

Dear Parishioners,

Latest News from the Parish Council

Your Parish Council met on 15th July 2021 and many things were discussed.

Teresa Shipston joined the Council as Replacement for Community Outreach. We welcome Teresa to the Council and look forward to working with her.

Plans to revise the Parish history Blue Book are coming along well.

Members are meeting to discuss the way forward with the Friends of St Francis de Sales group. We look forward to sharing the outcome of their discussions.

Our 200 Club has been finalised and is now open for membership- please see the notice in the newsletter for all the information you will need to join.

Funds for the Thatch are slowly increasing and the £1 Contribution per week by parishioners has been well received and will greatly help us reach our target. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

A structure has been agreed for the "Campaign Team" for the Stewardship and Planned Giving Drive. We now need to put people in place to run it. If there are any suggestions or volunteers, please provide details for consideration.

As many of you may be aware, more people are using less and less Cash these days and the Church is receiving more and more visitors, mainly due to visiting the Shrine of Our Lady. We are therefore looking into Contactless Cashless Methods of Donating which we can use for Weekly Offertory Collections, Special Collections, and one-off donations.

We looked at the Fete and whether was still a possibility for this year. Further thoughts have been requested.

A concern has been raised regarding our being Environmentally Friendly with the products we use around the Church. We have been asked to think about this further.

We discussed the lifting of Restrictions and as there have been concerns addressed by parishioners, we have decided that for the safety of all our parishioners and visitors, the Social Distancing and the wearing of face masks in church should remain.

Choir and Congregational Singing has also been discussed, subject to restrictions on distancing and mask wearing. We will update on this in September.

We mentioned the area surrounding the church and White Friars and in particular the work which is going on to make it all look clean and tidy. Thanks goes out to all concerned. The Bell Tower was also discussed and what could be done to enhance this – perhaps a display of some sort to be placed inside it to reflect the Liturgical Seasons throughout the year. Any ideas would be appreciated.

Roadside Safety was also on the agenda regarding Stack Lane and in particular the entrance and exit of the Car Park and outside the church. Further discussions will be had on this Health and Safety issue.

Some other points which were discussed include Cafod's Campaign regarding relationships between MPs, Parliament, and the Parish; the Migrants and Refugee Bill and how to build a climate of welcome and understanding for strangers.

Our next meeting has been provisionally arranged for the 16th September 2021. Any comments or Issues, you would like us to discuss, please feel free to contact the Council by E-Mail – hartleypcc@rcaos.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

Anna Coffey

Vice Chair of the Parish Council