

## **Report of the Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council for 2004 – 2005**

It seems only yesterday that I was writing a report. There may or may not be global warming but time is definitely speeding up! All the activities of the Parish are reported below and together with the financial report give a comprehensive picture of our state of affairs.

There have been many highlights of the past year. The usual ones should not be overlooked. The wonderful and uplifting Holy Week Triduum which gives the whole parish the opportunity to come together (as opposed to the separate Masses that we go to over the weekend), as well as the wonderful Feast of the Translation of St Thomas of Canterbury which we celebrate by Solemn High Mass in the Cathedral in early July, spring to mind. Who could not be moved as we finished by singing the Salve Regina on the very spot where there was the tomb of our patron Saint?

But the most significant was meeting the new Archbishop. He was installed on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003. It was not until late summer that he was able to come and see members of the Deaneries of the Diocese. After a meeting with the Priests of Ashford (North and South), Faversham, Herne Bay, Hersden, Whitstable and Canterbury, we had a superb buffet supper in the Presbytery, here in this Parish, and then repaired to the Upper Room with the Bishop and the lay members. No other priest was present. It was a relaxed informal occasion (Archbishop Kevin even removed his shoes) as he went round the room asking each of us about any concerns that we had or issues or would like to see addressed. He took copious notes of what we all said and at about 8.30pm, we went down to the church where we were joined by the priests for Vespers, a very prayerful conclusion to a truly uplifting evening. As we left and talked among ourselves we were all of the opinion that the Archdiocese of Southwark is in very capable hands for many years.

There have been a few structural changes to the Reconciliation Room and there is now a Chair Lift to the Upper Room and access to the Church is now (or soon to be) disabled friendly as per legal requirements. But there have been no dogmatic or theological changes! Deo gratias!

*Chris Bull – Chairman PPC*

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## **PARISH PRIEST'S REPORT**

My report begins with a summary of all the material improvements which have been taking place in the church and the Upper Room. Firstly, you will have noticed that work has been going on in the Quiet Room. The plan is to turn this into the Reconciliation Room and for the present Reconciliation Room in the Canterbury Chapel to become the Quiet Room (as it was originally, I believe). Why, you may well ask, the change? The reason is twofold: the church has, as far as possible, to be disabled-friendly, and the church has to conform, as far as possible, to the provisions of the Child and Vulnerable Persons Protection Act.

A couple of years ago a small group of parishioners did a walkabout in the church trying to fathom ways of making the Reconciliation Room in the Canterbury Chapel disabled and vulnerable person/child-friendly. It would have been possible, but the presence of several ramps for wheelchairs (which would have involved the permanent removal of a considerable number of benches) would have been horrendously expensive. There the matter rested until, one morning, I had one of my rare brainwaves: change the Quiet Room into the Reconciliation Room and *vice versa*. It wasn't quite a simple as that, of course. There was a 9-inch thick concrete floor to remove in the Quiet Room! I still haven't worked out what the point of it was. That dusty operation has been done and a new carpet put down. Sound-proof glass (I hope it is, anyway) has replaced the old glass, and it won't be too long before our new Reconciliation Room is in use. Likewise, there is a small amount of work to be done in the present Reconciliation Room to turn it into a Quiet Room – things like a loudspeaker and a new carpet. The cost of all this is significantly lower than the first set of options. It's been a messy time in the church, but once all the work is complete I shall call in a firm of industrial cleaners to give the building a good going-over from top to toe.

Meanwhile, a toilet for the disabled is being installed off the Upper Room, and the kitchenette is having a make-over with new units and decent plumbing. Just before Christmas we were lucky enough to receive a grant of £5,000 from the National Lottery people which enabled us to install a chair-lift to the Upper Room. So, all in all, there's been a lot going on on the material front. I shall be happy when all the work is complete because we have done our bit to make the church and the meeting room disabled-friendly and child/vulnerable adult-friendly.

It's all too easy, of course, to judge the success or otherwise of the past year in purely material terms. That would be a mistake. I am happy to report that I have a team of dedicated and hard-working clergy supporting me. Nor must I forget to mention our Seminarian, Sean O'Connor, who is doing his Extended Pastoral Placement (EPP) here in Canterbury. They all, in their own way, bring their considerable gifts and talents to the real task of the Church: the building up of God's Kingdom. In thanking them, I must not forget to thank all the many people in the parish whose help and ministry I value greatly.

Finally, talking of the clergy, I am pleased to say that Father Sylvester will be with us once again in July and August. I had an e-mail from him just before Christmas. He announced telegraphically the startling news that he was no longer teaching in his diocesan seminary but that he was running a parish 'in the jungle' – his very words! I've no idea what's going on, but I am sure that all will be revealed when he visits us over the summer months.

*Canon Michael Bunce  
Parish Priest*

#### **CANTERBURY PRISON**

This 'forgotten' ministry in the parish is probably one of the most important ones. I've been 'doing' the prison now for 14 years, and I have to say that I've never tired of it. The men 'inside' are often the most vulnerable and needy. Many people 'outside' either ignore their existence or, I regret to say, think of them in terms which I couldn't possibly print. Of course, when they're together on the landings or out on the Astro turf behind the wings there's a lot of macho behaviour. But when one sees them on their own, their vulnerability is striking. To have a grown man, heavily tattooed, break down in tears is a bit unnerving at first, but then that's the job – to support, to encourage, to enable the growth of self-worth, to 'be there'.

Despite adverse comments in the press, Canterbury Prison by and large does an extremely good job as a training prison, given the fact that the building is over 200 years old and the training facilities are limited on account of lack of space to develop them. I have nothing but admiration for the sheer professionalism of most of the staff, both officers and tutors. The prison is another world, and this hits me every time I walk through the double gates to get into the place. It has its own language, customs and dynamic. I know that my two Catholic Chaplain's Assistants in the prison would agree with me when I say that the Prison Ministry is almost

certainly the most demanding and the most rewarding of all ministries.

