

**REPORTS FROM PARISH GROUPS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE PARISH OPEN EVENING
TO BE HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2008**

2008.6 Present: Fr Terry Boylan and 18 Parishioners

2008.7 Apologies: Mrs K Dalton, Mrs J Gibson, Mrs P Miserotti, Mrs J Roberts, Mrs S Smears

2008.8 Fr Boylan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May were agreed as a true record

2008.9 Matters arising from the Minutes – Fr Boylan asked for a volunteer to Chair the Parish Meeting. Mary Latimer to consider the post and confirm with Fr Boylan.

2008.10 Reports from Groups

(a) Finance

Bernard Larkin

All figures shown are inclusive of amounts received from the beginning of the Financial Year to the end of September 2008. Figures in brackets are for the same period in 2007.

Total receipts to the parish bank account totalled £40,769.32 (£40,271.76) and included the items below:

Candles	1299.69	(1493.87)	Piety Stall	140.00	(135.00)
Lourdes	7.30	(18.82)	CTS	14.41	(11.56)
Papers	523.40	(565.45)	Third World	213.39	(83.89)
Holy Places		(348.41)	CAFOD Walk		(1390.00)
Comboni Missions	1118.02		Holy Ghost Fathers		(710.00)
Insurance claim (roof)	4481.72		Christian Aid	11.50	

The balance held in our Central Fund account as at the 31st of March, 2008 was £230,885.95. A request for £135,000 will be made against our account to replace the roof. Draft specification has been drawn up and will be going out to tender shortly. It is hoped the work on the roof will take place in the Spring.

Parish Accounts have been sent to auditing.

(b) Gift Aid

Bernard Larkin

Offertory gifts during the first half-year were as follows:

Envelopes	£14909.63	(£ 16201.53)
Loose Plate	£ 9464.66	(£ 10413.27)
Standing Orders	£ 8585.60	(£ 8899.96)
TOTAL	£32959.89	(£ 35514.76)

Bernard reported that there has been a slight decrease in offertory collection from last year but this may be due to Parishioners visiting other Parishes. The refund against Gift Aid has increased and we have received nearly £12,000. It is understood there may be changes in tax at the next budget which may impact on Gift Aid but we await further details.

(c) HCPT 134 Group

Madge McGrath

HCPT Group 134. First of all we must thank the Parish for their support of the sponsored walk in September, which raised over £1,100, including a donation of £550, it was very much appreciated. The Group are well into the arrangements for next Easers pilgrimage, though we will only be taking 7 children with us due to the increased cost of fares, which is £680 per child. There will be two fund raising events this month, November 18th a charity evening at the Gladstone Theatre Port Sunlight and a Bring and Buy sale at the Shell Sports Club Ellesmere Port on Thursday November 19th.

- (d) Rosary Group Joan Gibson
 During October the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was welcomed into many homes for private or shared recitation of the Rosary. On 12 October, Devotion took place in church when approximately 30 parishioners enjoyed an hour of peaceful prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction. All housebound and sick parishioners were remembered in our prayers. Rosary is prayed after Mass from Monday to Thursday.
- (e) Prayer Group Margaret Stanley
 No report
- (f) Churches Together Kay Dalton/Marguerite Allen
- Fr Boylan took the Chair as President of Churches Together from May 2008 – May 2009
 - Lay exchange took place on 19 October 2008 with Methodist and Good Shepherd Churches
 - Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry – we have two volunteers from our Church at present
 - Rev Jonathan Gibbs, Chair of Homestart, Wirral is looking for volunteers able to spare 3 hours per week to offer friendship and support to local parents/families with young children.
 - Fr Boylan reported that a Christian Theatre Group “Riding Lights” would be visiting the area for two weeks performing 2-3 shows each week in different locations including local schools and prisons. The events will be publicised and each Church is asked to encourage people to attend events. The cost is approx £5,000 - £6,000 with any loss being underwritten by each Church.
 - It was reported that Kay Dalton is the contact person for the Shawl Ministry, recently advertised on our Noticeboard and further details will be forthcoming shortly.
- (g) APF Ian Butler
 Thanks to Fr Clement’s appeal earlier in the year, the number of boxholders has increased. We also have two more collectors to assist. This increase in membership has still not returned us to the numbers we once had but it is hoped that it will lead to an increase in APF revenue. Total for year to date is £732.92 with a small amount awaiting counting.
- Ian reported that more parishioners are paying by Direct Debit or Standing Order therefore the number of boxes has now decreased. Additional collectors.
- (h) Children’s Liturgy Rachel Belderbos
 Children’s Liturgy has experienced good attendance over the last year. The parent helpers rota has worked well with a good supply of volunteers but due to Maternity Leave and a few people standing down over the next year some fresh faces are required to ease the burden from the ones remaining.
- Children’s Liturgy will be performing a short play and some carols prior to Christmas Eve Mass. Rehearsals will take place after 11.15am Mass during December. All Children will be welcome to participate on Christmas Eve.
- (i) Third World
 This Group has now disbanded. Money placed in box in Church is sent to CAFOD by Fr Terry.

