

Clergy

Fr Mariadass

Pastoral Council

Rayson Thomas

Kelechi Dibie

Sue Clarke (until March 2018)

Kathleen Gregor

Andrea Hayes

Vinny Turner (ex officio as Head of St Teresa's Primary School)

Douglas Lamb

Michael Potts (Chair)

Janet Wallbank

Anne Grant (co-opted)

Tony Ingoe

Norma Kennedy

Mark Hayes (ex officio as chair of Finance committee)

Finance Committee

John Byrne (Deputy Chair)

Thomas Newman

Brian Dale (Treasurer)

Mark Hayes (Chair)

Madeleine King (Deputy Treasurer)

Anne Grant

Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council

Looking back to the minutes of the first meeting of the Pastoral Council in September 2017 there certainly have been a few changes over the past year. We have lost Father Martin after a very short time and gained Father Mariadass; mass times have changed and we are growing slowly into the partnership with St Aidan's. We have had several successful joint events including the parish walk and the barbecue and we continue to be active members of Heaton Churches Together: we continue to be a separate parish but we operate in partnership with St Aidan's and play an active part in the Jesmond St Mary Partnership.

As we reflect on this year of change we must not be complacent and think that the period of change is over. There will be a Joint Finance Committee and a Joint Pastoral Council but we will continue to be St Teresa's with our own school together with our own ethos and values.

As we continue to deal with the changes that are occurring we need to remain positive remembering what Winston Churchill said: to improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often. We need to remember this as we go forward together in hope.

Mike Potts

Report from the Parish Priest

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, a Carmelite saint once said, 'I have found heaven here on earth' is the message to all who are part of St. Teresa's Parish community and everyone who comes to this beautiful Church for worship. My sincere thanks to everyone who contributes generously towards building up of God's kingdom in our Praying community. Your spiritual, social and economic support are very much appreciated. Thanks a million! I must thank particularly the parish and finance councils for their support and guidance over a year, also special thanks to St. Teresa's school community, different groups, ministers, readers, Catechists, altar servers, and newly formed youth group etc. Please continue to render your generous service to this parish community and beyond.

Please do remember to pray for our sick and housebound, the deceased members of our community who worked so hard to build this community and

Notes to the accounts		
Years ended 31 March	2017	2018
Income for general purposes		
Offeratories	33,229	31,196
Gift Aid rebate	4,879	5,623
Other Donations & misc. net income	8,196	5,610
	<u>46,304</u>	<u>42,429</u>
Other income		
rents	11,725	11,360
fundraising net of expenses	3,660	2,500
	<u>61,689</u>	<u>56,289</u>
General expenses		
Church requisites	2,721	3,106
Administration	11,164	10,307
Housekeeping	1,841	1,260
Electric, gas and water	14,207	7,723
Paid staff	-	2,425
Clergy allowances and cars	8,277	4,953
Miscellaneous	629	449
	<u>38,839</u>	<u>30,223</u>
Reserves		
Bank current account	17,722	14,755
Diocesan account	47,170	41,299
total assets	<u>64,892</u>	<u>56,054</u>
School reserve	4,513	-
General reserve	60,379	56,054
	<u>64,892</u>	<u>56,054</u>

Income and expenditure account		
Years ended 31 March	2017	2018
Income from congregation		
Special collections	5,231	3,174
Income for general purposes	61,689	56,289
General expenses	38,839	30,223
Basic surplus	22,850	26,066
Contribution to School	3,435	4,500
Contribution to Diocese	5,297	5,510
Surplus before repairs and renewals	14,118	16,056
Repairs and renewals	13,385	24,969
Overall surplus/(deficit)	733	(8,913)
Movement on special collections	-	75
Change in reserves	733	(8,838)

have handed on to us the tradition, now it is our turn to safely pass it on to our next generation, our children and grandchildren.

In the words of prophet Ezekiel let us be a running water, fresh and full of life in it, as Jesus says producing thirty, sixty and hundred fold according to our ability. Each one of us are entrusted with a particular task, gift and talent to set up heaven here on earth, how are we going to use those God given gifts individually and collectively? It is a question to be asked.