*Canon Michael Bunce  
Catholic Prison Chaplain*

#### **FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME & RECONCILIATION**

30 children will be making their First Holy Communion in May. The format of their preparation has changed little over the years (why re-invent the wheel every time?). The emphasis is on parental participation in the instruction of the children, and I have to say that the parents' involvement helps them as well to grow in faith.

I am blessed with a small team of dedicated and highly committed catechists who take the children in four classes whilst I endeavour to explain, in 'grown-up language' what the children are being taught and how they can help their children with the work they are asked to do at home. This format works well, and is certainly a vast improvement on the way things were done several decades ago.

One final word, please don't forget to keep the children and their parents in your prayers.

*Canon Michael Bunce  
Catechetical Team Co-ordinator*

#### **CONFIRMATION**

On Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2004, Bishop John Hine confirmed twenty young people of our parish. It was a wonderful occasion and a cause for great celebration, not just for those being confirmed and their relatives, but also for the whole parish.

The confirmation classes started rather inauspiciously in January: the first meeting had to be cancelled because of the snow and bad weather! But after this little local difficulty, everything went well, with classes being held on a regular basis in the Upper Room. I am pleased to be able to say that all those attending the meetings contributed to the classes and much fun was had by all taking part. A special fun and learning day was held in the Hall as part of the conformation programme and afterwards we went to Pizza Hut for a meal. I was particularly impressed and proud when one of the Pizza Hut staff came over to me and commented that our group was one of the best behaved that they had had in a long time.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the three catechists who really did all the work of Liz Collins, Caroline Kukla and Maria Saulnier could not have been held. They not only encouraged and gave inspiration during the classes but also gave up a lot of their own time to prepare things for those being

confirmed. I wish to express my deepest thanks to them.

The next confirmation at St Thomas' will be on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2005, and will be celebrated by Archbishop Kevin McDonald. The classes for this confirmation started at the beginning of February.

*Father Philip Seed*

#### **KENT & CANTERBURY HOSPITAL**

As with last year, I want to begin this report by expressing my thanks to Felicity Foreman who helps to organise the rota for our Eucharistic Ministers visiting the hospital. And, once again, I also wish to express my thanks to Deacon David Avery, David Heap and Jean Pegg, who regularly visit the hospital to bring communion to the sick on Sunday and other days. Also I wish to thank Ruth and Peter Harrison, who helped so much in the past with visiting the hospital.

As I mentioned in my last report the Kent and Canterbury has undergone major changes during the last year. This has resulted in a number of departments being moved either to the William Harvey, Ashford, or to QEOM, Margate. This has led to a change in the nature of chaplaincy work, as the number of people staying in the hospital for long periods of time seems to have been reduced and more people are there for just a few days.

The major problem with chaplaincy work in hospitals is still the simple fact that we are not allowed to ask if any Catholics have been admitted. Unless we are told that someone has been admitted there is no way for us to know that Catholics are in hospital requiring the sacraments. Please do let us know at the presbytery if you or someone you know is going into the hospital.

*Father Philip Seed*

#### **ST MARTIN'S HOSPITAL**

St Martin's Hospital is a unit made up of 8 wards, (110 beds), which provides in-patient care and treatment for people with mental health needs. A wide range of age groups are covered, from 18 to 65+ years. It includes a rehabilitation unit, day-care facilities, and also a secure unit, for patients with more complex health problems. The chaplaincy team at St Martins is ecumenical, under the leadership of the Rev Peter Richmond. Our own Chaplain from St Thomas' is Fr Philip Seed.

As Chaplain's Assistants, we aim to visit the hospital each week on Wednesday afternoon. Over the past year, it has been our practice to commence with a short service of Holy Communion, in the hospital chapel. Patients and staff are welcome to attend, and

although numbers are few, appreciation has been expressed for this opportunity. One visitor, would regularly time her visit, in order to bring her elderly mother to the service. In addition, to pray and worship together as a team, forms an important and strengthening part of this ministry.

Visiting the wards is usually undertaken in pairs. We do not cover every ward each week, but try to visit each ward on a regular basis.

As the only Catholic lay members of the Chaplaincy Team, our priority is to take the Sacrament to known Catholic patients, most of whom receive this on the ward, on a one to one basis. Fr Philip Seed kindly visits patients referred to him, by patient request. Our Chaplaincy work then extends to include all patients who wish to be visited, sometimes staff. Often, all that is needed is the opportunity to talk to someone who is willing to listen. Visitors, for many reasons, can be few and far between. As many of the patients are long-stay, there is the opportunity for building up relationships.

The role of Chaplain's Assistant may sound daunting, but St Martins is a welcoming place, and the staff welcome and encourage the visits. Training, support and fellowship is available to members of the Chaplaincy Team, should anyone in the parish, feel that God may be calling them to share in this ministry, then please speak to Fr Philip Seed.

*Judith Roser & Jean Johnson*

#### **11am CHOIR**

As one of the less 'hidden' groups within the parish, I could say, 'If you seek our monument then listen!' But there is more to us than singing on Sundays. We have, I think, sung at every Sunday 11am Mass since my last report, occasionally as a 'skeleton staff' of cantor and organist, sometimes led by Margaret Butchers at the zither, sometimes with a full choir of four parts, even several people singing each part! Always, though, singing music which serves the liturgy and adds to its beauty.

