

Annual General Meeting
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held at St Mary's Catholic Church, Knaresborough
At 11.20 am on 8th May 2016.

Prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) a presentation of the Parish Financial Results was given by Ian Burrell representing the Parish Finance Committee. This presentation was given at all three Sunday Masses of 8th May 2016 to ensure that the maximum number of parishioners received this information.

Against each AGM Agenda item Father William briefly summarised key activities and issues as experienced over the past year *and then invited questions or comments which are recorded below.*

Fr. William's intention was to take feedback received back to the Parish Finance Committee, the Parish Pastoral Council and other Church groups or individuals for further discussion.

1. Evangelisation & Outreach:

It was confirmed that SVP still have connections related to the redistribution of furniture.

2. Vocations & Ministry:

In response to questions, Fr. William answered that 2 Masses are held at St Mary's Primary School every term, and that attendance is open to all parishioners. It was suggested that details of forthcoming School Masses should be publicised in the weekly Bulletin.

3. Ecumenical:

No questions were raised.

4. Demographics:

It was suggested that the Parish Database should be actively used to survey non-attending Catholics to understand why they no longer attended St Mary's; this survey could be either by e-mail, or house visits. It was commented that some parishioners may have died or moved away from the Parish, but it was agreed that such an initiative could prove useful.

It was also suggested that outreach (e.g. letters and news items from the Church) could be usefully made to parents via the School; this might also partly help to address the apparent decline in the number of Catholic applications to St Mary's School.

5. Safeguarding:

No questions were raised.

6. Finances:

It was suggested a printed copy of the financial statements (as presented earlier) should be included as an insert in the Bulletin. The principle was agreed although it was noted the statement that had just been given covered only the half-year, and that a full printed annual statement was made available in the Atrium at the end of every financial year in October.

A discussion was held over the desirability of the *Financial Results* presentation being given during Mass (as at present), or if parishioners should instead be invited to attend a presentation immediately after each Mass. The positive outcomes of the current practice included maximising outreach, and the proportionally high numbers of St Mary's parishioners adopting Gift Aid and Standing Orders; although opposite views over the incongruity of delivering financial accounts within the Mass were also well expressed. No consensus was reached although Fr. William noted the views of all parties would be carefully considered in the future.

7. Fabric:

Thanks were expressed from AGM attendees to all individuals who had contributed to the impressive refurbishment works in the Church Hall (Old School). Fr. William mirrored these comments and requested a formal recording of thanks to the *Hall Working Party* members: Philip Burnett, Sheila Lund, Steven Perry, Stephen Walker and Angela Wicken.

8. Health & Safety:

No questions were raised.

9. School Governance:

In answer to questions, it was explained that the new leadership model at St Mary's School i.e. the removal of a Deputy Role and appointment of 'Executive Headteacher' (Alison Ashworth) and 'Head of School' (Helen Tomlinson) had been adopted to help address national recruitment problems with the appointment of experienced Catholic School Heads. This change had been supported by the *Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust* of which the School was now a member.

Fr. William confirmed that (under the Academy Trust) Ampleforth Abbey no longer appointed 'Foundation Governors' to the School; Foundation Governors (sic) are now appointed by the Bishop, but still on the recommendation of the parish priest, to fill equivalent positions in the new Academy Council of the School.

It was also confirmed that the School land had been transferred to the Trust as part of requirements of joining the Bishop Wheeler Trust.

10. Annual General Meeting Closure:

Fr. William thanked all attendees for their helpful suggestions and comments.

Attendees:

- a) Chairman: Father William Wright
- b) Members of the Finance Committee: 6
- c) Members of the Parish Pastoral Council: 5
- d) Total number of people attending: 19

NB: The total number of parishioners attending the three Sunday Masses of 8th May 2016 and heard the Financial Presentation was 206.