One of my pastoral priorities for our community in the future is to make more young people and children involved. I would like to expect a shared ministry in our church and beyond, therefore, and need many more volunteers to support and strengthen the community. Yes, together, let us grow in holiness. Accordingly, a new youth council, a joint finance council for St. Teresa's and St. Aidan's and a new parish advisory group for each parish will be formed. A new form of journey in faith program will start towards the end of November leading up to Easter, this program will be extended next year as Partnership Journey in faith Programme.

A long awaited piece of good news is here that In few weeks time ,Fr. John Ulaganathan OCD will join our community; Fr. John is a member of the world wide Carmelite Order of the Tamilnadu Province, India. He has been a priest for 13 years and has loads of pastoral experience in India, Ireland and Israel. Fr. John will be assisting me with parish work and sometime hospital work as well.

Finally, friends, let us find heaven here on earth by serving the community, by loving people unconditionally and making peace with everyone.
*O divine master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console
to be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love
For it is in giving that we receive
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.*
It's in pardoning that we are pardoned says St. Francis. I came to serve not to be served says Jesus, so, let us be in service to each other. "Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest thing right and doing it all for love." says St. Therese. Let us continue to move forward together in hope for Agape. LOVE with a gentle smile on our faces like St. Therese. May God's blessings be with us all.

Fr. Mariadass

Welcomers Group

The Welcomers group has now been active in St. Teresa's Parish since 2012 and came into existence to:

- primarily to help create a more welcoming parish;
- to learn of and share the gifts and talents of the parishioners;

We sincerely hope we are succeeding in our first aim and with the invaluable assistance from Tony Ingoe and his incredible knowledge of many of the parishioners the welcomers have becoming a familiar and hopefully, approachable sight to many.

Coffee after Mass was introduced to help make the parish a more welcoming place especially for newcomers and this has now expanded to almost every Sunday. It would not be possible for the coffee mornings to take place without the goodwill, dedication and friendliness of the bakers and those serving the tea and coffee. We would like to extend a huge thank you to each and everyone of you for giving of your time and enthusiasm so generously. To many of the parishioners the coffee mornings are an opportunity to catch up with friends old and new and their generous donations have enabled us to assist many charities at home and abroad, these include St. Cuthbert's Care, Medical aid for Palestinians, Little Sisters of the Poor, Medecins Sans Frontieres, Byker/Heaton Fuel Poverty Support. A more complete list showing the charities supported is in the church porch.

The second aim of the Welcomers was to learn of the gifts and talents of the parishioners and this information is gathered from the parish information sheet which we encourage people to complete, especially new members. These forms are an important tool in assessing numbers in the parish and how best to serve the community. Some of the talent in the parish can be seen in the Music Group, the flowers in the church and of course the bakers to name but a few. A very important gift we have in St. Teresa's is our very diverse congregation and this was beautifully illustrated recently at the International Mass and Shared Lunch.

The Prayer Basket was introduced as a way of offering prayer and support to each other and continues to be used regularly.

The Committee this year included John Byrne (Deputy Chair), Brian Dale (Treasurer), Anne Grant, Madeleine King (Deputy Treasurer) and Thomas Newman. Fr Mariadass 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), Margaret Brumwell (cashier) and Tony Ingoe (sidesmen organiser).

Mark Hayes

Chair of the Finance Committee, 3 July 2018

Report of the Finance Committee

Report of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee presents its report and accounts for the financial year-ended 31 March 2018. The financial position of the Parish has somewhat deteriorated. Our reserves have fallen from just under £65,000 to about £56,000. About half of the overall deficit of £8,913 was accounted for by a back payment of £4,500 to St Teresa's School. In future any payments due from the Church to the School will be settled within the year. On a positive note the basic surplus (before contributions to the School and Diocese and the cost of repairs and renewals) rose from £22,850 to £26,066. This is perhaps the best measure of the sustainability of the Parish finances. Our annual repair bills over the last 10 years have averaged £25,000 and the Diocesan levy about £5,000.

Compared with the previous year, our total income for general purposes fell from £61,689 to £56,289. Spending on repairs and renewals was up from £13,385 to £24,969, which included the new carpet in the Porch together with repairs to the kitchen and the creation of a Parish Room and new Office within the Presbytery. These costs would have been much higher without the help of Paul Grant, to whom we are indebted. Other spending fell from £38,839 to £30,223, which was accounted for by a fall in energy costs and in the clergy allowance, which is now shared with St Aidan's.