Probably the highlight of 2004 was our trip to Copenhagen as guests of the choir of the Sacred Heart Church. You might remember the Danish choir's visit to Canterbury in 2001, they sang a concert of sacred music in the church and joined us for the 11am Mass. This was the 'return match'. For several weeks beforehand we brushed up our Gregorian chant and learnt to sing the Ordinary of the Mass, plus several hymns, in Danish. Preparation duly made, we flew out from Stanstead early one Thursday morning in June, for a long

weekend of music, sightseeing, large meals, Danish beer and much socialising. Our Danish hosts had arranged some special events for us, notably the visit 'behind the scenes' at the Danish Royal Library where we were shown original music manuscripts of Carl Nielsen, probably Denmark's most famous composer. We also spent a day at Dronborg, Hamlet's castle at Elsinore. On our final day we were in church by 8.30am to sing Mass in Danish and then in Latin, presided over by the retired Jesuit bishop of Copenhagen. At both of these Masses we sang 'Ecce Panis Angelorum', a motet written for both choirs by Helen Natrass, a Danish (and World) premier! At the post-Mass breakfast in the parish hall we also sang Tallis' 'If ye love me' to the assembled parish. It was a great weekend, if exhausting, keeping the relationship between our two choirs alive and growing. We'd all like to thank Helen Natrass for organising the weekend and preparing the music with us.

That weekend we left John Kearney and Roberta Johnson in charge at 11am, as cantor and organist respectively. John has joined the choir since the last report, bringing his extensive musical and conducting experience. We've also been joined by students Kirsten, Ilaria and Maria from Christ Church and Kent Institute of Art and Design who are very welcome additions to the women's line. For more than a year, Tony Cassidy rejoined us as organist and occasional bass before going back to his teaching work in the Philippines earlier this year. Leaving us, at least for a while, are Mary de Wolf and Marjery Craig, both of whom have served St Thomas' Choir for many years and are already missed. I would like to thank them both for their voices and their prayerful support. However, nobody ever really leaves the choir: you just move from 'regular' to 'occasional' and even 'associate' and you still get invited to the parties! Roberta Johnson has come in to play organ and violin from time to time, Aldwyth Garside to sing and Rosemary Yea to play the organ at the Cathedral Vespers and we thank them all very much; they are appreciated.

We've continued to expand our musical repertoire, from the very recent, including Helen's motets and psalms, to the very old: medieval carols and early polyphony. It's a bit of an art, feeding such a range of music into the liturgy in an appropriate way, but the feedback we receive seems to indicate that it works.

Most recently we sang Helen's 'Ecce Panis Angelorum' and Night Prayer of the Church to close the recent 12-hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and joined with members

of the 9.30 and 6.00 Music groups to sing our way through the Triduum. We also sang St Thomas' vespers in the Cathedral on 29<sup>th</sup> December, and, with the 6.00pm Music Group, the Mass of the Translation of St Thomas in the Cathedral on 7 July. On July 6 we sang with St Dunstan's Choir at the Commemoration Service for St Thomas More; in December they joined us at Solemn Vespers for the Martyrdom of St Thomas of Canterbury. We hope to continue this partnership.

I would like to close by thanking all the members of the choir for their support and commitment, especially since this is a tricky time for me and my family, and thanking the clergy and Sean O'Connor for their kind words and constructive comments.

*Ann Blackett Moynihan/Choir Director, 11am Choir.*

### **PRAYER GROUP**

The Prayer Group meets for one hour at 2.15pm on Wednesdays in the Upper Room. Each meeting consists of a time of spontaneous praise and thanksgiving, reflection on a passage of scripture, a period of silence and listening to the Lord, a decade of the Rosary and general intercessions. Individual prayer for healing is also available.

The group is part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement. Its aim is to help members become open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and to develop a personal relationship with Jesus as Lord.

Last summer the group presented 'This Promise is for You' – a series of enjoyable talks on video, by Catholic speakers, on 'Baptism in the Spirit'. They plan to repeat this in 2005 and hope many parishioners will want to attend.

In February, they joined with the Whitstable prayer group in organizing the annual Day of Renewal at the Franciscan Study Centre.

*Deacon David Avery*

### **SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

This is the official designation of those non-ordained persons who have been commissioned by the Archbishop to assist the clergy in the ministering of Holy Communion. In previous reports they have been referred to as 'Special Ministers of the Eucharist'.

There are 61 such ministers authorised to assist in St Thomas's parish. They help with commission at all Sunday and week-day Masses, where there are not sufficient clergy officiating.

However, an important part of their ministry is taking Communion to those who are sick at home or in hospital. In this way, parishioners who are unable to get to Mass are reminded that they are still valued members of our community.

Each year, on the solemnity of Corpus Christi, the ministers publicly renew their commitment for a further 12 months.

*Deacon David Avery*

### **UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS (UCM)**

This year has been another busy one for the UCM members. When writing last year's report, we were busy preparing for our Ecumenical Services. The guest speaker was Mrs Byers; the chairperson of the League of Friends for the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. We played host to 65 guests from the various churches in the city.

We have had a variety of guest speakers both spiritual and secular, and taken part in various social events in our parish as well as responding to invitations to join other faith communities in the city.

Members enjoyed an informative visit to Goodneston Park in the autumn. We pushed out the New Year with an Epiphany lunch at the FISC when 50 members and friends were able to enjoy a very tasty meal and good company.

On the first Sunday of Lent the members gathered in force to lead The Stations of the Cross. Still on a spiritual note we had an afternoon reflection on the Holy Spirit led by Greta McHugh.

At the end of this month we will be having a recruitment drive (week end of 21/22 May), when the recruitment officer for the Diocese will be speaking at all Masses. The following day, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will be having a 'Come to Tea' afternoon with a guest speaker, Barbara Markham, who will talk about music related to Our Lady. She will also have music tapes to illustrate her talk.

At the end of May we will be making our annual pilgrimage to Aylesford, having already filled the coach, the overflow will travel by car.

On Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, we will be having our annual Ecumenical Service. This year we have invited the Fund Raising Officer for Demelza House Children's Hospice.