- (j) Catechetics Pat Miserotti
Confirmation – Earlier this year the Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred by Bishop Brian on the young people of our Local Pastoral Area – the parishes of Our Lady & St John, Holy Family and St Winefride in St Winefride’s Church, Neston. It was a happy occasion, celebrating this highly significant Sacrament. It will be conferred again in 2009 for the three parishes, jointly, possibly in Holy Family Church.
- First Communicants** – The enrolment of all the children of our Parish, who are to receive the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and First Forgiveness, took place during 11.15am Mass on Remembrance Sunday. First Forgiveness will be received in our church in December. First Holy Communion will be received in June 2009, followed by a Blessed Sacrament Processing on the next day, after 11.15am Mass.
- It was reported that 30 medals were distributed at recent Masses and the Group thought the presenting of medals at the start of Mass was very good and made the Parishioners feel more involved.
- (k) Readers Eileen Roberts
 Fr Boylan reported he still hoped to have two readers at each Mass in order to allow different voices to read the two readings, the psalm and bidding prayers.
 There are 6 new readers bringing the total to 31. The teams for each Mass are:-
- 7.30pm Mass 9 including 2 new and the Youth Group
 8.30am Mass 12 including 3 new readers
 11.15am Mass 10 including 1 new reader
- Four of the new readers are being phased in at 8.30am and 11.15am Masses and have not yet decided if they want to join the team permanently.
- (l) Youth Team Pat Miserotti
 There are a number of very committed young people involved in these ministries and new members are always warmly welcomed. Please encourage more to join us.
- They are involved, also in various activities for Charities, Christmas Hampers for those in need in other areas will be prepared again this year. We rely on your generous donations of Christmas Fare and staple foods.
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- (m) Library Pat Miserotti
 The Parish Library is in the process of re-location to the Church Porch. Books published recently and in good condition, are always received gratefully to be shared with other readers.
- Fr Boylan reported that a smaller statue of St Anthony would be placed on the wall and he will contact Mrs Birch to see if she wishes to have the current statue as she had purchased it for the church in memory of her son.
- (n) SVP Tom Fishwick
 Work of the Conference continues with visits to the Nursing Homes and housebound as required. Membership remains at 12. Financial assistance is being given through the Society’s twinnage scheme needy causes in both India and Sudan. At present the Conference is preparing for Christmas.
- (o) Children’s Society Gill McKenzie
 No report
- (p) Our Lady’s Mantle/Cenacolo Margaret Stanley/Mary Godwin
 No report

(q) Flower Club

Veronica Clarke

The group meets from time to time to plan the flower arrangements for special celebrations. Our last get together was the display for Remembrance Sunday and we are now planning the decoration of the church for Christmas. We would welcome new members - no previous experience necessary. The Group were congratulated on the lovely flowers for Remembrance Sunday. Veronica reported that many of the group do not like coming out at night, particularly in winter and a number of the Group work during the day making it difficult to arrange meetings.

