteers, please speak to a Welcomer at Mass if you can help. Alternative times can be arranged if our usual dates are not convenient.

The Parish would like to acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the work the team has done over the years to help maintain our church.

*Margaret Brumwell*

### **Church Flower Arrangers Report**

- Flowers are usually replaced every two to three weeks or freshened up as appropriate.
- Once again themes have been incorporated into the floral displays when appropriate. This year for the first time members of the congregation built up a poppy cross on Remembrance Sunday.
- This year there have been several larger floral arrangements in church to celebrate special events, in particular the Golden Jubilees of Fr. Michael and F. Patrick, as well as First Holy Communions and weddings.
- This year St Teresa’s was represented at St Dominic’s Flower Festival celebrating 800 years of the Dominican order. St Teresa’s display was in memory of Fr. Adrian Dowling OP who had a great devotion to St Therese of Lisieux. He was a local boy who grew up in Jesmond Vale in 1930’s and eventually became prior of our neighbouring parish.
- We would like to thank those parishioners who regularly donate money towards Church flowers and would gratefully welcome any donations, particularly around Easter or Christmas.

- We would warmly welcome any new volunteers to join a flower arranging rota. Even if you have no previous experience but feel you have the time and would like to help, please get in touch.

*Patricia Henzell*

### **Safeguarding Report**

Ten parishioners have had DBS clearance since the last AGM. There are now 58 volunteers in roles who have clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS formerly CRB). These roles include Catechists, Children’s Liturgy Group Workers, Eucharistic Ministers, Church Welcomers, Parish Administrator, Leader of Music group/choir, Church Organist, Home Visitors, and Helpers at Lourdes Pilgrimage, Parish Safeguarding Representative.

I work closely with the staff at the Diocese Safeguarding office who provide advice and answers to questions I raise on a regular basis. They also provide training and I have completed two e- learning Safeguarding courses this year (Adult and Child Protection).

I would like to thank all of our volunteers who have worked really hard in getting their applications processed.

*Jean Potts, Parish Safeguarding Representative*

### **APF – Mill Hill Missions Red Box Collections**

We have collected the amounts shown in the table below from a relatively small number of parishioners who are red box holders. Despite the falling numbers we have managed to exceed the totals achieved in the previous years. This is a great result.



Number of Red box holders	Year	Collection Total
46	2010	£1245.62
44	2011	£1378.19
42	2012	£1282.12
39	2013	£1421.16
39	2014	£1220.92
31	2015	£1453.32

**APF-Mill Missions are extremely grateful to parishioners for their generosity and support.**

The Red Box is a money box which parishioners can use to put their small change in on a regular basis. The Red Box money is then collected twice a year at Church (Jean Potts) or by contacting Collectors (Sarah Bell and Madeleine. King). APF leaflets with information on how the money is used and a Christmas Calendar are also distributed to Red Box Holders twice a year by Collectors.

**APF-Mill Hill needs more Red Box Holders as the demands for funding are always rising with the poverty, wars, earthquakes and disasters in different parts of the world.**

**So please contact one of the Collectors for a Red Box and start filling it with money.**

*Jean Potts Local Secretary/Treasurer APF-Mill Hill*

**Tuesday Ladies**

Our group meets weekly in the presbytery, on a Tuesday between 2 -3.30. There are currently about 10 regular members and we enjoy a range of social events and fundraise for the parish. Our main fundraisers are the jumble sales held in the church hall, usually in February, May and October and an annual raffle. New members are very welcome to join us – please contact *Ann Knowles*

### **Parish Social Calendar**

Social events are an excellent way of building our parish community and also establishing links with other groups such as our school, neighbouring parishes and other local community organisations. They are also a good way of fundraising for our parish and other charities and worthy causes both locally, nationally and further afield. Several social activities take place within our parish every year, a selection of which is listed below: -

- **COFFEE MORNINGS**  
This year regular coffee mornings have been held in the church porch after 11am mass and are a popular social gathering for parishioners. Any money collected on these occasions is donated to charity. As previously mentioned special First Holy Communion coffee mornings were held in the hall for children, families and parishioners after each First Holy Communion mass promoting links between our school and parish.
- **PARISH QUIZES**  
On the first Thursday of each month Val and Tony Ingoe run a charity quiz in St Teresa’s Club. The quiz is a light hearted social event to which all parishioners are invited. During the past year monies raised have gone to support several good causes including HCPT, Medecins Sans Frontieres, Little Sisters of the Poor and RNLI.