Hopefully, in July, we will end the year with a Summer Buffett and then take a rest before embarking on planning for a very special year – the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canterbury Foundation.

The chair lift to the Upper Room has been a great help to our less mobile members and we are also very grateful for all the new facilities provided for us in the 'Upper Region'. Our thanks to all those involved in the project.

We do thank Canon, the Priests of the Parish, and all the parishioners for their help and support throughout the year and we look forward to preparing for our 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2006.

*Mary Reynolds – President*

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

A Swiss professor said that children think in concrete ways, so our ministry is perhaps to make God's Word concrete, visible, touchable. But we should all be open to God's Word touching us, grabbing us in everyday things; that, surely, is why Jesus gives us signs of water, oil and touching; bread and wine and sharing. In his hands – in our hands as Christians – these everyday things are the keys of the Kingdom. When the children are leading 9.30am Mass we see how gestures and drama can express this.

In the Upper Room we use signs too: the light of a candle, water, colour, coins, seeds: whatever the Gospel of the day calls for. Sometimes another story may underline the one about Jesus. The children too bring their own wisdom to the unfolding of the Word. Leaders, like parents, must learn to listen to them, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

This Easter time our children have shared the Passover Meal, gathered round their priest; they have watched, candles burning as a sign, with Christ on Good Friday, they have seen the sign of the empty tomb, represented in our church in a concrete way. This Easter, and all through their lives, they have lived in God's love, made concrete in their families, and we hope, their parish and school. We trust we are supplementing the love that parents pour out on their children.

Now, perhaps it is time to ask you parents to help us! It would be a real blessing to have a few extra helpers at both 9.30 and 11.00 Mass. You would be asked to help or lead once a month or six weeks. Some informal training would be offered, and from time to time we arrange for someone to come and help us reflect on our work. Please do approach one of the team, and if one of us approaches you, don't run away and hide!

A new pope can set up a new team, or confirm his ministers in their office. Is this a moment to reflect on this part of our rather more humble parish ministry? No-one ought to cling onto any responsibility for ever, and we have some admirable people in the team,

and elsewhere in the parish, who could lead our mission to children in ways as yet unexplored. And the Canon would no doubt find work for idle hands!

I hope the paragraph above doesn't inspire all the children's liturgy leaders to resign at once! This is a ministry that leads us gently towards a wondering humility. Reflecting on the Readings, praying through actions and gestures, or through art, listening to children and their parents; these experiences bring home the truth that in so many ways Our Lord is pouring out his love on us, all the time. If a man (or woman) is tired of Children's Liturgy, (s) he is tired of Life! Many thanks to all our team members and to you children who support us so generously.

*Maurice Billingsley – Team Leader*

## **THE PARISH SCHOOLS**

### **St Anselm's**

The Catholic School faces different challenges to those when I was at school in the late seventies. Whereas the school could be assured that most were practising and that 'religious education' was more clarification of what was learnt in the home than evangelisation and catechesis; this is no longer an appropriate model for a Secondary school wishing to have an integrated Catholic ethos.

I am happy to write that St Anselm's gives the student every opportunity to contemplate the face of Christ. On a regular basis this is through the weekly Mass on a Friday planned by individual classes, facilitated by Jo Ferguson and ably supported by the music department. Particularly heartening is the celebration of the key moments of our Liturgical year. The Advent service was superb and the Stations of the Cross service very moving for Lent, as it used images, music and story that could speak to all. Ann Donnelly holds all these things together supported by a very talented cast.

I am lucky enough to witness the sterling efforts of Teachers in class and regret that they were not around when I was at School. I have experienced superb missionary work in the classroom combined with a robust advancement of the Catholic faith, we should be proud. Particularly impressive is the challenge to attitudes in our society that see some groups as either a problem or as less than us.

I have had the privilege of being year 9 chaplain and this has allowed me to run a few assemblies, which I have greatly enjoyed. I hope the students enjoy my combination of DVD, Powerpoint and South East London wit. It is a great opportunity to proclaim the Gospel

in a way that the classroom does not permit and a Sunday homily is not designed to do. I even got a round of applause from Year 11 after my assembly on the Resurrection!

Mr Wicker as Headmaster said that I was welcome at anytime and did not need an invite, he has been true to his word and I am very grateful. My first meeting with him was after Mass in Saint Thomas' and it is similar with many of the Teachers who live their faith both in coming to Mass, going on pilgrimage with HCPT, supporting the L'Arche community or assisting in our sacramental programmes.

Looking at the future I hope we continue to support and nourish our Catholic schools and that someone will come forward to regularly visit the school to support the work of the Teachers and the clergy.

*Sean O'Connor (Seminararian)*

### **ST THOMAS' SCHOOL**

It was all change this year at St Thomas' school. In September we welcomed the new headmaster, Dominic McBride, and also in September Karen Dean took over responsibility for maintaining the parish/school links. Special thanks must go to Bill Kelly, the retiring headmaster, for his work in the past and Clare Hoile for her work in the past with the parish.

The parish has continued to close links with the school during the past year. Fr Philip tries to visit the school every Wednesday morning and manages during the course of a term to see every class at least once.

Once again a special attempt has been made throughout the year too help the pupils understand that St Thomas' church is not just a building but also their home. Nearly every year group has visited the church. The pupils are encouraged to wander around the church and to ask questions about what they have seen. And what is especially pleasing is that as people come into the church to pray whilst the children are there, they are happy and pleased to see the pupils of our school in the parish church.

*Father Philip Seed*

### **SCRIPTURE GROUPS**

The Scripture Group continues, although now smaller in numbers. The members still gain much from reflecting on the Sunday Mass readings which has led to a deeper understanding of the relationship between the Old and New Testaments. Our insight has developed with the help of explanatory material and the valuable personal insights from the group members who are very

supportive of each others needs. New members are always welcome.