Comparing this year with last, our income from renting out the Hall was more or less sustained at £11,360, thanks as ever to the dedication and hard work of Anne Grant, to whom we remain most grateful. We also gratefully received a £1,000 contribution from St Aidan's towards the running costs of the Presbytery.

Our collections fell from £33,229 to £31,196, although Gift Aid rose from £4,879 to £5,623. Income from the Summer and Christmas fairs fell from £3,660 to £2,500 but in fact we were no worse off on balance since we did not have to share the Summer fair revenue with the School. Our special collections, for the wider Church outside the Parish, fell from £5,231 to £3,174. These figures understate parishioners' generosity because they do not include money raised within the Parish that goes directly to the charities concerned, such as the coffee donations.

The Welcomers Group approached the Parish Council after listening to parishioners requesting the need for baby changing/feeding facilities and we are delighted to report that these are now in place. Is there anything we might be able to help you with?

Would you like to join us, we meet every two months and would be delighted to see you.

Margaret Brumwell

Spirituality

Sunday and week day masses are central to our spirituality but there are additional ways in which parishioners can grow spiritually. When mass isn't available in either parish, Celebration of the Word and Communion takes place, enabling parishioners to hear the Liturgy of the Word and to receive communion.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place from 6 o'clock before evening mass at 6.30 on Wednesdays. The Rosary group meets on a Thursday evening once a month.

Exploring the Word of God continues to meet on Monday afternoons at 2 pm in the porch. The group reflects on the readings for the following Sunday, developing a deeper understanding of the Liturgy of the Word, as well as exploring contemporary issues in the light of the readings. Last year we ran a *Journey in Faith group* which will run again this year, giving people an opportunity to learn more about their faith. This is for people who want to learn about the Catholic faith but also for Catholics who want to deepen their own understanding.

Through the partnership *Come to the Well and Drink* course has been offered at St. Lawrence's and will be repeated in another partnership parish next year. This course explores different ways of praying and gives people the time and space to try different approaches to spending time in prayer.

If you would like to suggest anything which would enhance the spiritual life of the church, please contact either Fr. Mariadass or Janet Wallbank.

Partnership Development Group.

The Jesmond St. Mary Partnership, of which we are a member, has looked at Formation, Communication and Spirituality this year. We have a Partnership litany and have offered the 'Come to the Well and Drink' course at St. Lawrence's. There has been some progress towards setting up a Partnership web site. The focus this year will be on Youth and Outreach. Our Dean, Fr. Campion, had to step down due to ill health. Fr. Sean Hall has taken over as Dean.

I'm sure the partnership seems remote to many parishioners but I would encourage you to read Partnership Matters (available on the Diocesan web site) and to pray that as a Partnership, we may grow and learn from each other.

Janet Wallbank

Gift Aid

Firstly, thank you to everybody who contributes financially to St. Teresa's, either by the collection, by Gift Aiding your contribution or by offering your services to the parish voluntarily. If you are a U.K taxpayer, you can increase your contribution by 25p for every pound you give, simply by filling in a Gift Aid form. You can then either put your collection money in a Gift Aid envelope or set up a Standing Order through your bank. The Gift Aid is calculated on the total amount of money which is given under the Gift Aid scheme so if you £1.00 or £100, every contribution counts and helps to raise money for St. Teresa's at no extra cost to you. If you need to withdraw from the scheme, there is a simple form to sign and we'll take you out of the system. It really is that easy.

Please see Brian Dale, Conrad Cairns or Janet Wallbank for further information.

corresponding school activities.

It was agreed that a termly partnership mass in the school would be a good idea and possibly an afternoon tea for the partnership parishioners, also in the school.

Church Cleaners

The cleaning of the church usually takes place after Mass on the first Friday of each month by a small team of dedicated parishioners who, following their workout with vacuum cleaners and dusters, enjoy a well deserved cup of coffee and biscuits.

If you feel you can help with the cleaning of our beautiful church please give your name and contact details to a Welcomer at Mass.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team for all their efforts in helping to keep our church so clean and tidy.

Margaret Brumwell

Altar servers.