- **CHURCH FAIRS**

As usual our Christmas Fair was held on the last Saturday in November, and the Summer Fair on the first Saturday in July. Once again they were great social occasions bringing together parishioners, families from our school and the local community. The two events raised over £3000 to support our parish and school. This year's Christmas fair will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> November at 12 noon and everyone is most welcome.

- **SOCIAL EVENTS**

The two most notable social events this year were the Golden Jubilees of Fr Michael and Fr Patrick. The social gatherings following the celebration masses for each priest were great successes and enjoyed by all who attended.

In addition to the events listed above, there are other groups within our parish offering opportunities for parishioners to meet socially: as mentioned in their own report, the Tuesday Ladies Group meets every week; Heaton Churches Together services are often followed by a social gathering for refreshments.

Should anyone have any ideas for future social events or fundraising please let us know and we will give you every support.

*Patricia Henzell and Sarah Bell*

### **Report of the Finance Committee**

The financial position of the Parish improved in the year to 31 March 2016.

Compared with the previous year, our total income for general purposes rose from £54,572 to £59,598, which was reflected in the surplus before repairs and renewals, which rose from £18,800 to £23,672.

After paying for repairs and renewals, we broke even for the year, with a small surplus of £322 compared with a deficit of £8,913 last year.

Much of the £23,350 spent on repairs and renewals related to the Hall, including meeting the legal requirement for an accessible toilet. We did not (as we feared we might last year) have to draw on reserves to meet this, which remain about £64,000.

£6,243 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 recovered from £7,450 to a record £9,851 – we had lost income during refurbishment the previous year. Our normal fund-raisers, the Summer and Christmas Fairs, raised £3,676, shared with the School, slightly up. Our running costs fell slightly from £30,332 to £29,780.

Our collections rose for a second year after four previous years of decline, from £30,888 to £32,732. Our special collections, for the wider Church outside the Parish, increased from £3,667 to £4,741. 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, Frank Conway, Brian Dale (Treasurer), Anne Grant (Parish Secretary) and Paul Grant (Clerk of Works). Fr. Michael and the Committee would like to thank the many others involved in keeping the Parish solvent, including Conrad Cairns (Gift Aid returns), Jeff Handrihan (cashier), Tony Ingoe (sidesmen organiser) and Madeleine King (book-keeper).

**Mark Hayes**

*Chair of the Finance Committee, 6 July 2016*

Income and expenditure account		
Years ended 31 March	2015	2016
Income from congregation		
Special collections	3,667	4,741
Income for general purposes	54,572	59,598
General expenses	<u>30,332</u>	<u>29,780</u>
Basic surplus	24,240	29,818
Contribution to School	575	1,235
Contribution to Diocese	4,865	4,911
Surplus before repairs and renewals	18,800	23,672
Repairs and renewals	27,713	23,350
<b>Overall surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(8,913)</b>	<b>322</b>
Movement on special collections	226	(155)
Change in reserves	(8,687)	167

Notes to the accounts		
Years ended 31 March	2015	2016
<b>Income for general purposes</b>		
Offertories	30,888	32,732
Gift Aid rebate	5,212	5,064
Other Donations & misc. net income	7,451	8,275
	<u>43,551</u>	<u>46,071</u>
<b>Other income</b>		
rents	7,450	9,851
fundraising net of expenses	3,571	3,676
interest	-	-
	<u>54,572</u>	<u>59,598</u>
<b>General expenses</b>		
Church requisites	3,574	1,921
Administration	9,485	9,905
Housekeeping	1,718	1,645
Electric, gas and water	8,523	7,958
Clergy allowances and cars	7,032	8,078
Wages to paid staff	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	273
	<u>30,332</u>	<u>29,780</u>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Bank current account	9,810	21,868
Diocesan account	54,182	42,291
total assets	<u>63,992</u>	<u>64,159</u>
School reserve	5,760	6,243
General reserve	58,232	57,916
	<u>63,992</u>	<u>64,159</u>