*Co-ordinators: Jean Pegg 01227-453856, Fran Connellan 01227-760994.*

### **CHURCH CARERS**

Referring back to my last annual report, the church carers now number 6; an improvement on last year's total of only 4 very overworked people. The present carers are Joan Crosland, Jean Pegg, Miriam Mehlin, Carolyn Morrison, Catherine Ferguson-Green and myself. The duties are shared out as follows:-

Joan Crosland – Dusts the church, cleans the toilet and the porches. Also cleans the stairs.

Jean Pegg – Cleans much of the brassware in the church and helps with the dusting.

Miriam Mehlin – Cleans the chalices.

Carolyn – Cleans the candelabra and prepares them for exposition each week.

Cathy – Keeps the votive candle stands clean and well-stocked with candles.

Barbara – Mainly does the laundry and any sewing but also does the odd cleaning or repair job as needed.

Sacristy – Fortunately, Tina has had some help recently since Sean O'Connor has been with us but this situation will end in June when he returns to the seminary. Tina urgently needs a trainee to share the sacristan duties and who also could step in during an emergency. Surely there is someone out there who would love to train for this important and vital job? It would suit a person who has recently retired from full-time employment.

Linen – I am still sewing away at the church linen and my total to date is now 169 items. At this rate I think I may have to take on another church! As for the weekly laundry, I am only tackling the smaller items (about 50 per week). Mrs Billingsley has kindly offered to launder the larger altar cloths as these are getting to be a bit too much for me (old age creeping on!). The altar cloths don't need to be washed every week and can be changed now and again.

Summary - I must thank all my fellow workers who faithfully carry out their duties week after week.

*Barbara Markham*

### **THE ECUMENICAL SOCIETY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

The meeting was held in the Upper Room of St Thomas' Church, Canterbury, on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2004. There were 20 people present, including the speaker, Miss Barbara Markham. Theme: How to promote devotion to Our Lady through music. The meeting started with silent prayer. Music raises the heart and soul

to heavenly things. Barbara spoke about the effect that music has in our life especially when applied to devotion to Our Lady. One only has to hear a beautiful 'Ave Maria' to feel immediately uplifted. In this way Our Lady uses music as a means to draw us closer to her Son.

Barbara then illustrated her talk with examples of music from different cultures and started off with a Hebrew song called Gili, Meod from the book of the prophet Zechariah who forecast the coming of Our Lord through his mother. In the song she is referred to as a daughter of Zion and daughter of Jerusalem.

Barbara then went on to play songs from other countries and other languages, all extolling Our Lady's virtues, songs from Zululand, traditional plain-chant hymns by way of contrast.

The talk concluded with another Hebrew song called 'Roni Roni Bat Zion', which translated means 'Rejoice Daughter of Zion'. This title of Our Lady is based on another quotation, this time from the book of the prophet Zefaniah. It is a rousing hymn of triumph in anticipation of Our Lady who is to be the mother of the Messiah. It proved to be a joyful and toe-tapping ending to a very interesting talk which was much enjoyed by all.

Tea and coffee were then served and our Chairman, the Rev Stanley Evans, led the saying of the Angelus and the closing prayers. The Meeting was held in the Upper Room of St Thomas' Church, Canterbury, on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2004. The speaker was Mrs Anne Charlotte Misgeld. Theme: Journey from Sweden to Rome, a convert's story.

Mrs Misgeld travelled from Stockholm to tell us her story. Christianity was brought to Sweden in 1008 by missionaries from Canterbury. Anscar started a Christian parish in an island off the mainland where there had previously been heathen activity. The Cistercians and the Dominicans helped greatly to establish Christianity. St Brigid of Sweden was outstanding. The monastery that she founded for both men and women was based on Irish monasticism. With the arrival of the Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the culture declined although the people had protested vigorously. The King became the Head of the Church with drastic consequences. However, the Bible was translated and the vernacular was introduced soon afterwards.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries a reforming Christian group fought in vain for the restoration of the Roman Catholic Church. That was the time when Queen Christina abdicated and went into exile.

Finally, schools and libraries were introduced. When people were getting married they were questioned about their knowledge of the Church. Although the revivalists continued to work hard they were not allowed to have their own church service. Everyone had to belong to the Church of Sweden. Roman Catholics were not even allowed to be employed by the state. In churches, the sermon was the most important part of the service.

In 1951 the law of Christian freedom was passed. In 1958 women were allowed to become priests. Today, the Church in Sweden is separated from the state. The separation has brought greater freedom. The Swedish Church is now less against other faiths and it has less antagonism against the Roman Catholics. World events are reflected in the composition of most of the Roman Catholic Swedish parishes in the composition of most of the Roman Catholic Swedish parishes which include many ethnic groups. A Carmelite Swedish monk is now a Bishop in one diocese. However, the Roman Catholic Church in Sweden depends a lot on support from overseas but it is growing fast.

Anne Charlotte's father was a minister in the church of Sweden. She was only 18 years old when he died. She said that his devotion, kindness, and compassion were outstanding. He never forced religion on his children. Anne Charlotte recalled that all of her immediate predecessors had been interested in religion. Her mother, who played the organ, had a simple and sincere faith and was a very convinced Lutheran.

When Anne Charlotte converted to Roman Catholicism, her family, many of whom have since become Roman Catholics, began to converse about religion. She was finally inspired to start a Christian ecumenical school where she is Head and very popular. All the school pray together at the weekly assemblies when important religious events are recalled and explained, if necessary. Two similar schools have recently opened in Sweden.

Tea followed with a long and interesting discussion and the Rev Stanley Evans thanked Anne Charlotte for her inspiring talk.

The meeting was held in the Upper Room of St Thomas' Church, Canterbury, on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2004.

