

**Headlines from the AGM of the Parish Pastoral Council** It was good to welcome parishioners to the meeting which took place last Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> February. The full minutes will follow in due course.

- 1) It has always been customary for a donation to be made to cover the cost of the use of the church for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms. Fr Jim and the Finance Committee proposed that guidance as to the donation to cover these costs should be specified. The proposal of £250 for Weddings and Funerals and £125 pro rata for Baptisms was accepted by the meeting with the proviso that Fr Jim may exercise discretion at the time of arranging the services.
- 2) The parish gets extra funding when people gift aid their contributions to the collection by using envelopes. Appreciation for the very complex management of this scheme, which is overseen by Veronica Graham, was expressed at the meeting. Parishioners will be asked to consider using Standing Orders where possible.
- 3) While maintaining careful control of expenditure a number of repairs and improvements have been made possible. Generous donations have secured the development of the Streaming system and some maintenance and planting in the Memorial Garden. The Parish Centre will be decorated later in the year if it can be funded within budget.
- 4) As you will have seen in the newsletter, working with the diocesan surveyor, we are preparing a bid to use our share of the Growing in Faith funds to repair the car park, re-line it and extend it slightly to provide more blue badge spaces.
- 5) Having received guidance from the diocese we are relaxing the Covid-19 precautions except the wearing of face coverings in church and the sanitising of hands on entering and leaving. This means that you will have the option of picking up Mass Books/ Hymn books as you come into church, the Holy Water stoups will be refilled weekly and the Sign of Peace may be given as appropriate.
- 6) We are working to develop and improve communications, both within the parish and to our local community. This project and all the services and ministries in which we serve the parish require more volunteers. In coming weeks you will hear invitations to help with a variety of services - for example, with Reading, Ministering the Eucharist, serving teas and coffees after the 10.30 Mass, Streaming, Gardening (memorial garden), and many more. In your generosity, please think how you can help
- 7) The next PPC meeting will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May after the 10.30 Mass