We have been very fortunate in having our two senior servers Laura who continues to serve after ten years and Lucia who has served for six years but gone off to university this September

We had an influx of new servers when Fr. Mariadass arrived, but sadly numbers have decreased with one or two changing schools and no longer want to serve. Thankyou to our regular servers who do their best to attend mass and serve the parish.

It can be difficult to get the children and their parents to commit to attending Mass regularly, and holiday times are particularly difficult to cover so that on occasions we haven't had a server for Sunday morning Mass.

It's a real privilege to serve on the altar and I urge parents to encourage their children, boys and girls, to come forward and give up their time once a week to serve God, parishioners and the priest.

Anne Grant

The John Paul II volunteers attended a Diocesan Award ceremony in February at the Tyne Theatre. It was inspiring to see so many young people from across the whole diocese, contributing in so many ways to their parish communities. One of our young volunteers was chosen to speak at the ceremony and explained how much he had enjoyed helping at Little Sisters Home in Benwell.

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. All cakes and refreshments made and sold during that period, went towards supporting CAFOD.

The Fairtrade stall continues to be run by our young parishioners 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.

1st Communion Preparation has started this year for Year 4. Catechists from the parish are helping to run sessions on a Saturday morning and support the school. The children will be participating in a number of Sunday masses linked with each of their preparation topics. Parishioners are asked to sign up and pray for one of the First Communion class at the back of church.

Confirmation ran last year in the Partnership grouping, with the initial support and leadership of St Mary's Catholic School. The Confirmation mass took place in November 2017 in St Teresa's Church for all the Partnership parishes.

Partnership Youth Activities – In September, a group of interested Parishioners from Holy Name and St Teresa's met with the Head of RE at St Mary's Catholic school to discuss how youth activities could be better co-ordinated in the new partnership structure. This followed on from a couple of informal meetings earlier in the year. The Head of RE is also the vice-chair of our Partnership and so is keen to see progress in this area.

The first issue identified was a lack of communication between school and parishes – we didn't know what happened in school and school didn't know what happened in the parishes. A two way communication between the partnership parishes and the school seemed to be the most important priority, hopefully through informal sharing in parish newsletters. In particular we agreed to let school know what happens on Youth Sunday in the parishes, so that can be highlighted in the

Children's Liturgy.

We currently have 4 volunteers who are happy to lead Children's liturgy and 3 volunteers who are 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 9:00-11:00, 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

Music Group

The music group has continued to support liturgies in the parish, playing every fortnight throughout the year. We have been blessed with new members for the group (Ellen, Jonah, Oriana, Cath and Dave) who give their time & talents when they can. We've also welcomed a new music group baby, Lily, born to Alethea & Joe in April .

We have provided music for 2 International masses and joined with singers from Holy Name & St. Aidan's to support young people of our partnership receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. We have also renewed our links with our primary school and are working together to create meaningful liturgies for their first communion preparation masses during the year.

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.

Our sad news has been the death of Gillian Tolfrey, our lovely fiddle player who also shared singing the psalm with Sarah. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

Andrea Hayes

Ecumenism

It has been another very busy year for our local churches in 2018.

The Christmas presents event provided 290 gifts for the homeless at the People's Kitchen

St Teresa's hosted a prayerful & thought provoking service for Christian Unity in January. Our Women's World Day of Prayer service finally happened in May at Heaton Methodist church after being postponed owing to the very snowy weather in March.

We have continued to meet and worship together with joint activities for Lent and Easter, St Teresa's leading a Palm Sunday stations of the cross at St. Gabriel's and an evening of prayer & reflection on the environment & Laudato Si supported by an ecumenical choir. Our Good Friday service at Hadrian Square was organised by St. Silas church and the Dawn service on Easter Day by St. Gabriel's followed by a wonderful breakfast at Heaton Baptist Church.

A highlight of the year was the Open House event in June where the Heaton churches open their doors wide to the people of Heaton and invite them in for all sorts of activities from community fairs to talks on local history. Our day at St. Teresa's was very successful with an exhibition of the history of the church building ,craft activities, a display of vestments and explanation of the symbols and colours of the liturgical seasons. The biggest hit with the public was a chance to have a go at flower arranging which was enjoyed by young and old alike. Many thanks go to the 'flower arranging team' for sharing their skills and making people feel so welcome.

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

Youth Activities

We are now in the third 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 carried out the Volunteer strand of their Duke of Edinburgh award in the parish.