The speaker was Miss Barbara Markham. Theme: Mission de la Sainte-Marie, Ontario. The Rev Stanley Evans opened the meeting with a prayer. Barbara gave an interesting talk about the Jesuit Mission to the Huron Indians in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (1639-1649). The missionaries built a little village by the River

Wye in Ontario, Canada. At that time there were no roads in the area and access to the village prospered and by 1649, there was a flourishing Christian community living there. Unfortunately, 1649 also saw the complete collapse of all the missionaries work when the village was threatened by the Iroquois, a very aggressive Indian tribe who had already terrorised and destroyed every other mission station in the area. Rather than see Ste Marie mission being used as a shelter and stronghold of the Iroquois, the Jesuits burnt it to the ground and that seemed to be the end of the story. During this traumatic time eight of their members suffered martyrdom and were later canonised as saints. In 1844 the Jesuits returned to Canada and tried to locate the site of Ste-Marie which, over the period of 200 years, had almost disappeared. Excavations were begun in 1907 and an archaeological study of the site began in 1941. In 1947 a start was made in reconstructing the village of Ste-Marie but it was not until 1954 that the grave of Fr John de Brebeuf was found. In 1925 the first Mass was offered at Ste-Marie for almost 300 years and across the road at the Martyrs Shrine, a church, rectory and inn were built and opened in 1926. Pilgrimages came in increasing numbers during the next five years and in 1930 seven martyrs were canonised. The meeting closed with refreshments.

The Meeting was held in the Upper Room of St Thomas' Church, Canterbury, on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2004. The speaker was Mrs Leslie Smith. St Therese of Lisieux. The meeting opened with a prayer. Leslie then gave an excellent talk about St Therese who entered Carmel in 1888 at the tender age of only 15 years. It was almost as if she knew that her life was to be very short because she died in 1897 when she was just 24 years old. St Therese is mostly remembered for her promise that she would spend her heaven doing good upon earth. She came from an incredibly holy family and both her parents were recently beatified. Her sister Pauline is also to be beatified soon. Their mother died when Therese was only four and Pauline was chosen to be the substitute mother of the family. During her young life, Therese often suffered from headaches and tremblings but was cured by prayers to Our Lady. This illness was probably psychosomatic. She also suffered from scruples and was very over-sensitive. As four of her brothers and sisters had died in infancy, Therese became the baby of the family and was treated as such. When she was 14 years old she asked permission to enter Carmel and even went to Rome to see the Pope

about it. Eventually, she obtained permission at the age of 15. Her great desire was to pray for priests.

The effect of her entry into Carmel proved disastrous to her father who, as a result, developed psychological problems at the loss of his 'little flower' as he called her. During her life in Carmel, Therese pushed for daily communion. This was not the custom at that time so, in this, she was well ahead of her time. Therese was asked to write her autobiography which we now know as the *Story of a Soul* and which became a best seller. She was good to everyone, even those who were most difficult. She believed that God loved everyone as if they were the only one for him to love. She was canonised in 1925.

In 1927 she was made joint patron saint of the missions with St Francis Xavier. In 1944 she was made joint secondary patron saint of France with Joan of Arc. After a cup of tea and a chat, Fr Stanley Evans closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting was held in the Upper Room of St Thomas' Church, Canterbury, on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2004. The speaker was Mr Christopher Bull. Theme: The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. The meeting opened with the Lord's prayer. Chris began his talk with the question: Why did God decide to create? Further, why did He create man? The only possible answer is goodness, infinite goodness. God is perfect but we do not like perfection. It makes us uncomfortable. Why? God's creation is perfect. This is the nature of God. The nature of man comprehends reality through his senses. God cannot be known in this way. Although we can use reason to help us come to an awareness of God we could never deduce that He was Three Persons in One Nature. If God revealed Himself fully to man, man would automatically love Him and his freedom to would be impaired. So God hides Himself. But the plan to become a member of the human race was at the centre of creation.

The risk God took in His creation was free will. It meant His creatures were at liberty to love Him or not. In the beginning of creation Christ was there in His humanity. That means that Our Blessed Lady was there too. Christ chose to be born of a human mother. Why? Because it was the most perfect way of achieving it. As a result of our first parents' Fall, Christ was to be a redeeming reconciler. The perfect solution was found: a member of the human race of equal status to God. Christ and Mary are the second Adam and Eve. The deeper we understand the role of Mary, the deeper we understand Christ. Downplay

Mary and Christ loses His primacy and the Church is relegated to a do-gooders club.

The Church had gradually established the supreme role of Mary. Mary was not only sinless but free from original sin as well. The highest dignity of any created being was to be the Mother of God. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated in the Church hundreds of years before the official proclamation.

Down the ages the great Marian doctrines have been proclaimed. The Immaculate Conception was proclaimed on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1854. Finally, Mary can be said to be Co-Redemptrix and Co-Mediator. There is a strong movement in the Church to have this dogma officially proclaimed.

The meeting closed with a recitation of Our Lady's Litany, followed by tea and coffee.

*Sister Margaret Mary O'Grady, L.S.U.*

### **KENT COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS & JEWS**

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2004, in St Peter's Methodist Church Hall. Talk by Joy Sharman and Sian Pettman. Theme – A Taste of Fair Trade. The meeting started with prayer. There was a display of charts showing the 18 underdeveloped countries that are involved in Fair Trade, with samples of their products, which are available in Tescos and in the other big stores. The aim of Fair Trade and Traidcraft was explained to fight poverty through trade and to be aware of unjust practices. The development of Canterbury, as a Fair Trade Centre, was highlighted. It includes the Canterbury Council, the Universities of all the city parishes and involvement in the movement is growing. Of the 40 people who were present, half of them were students who were very interested. The meeting ended with tea.