Veronica noted that it is hoped to have more members following Website Launch. Discussion took place regarding Flower Festival to celebrate the Parish's 90th anniversary in 2009. It was suggested each Parish Group has a flower display. Further consideration will be given to this, Irene Fitzpatrick contacted as she organised the last Flower Festival which had contributions from all local Churches and Veronica will liaise with the Flower Group members.

(r) Choir

Peter Fishwick

No report

(s) Brownies -1st Pensby and 2nd Heswall Brownie Packs Eileen Gough

Both Brownie packs continue to meet together on Tuesday evenings during term time, from 6.30pm. – 8.00pm. At the Methodist Church Hall, Sevenacres Lane, Thingwall.

Once again we have had a very busy and active year. In February we had our “Thinking Day Celebration” This included a Church Service at St. Michaels and all Angels, and a disco, for all Pensby District Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

During the summer term we had a few outdoor meetings. One was a trip to Ashton Park in West Kirby, where the Brownies took bread to feed the ducks, and then enjoyed playing on the swings. We also enjoyed an evening at Thurstaston Country Park, where we played lots of outdoor games.

Our “Brownie Revels” this year was a trip to Chester Zoo, which took place on Saturday 22 June.

The Brownies always enjoy raising money for charity. This year they chose two different charities, “Claire House” and “The Special Care Baby Unit” at Arrowe Park Hospital. It was agreed they would like to have a Bring & Buy Sale at the pack meeting, for themselves and their families. Each child was asked to bring things to the meeting ready priced, and to help sell them. The response as usual was amazing. We also had a raffle, guess the teddies birthday, how many sweets in a jar? Also we sold homemade cakes. The brownies are 7 – 9yr old children, and in just one and a half hours we raised £99.84. Representatives from both charities were asked to come along to our meeting and each charity was presented with a cheque for £50.

The end of term meant we had to say goodbye to Sue Dickinson, who had been with us as a young leader for the past three years, and had just become a Warranted Guider at the age of eighteen. Sue passed her “A” levels and was going off to Lancaster University in September. Sue and the brownies both found it hard to say goodbye, but we did this on a happy note with gifts, cards and of course a party!

There is a saying “When one door closes, another door opens” this was certainly true in this case, because I received a phone call from Catherine Larkin a former young leader, who Like Sue had gone off to University after passing her exams. Catherine was returning to live at home and wondered if it would be possible to come to brownies to help? I think you can guess my answer.

During the October Half-term holiday we took a small group of brownies to our Cottage at Hadlow Fields in Willaston. We went on Monday morning and returned Friday Evening. They enjoyed many activities, and also a trip to play 10-pin bowling and to see the new Disney Film at Bromborough. On the Wednesday a further 10 brownies came out for the day arriving at 10.30.in the morning and staying until 8pm. We also had a visit from Young Leader Pauline Larkin and her sister Catherine, who is now working towards becoming a Warranted Brownie Guider.

Last weeks meeting saw the children busy making chocolate cakes with the left over cornflakes etc.

The final event this year is our trip to see “Cinderella” at the Gladstone Theatre in Port Sunlight, at the beginning of December.

(t) Welcome Ministry Sheila Smears
Fr Boylan noted that this was one of the most important developments over the last 12 months.

(t) Welcome Ministry

Sheila Smears

Activities and developments, May- October 2008.

- Our Welcome teams now give greetings and the Newsletter to parishioners at each week-end Mass.
- Hot and cold refreshments are being served after the 11.15 Mass on the first Sunday of each month. Additional helpers will be sought in order to reduce number of times required to help. Joan Larkin will be recruiting, hopefully 36 volunteers.
- Concern was raised regarding walking down sacristy steps to lower sacristy with hot cup of tea/coffee. Fr Boylan is currently looking for a suitable sturdy table. This will be reviewed.
- Approximately 120 parishioners came to our Parish Afternoon Tea, held at the URC on 28 September.
- The re-styled newsletter allows more information to be printed re. baptisms, weddings; facilities for those with disabilities; information from Ladymount school and much else. Fr Boylan is to contacting supplier to see if we can obtain A5 style news sheet rather than current A4 layout. Fr Boylan noted that we may need to change supplier.
- At 11.15am Mass, children now tell the congregation about the topic of their liturgy class.
- The lower sacristy is in the process of being re-furbished to make it more user-friendly for parish gatherings and Sunday refreshments. The Group confirmed that the room was looking much better and welcoming.
- In the porch area, more space is being created to provide improved facilities for displaying notices and housing the parish library.
- Our parish website is almost ready for launching, and will include input from those willing to contribute.
- A Suggestion Box is being installed in the lower sacristy door and Welcome cards for new parishioners are now being printed.
- A Social event is being planned for 13 March at Alexander Hall, further details will follow.

