

PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

*Minutes of the Parish Annual General Meeting
St Joseph's Hall – 11th May 2010*

The meeting began with a prayer and Fr Stephen welcomed everyone.

Outline of meeting:

- ❖ Parish Priest's report
- ❖ Presentation of the accounts
- ❖ Election of new Parish Council members

Parish Priest's Report:

Fr Stephen gave a summary of the past year in the parish. He said it had been a full year for sacramental preparation led by the Catechists for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11am Mass and 4 people had been received into the church.

There are many active parish organisations including CWL, One World Group now amalgamated from the two former parishes and working well in real charity, SVP, Parish Council and Fabrics and Finance Committee.

There are two Deacons exercising their ministry within the parish and one in training. The Youth Club continues to meet and is hoping to start another group for older teenagers. The Sisters of Mercy do much pastoral work within the parish.

There have been 38 Baptisms and 39 deaths within the last year and on average 550 - 560 worshippers attend Mass each week.

There are more records to keep each year, Health & Safety for example, which increases the amount of paperwork.

Mr Mason is retiring as head teacher of St Augustine's School in July and a new head has been appointed for September.

The parish continues to grow in strength and there is a keen sense of activity.

Presentation of the Accounts:

The Parish Treasurer, **Mr Jim Logan**, presented the accounts. Printed copies were distributed.

The Parish has received a substantial legacy in the past year and £10,000 – 12,000 of this will be used to purchase a statue of St Joseph for the new church to go with the existing statues we have of Our Lady and St Augustine. The question was asked if there was a form parishioners could fill in should they wish to leave a legacy to the parish. Fr Stephen stated he would have some available and reminded everyone that a legacy is better to be left for general purposes, that is, without caveats, if possible.

Regarding the new church, £950,000 is held in investments and £1,000,000 is the budget allocated for the building and will not be exceeded if at all possible. Portland church and presbytery is on the market for £250,000 and this will go towards investment or, if necessary, towards the overall cost of the building work.

Building Programme

Mr Michael Grove (Building Project Manager) gave an update on the building programme. Progress has been slow due to listing etc and having to work with the Diocesan Liturgy Commission, WPBC. The Diocese has insisted we employ an ecclesiastical architect. This has added £50,000 to the cost and a consultant engineer is also involved.

The work is in three parts - renovation of presbytery (complete), improvements to St Joseph's church and a new hall. Mr Grove thanked to the building group for their input and enthusiasm. The present St Joseph's Hall will be demolished; the new hall will be nearer the road with some car parking for the church. It will be on two floors, one large room on the top floor or three rooms divided by partition, for church activities and one toilet on the first floor. The ground floor will be one big room, a kitchen with serving hatch, toilets and a lift to the first floor. There will be a patio door for access so people may sit outside and a gate for security. Toilets will be accessible during Mass but there will be no access to the rest of the building. Existing hall activities will continue at St Augustine's. St Augustine's will not be kept as a church.

Work on the hall may start before the church, hopefully in the early autumn and the same people may tender for the church as well.

Planned work on St Joseph's Church will involve the side walls being moved out to create more space, the choir/gallery extended out, the servers' sacristy doubled in size, the confessional moved to the altar side and the Baptismal font back to the repository area.

The windows in the church will be open to provide ventilation and not sealed as at present. The roof will be insulated and the walls will have built-in insulation to guard against loss of heat.

Once permission is given from the Diocesan Liturgy Commission, the altar, statues and tabernacle plinth will be moved to the new church from St Augustine's. The current altar at St Joseph's will be moved back on the wall and the one from St Augustine's placed nearer the front.

Our case will hopefully be at the Historic Churches Commission meeting in June.

Election of new Parish Council members

Four places are vacant on the Parish Council. Registered members of the Parish, present at the meeting, were given a list of people nominated and asked to vote for four people. The papers were then folded and placed in the box. Fr Stephen stated he would count the votes after the meeting, assisted by Sister Aquin, and once they had been verified, he would inform the successful parishioners and announce the results at all Masses the following weekend.

The meeting ended with a prayer and blessing from Fr Stephen.