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2004, in St Peter's Methodist Church Hall, 7.30pm. Talk by Sally Day. Theme: Representations of the Holocaust on Film. The meeting started with prayer. Sally gave a most interesting talk on the Holocaust which seemed to have been an incredible event. She also answered several questions. The meeting ended with tea.

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2005, in the Quiet Senior Common Room, Keynes College of the University of Kent, 7.30pm. Talk by Dr David Flood. Theme – Church Music. David not only explained his subject well but also chanted and played selections of plain chant and the Gelineau Psalms. Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2004, in the Parish Room, St Peter's C/E Parish Church. Talk by the Rev Dr John

Arnold. Theme, 'The Miracle' by Boris Pasternak. Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2005. A visit to the Jewish Museum, Albert Street, Camden Town, London (by coach), 9.00am – 6.00pm.

*Sister Margaret Mary O'Grady, L.S.U*

### **JUSTICE & PEACE**

One arm of Justice and Peace includes the parish members of St Thomas who faithfully promote Traidcraft.

The second arm includes St Anselm's School, who are involved in the city's Fair Trade, which is growing rapidly.

Carolyn Morrison is the member of the parish, who, in future, will represent the parish, at the Justice and Peace meetings of the diocese, with the present group. New recruits are welcome.

*Sister Margaret Mary O'Grady, L.S.U.*

### **CANDIFA**

There are eleven inter faith groups in this society. The meetings held, in the Environment Centre during the past year included: July 14<sup>th</sup>, speaker Mrs Nicky Younosi, Theme: 'A practising Muslim in a non-Muslim environment'. September 8<sup>th</sup>, speaker Mr Antony Copley, theme 'Hindu influences'. November 10<sup>th</sup>, speaker Mr Sidney Shipton, theme 'Can Muslims, Christians and Jews speak to each other?' January 12<sup>th</sup>, 'Inter Faith Prayers for the Tsunami Disaster', in the Friends Meeting House, Canterbury. March 9<sup>th</sup>, speaker, Hon Barney Leith, theme 'The Inter Faith Movement', also in the Friends Meeting House. May 11<sup>th</sup>, The Jubilee Debt Campaigners, theme 'Make Poverty History', same venue, as nr 5.

*Sister Margaret Mary O'Grady, L.S.U.*

### **TRAIDCRAFT**

#### *Overall picture*

The regular sales after Masses on the first weekend of each month were maintained with the customary gap in Summer and, because of supply problems after Christmas, the January sale was abandoned. Interest in the principle of Fair Trade, which underpins the whole Traidcraft operation, has grown steadily nationwide. This has been helped by large supermarkets and other retail outlets stocking a range of fairly-traded produce. At Parish level, the number of people visiting Traidcraft has grown slowly.

#### *The trading position.*

Goods are ordered on a monthly basis, essentially we buy what we can afford, and the relatively small profit margins build up

gradually over the accounting year. Traidcraft has its own bank account with Lloyds TSB: as a 'charity account', no charges are levied.

In the year March, 2004 – April, 2005, the total turnover was £3417. Payments for goods totalled £2768. The balance in the account at the end of February, including a cash 'float', was £793. These figures are an improvement on last year's and include various donations from generous supporters. A cheque for £600 was sent, as is customary, to Cafod. Having discussed our donation with Cafod, it was decided to specify that the money be given to support the urgent humanitarian relief work in Sudan. A balance of £150+ is retained to enable ongoing trading.

#### *Acknowledgements:*

Traidcraft functions with the support of a number of people: Canon Bunce provides storage space in the Presbytery, the Caretaker and Parish shop handle deliveries and a small but dedicated team runs the sales at various Masses. We could always do with more volunteers. I would like to express my thanks to all the above and encourage anyone with a few minutes per month to spare to join a very worthwhile enterprise.

*Tony O'Sullivan*

### **16<sup>th</sup> CANTERBURY (ST THOMAS') SCOUT GROUP**

The establishment of the new Explorer Scout Section (catering for the older Scouts from 15 to 18 years old), has been consolidated throughout the last year and we now have a strong group of over a dozen children involved. Although, technically, not officially registered with the Group (it is a District organization), they operate from St Thomas' and are still very much the final stage of Scouting within our Group. The numbers of our Beavers (6-8 year olds), Cubs (8-10+ year olds) and Scouts (10+15 year olds), remain fairly constant which reflects well on the success of the Group and its Leaders. All the Sections are now open to both boys and girls although there are only a few girls in the two younger Sections.

Our pool of adult leaders has steadily improved with the appointment of Chris, Ben and Nick (Assistant Scout Leaders), Lisa (Assistant Beaver Scout Leader), and shortly Caroline (Assistant Cub Leader), together with Terry and Rachel (helpers) and the ongoing extra help from our current students (Ben, Katherine and Amanda). These latter three have continued their association with the Scouting movement whilst studying at Canterbury. In addition, the Explorers have a support rota to the individual Sections which

provides additional help and gives them extra experience towards DoE and similar awards. If any of you have fond memories of Scouting and would like to assist, please let us know as we are still looking for older leaders!

The spring is the start of the camping season and, this year, the Beavers experienced their first ever 'sleepover' staying overnight at Ross Wood. Using small 'pop-up' tents within the hall, they enjoyed a night away from home with lots of activities both in the evening and the following morning. Well done to Grey Beaver who made this possible with the help of Hilary, Pam and Tony. By the end of May, the Scouts had been on a hike and then had the Whitsun camp weekend following which a group of six of their number went to the New Forest for the main part of the Chief Scout's Challenge award. The Explorers were also at the Whitsun camp where Mark had organised a full programme. The older Cubs had their turn at the District Sixer Camp in early June.

During June, most of the Beavers and Cubs had an excellent day out at the Scouting Association site at Gilwell, Essex where the day was based on a 'medieval' theme. Knights fought each other on horseback and the young people had plenty of opportunities to go on bouncy castles, ropeways, grass toboggans and a host of other activities. These days are great fun but exhausting for the children (and the Leaders!) ensuring everyone slept on the coach home.