2008.11 Any Other Business(a) Layout of Newsletter

A straw poll of views was taken by Anne Rowlands at the Parish Afternoon Tea in September. The results were that 8 parishioners liked the new format and thought it was very professional, 9 Parishioners liked the former style, with one parishioner confirming it fitted the noticeboard better and 3 Parishioners stating they liked the 2-column booklet style format. All parishioners were happy with the content and the fact that there was a regular newsletter. The current style will continue and further improvements will be debated by the Typist Group and Fr Terry.

(b) Meeting Room

Fr Boylan reported that Mr Belderbos is drawing up draft plans for a meeting room at the side of the Church. This is in preliminary stage at present as we need to get authority from the Diocese for funding and Wirral Borough Council for planning permission.

(c) Collecting Boxes

Fr Boylan reported that it is hoped to place a number of Wall Safes in the Church for collecting money eg CAFOD, Candles, Cards, SVP rather than use the collecting slots in the door.

- (d) Website
It is hoped to launch the Parish Website in the New Year with an event at St Peter's Church Hall. The website will be displayed and Parish Groups are required to populate the website with suitable information. Many thanks to Lucy Holgate, Victoria Hanlon and Bernie Hailwood for undertaking this task.
- (e) Lost Property
It was noted there is a significant amount of property stored at the back of Church. It is suggested an item appears in the newsletter over the next few weeks and any unclaimed items will be discarded.
- (f) Lighting
Fr Boylan reported that he has arranged for an electrician to install a light sensor to the main door so that the Porch lights will go on for approx 10 minutes. In addition a security light will be installed at the side of church for anyone visiting the Grotto.
- (g) Local Pastoral Group
Bernard Larkin reported on the recent meetings – one on 11 September in Heswall and one at St Nicholas School, Hartford which was attended by the Bishop and representatives from other Local Pastoral Areas. News included:-
- Penitential Service at Neston on 4 December at 7.15pm for the three parishes
 - Produce Christmas Card detailing Mass Times over Christmas/New Year for the three Parishes. This will be in addition to the card produced by the Council of Churches detailing Services for all Heswall Churches.
- (h) Latin/English Mass
Bernie Burchell reported that a number of areas in London were piloting the revised English Mass. Fr Boylan reported that at present Rome are continuing with the current Mass which is a direct translation from Latin to English. We await further information.
- (i) Child Protection/Safeguarding Children
Mary Latimer confirmed she is the Parish contact person for completing CRB forms for anyone working with Children within the Parish.
- (j) Door Closures
Marie-Therese asks if the main door closure could be adjusted/repared to allow the door to close quietly. At present it slams shut. Fr Boylan will arrange for it to be checked.
- (k) Census Count
Tom Fishwick reported that the census takes place on four Sundays in October and our average attendance is 535. It was noted that there are a number of children and young families currently in the Parish. It was also suggested that the count take place in another month as there is half-term during October when a significant number of Parishioners are away from the Parish.
- (l) Weekday Masses
It was noted that attendance at weekend Masses has increased over the last few years.
- (m) Parish Open Meeting – Chairman
Fr Terry suggested a Parishioner takes over the role of Chairman for this Group. Mary Latimer has agreed to consider taking on this role and will confirm with Fr Terry.

2008.12 Date of next meeting

20 May 2009 at 8.10pm in Alexander Hall

Fr Terry closed the meeting with a Prayer and thanked everyone for attend.