The end of the month saw the Cubs riding bikes along the sea wall from Reculver to Minnis Bay and the Beavers spending an evening on the beach at Tankerton Slopes. July leads into the Summer holidays and the main Cub, Explorers and Scout camps of the year. These were held at Barham at an excellent site with masses of wood and a very helpful farmer. The Cub theme was the 'Olympic Games' with a suitable parade and, of course, a whole series of fun games. The Explorers had their own camp during the next few days and the Scouts came at the weekend for a full week's camp. The highlights for the Scouts were sailing at Dover and a day in France at 'Aqualud' in Le Touquet. This was a swimming pool/adventure area with a difference and kept everyone fully occupied for most of the day with just a short period on the beach before catching the coach back. With cooking competitions, hikes and plenty of games, what more could the young people want?

In the Autumn, the Beavers had a day at Wildwood and used the local bus service to get there! A very successful trip and an excellent

day for the children. The Scouts had their own fun day at Ross Wood with the opportunity to do all manner of things which kept them busy and interested and learning new skills. The end of the year is also the time for some of the District events with a few of our youngsters entering the BMX competition and another group of Cubs, Scouts and Explorers winning the annual fun swimming gala.

The Cubs took part in 'Operation Christmas Child' where each person is asked to fill a shoe box with a range of simple presents suitable for either a boy or girl in various age ranges for distribution in eastern Europe. This activity is organised by the Samaritans Purse and is aimed at making a young child's dream come true to receive a present to open on Christmas day. About 40 boxes were assembled (children and Leaders) and we had a press call with a picture in the paper before the boxes were collected for onward distribution. What better ways, on the approach to Christmas, than to take part in this very worthwhile project.

The Christmas period started with the Advent Church Parade (one of the two yearly parades with the other in March). Christmas is a busy time with the Scout Post, our own Group entertainment, a trip to the Marlowe for the panto, our own party night, bag packing at Asda and the Scouts skiing trip to Chatham. The Group's entertainment was in the form of a 'Christingle Service' slightly modified to match our own needs. There was a delightful moment when all the candles were lit and the lights were dimmed. This same evening, the Group paid tribute to Pete Covill who had retired from the Group at the AGM in October. Pete had been involved with the Group for over 25 years as a Leader, then Akela and subsequently as the Group Chairman. His service to Scouting has also been recognised by the District Association with the award of the Medal of Merit for outstanding services to the Movement.

Skiing for the Scouts and Explorers was one of the best organised yet with quite a few of our children being able to be classified as 'free skiers' and able to use the main slope without direct supervision. As many of the parishioners know, the Scout Christmas post is always successful and, this year, handled over 6000 items. We are always thankful to the Church for supporting and promoting this event.

Life is a little quieter after Christmas but it has still been possible to have time at Ross Wood culminating in an Easter Egg hunt just before the end of term. The Beavers were

invited to the Art College for one of their meetings and the Scouts and Explorers took part in the annual sponsored walk to Aylesford during the half term. The Beavers were invited to the Art College for one of their meetings and the Scouts and Explorers took part in the annual sponsored walk to Aylesford during the half term. This latter activity is quite an achievement with the youngsters covering a total distance of 34 miles spread over Friday night, Saturday and Sunday morning.

With the start of the new term, the annual St George's Day parade beckons where we renew our promises as part of the Scouting movement. This year is rather special for the Group as Pam and Tony (Akela and Skip) will be receiving the Silver Acorn Awards for very outstanding service to the Scouting movement. Both these Leaders have given their all to the Group and just as much work with the District especially for Special Needs children and Tony for his role as Camp Warden up at the District camp site in Ross Wood. Towards the end of last year, Hilary, one of our assistant Cub Leaders, was also awarded the Medal of Merit for her work with the County Training team. This shows overall recognition of the quality of our Leaders and ensures we run an effective organization. It is this quality which makes our Group as successful as it is but we must always remember that we have considerable support from the Church and the backing of our parents. The challenge is there for all our young people and we hope that his is accepted and leads to the well rounded development of our youngsters leading to the citizens of the future.

*Alan Ross – Group Scout Leader*

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

We have twenty five percent more servers than we had in September of 2004 and some of the existing ones have increased their repertoire of Liturgical skills.

Only the 8 am Mass on a Sunday is without a parishioner as Server, the rest have very able servers who serve the Liturgy well.

The highlights for me were the training of a Thurifer for the 11.00 am Mass and the coming together of servers from different Masses to serve the Triduum.

A word must go to the parents as all support their children in serving by bringing them to Mass and some even go as far as giving them feedback on how they served!

For the future I hope that this group of servers continue to grow and that adult servers join them to help with training and the big liturgical occasions.

*Sean O'Connor (Seminarian)  
Father Philip Seed*

#### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (S.V.P.)**

The Conference grew significantly this year. An information weekend close to St Vincent's feast (27<sup>th</sup> September), attracted much interest in our work, and led to seven people joining as full members. Our capacity to visit those in need has been considerably enhanced. We're now seeing some twenty people on a regular basis. We continue to assist in more material ways, helping single mums (and dads!), to buy things like washing machines, school uniforms and fridges, always with a visit of course. We've also given our support to someone suffering bereavement. We have been active in distributing Christmas hampers and vouchers on behalf of the Lord Mayor's and Canterbury Almshouse Trustees.

There are also our socials. The summer outing in September went to Aylesford Priory, where we picnicked. The Christmas Party jollied along by musicians and monologuers from the parish, took place on 19<sup>th</sup> December in St Thomas' Hall.

Both events provided fun and enjoyment for guests and conference members alike.

I can usually report on parishioners' great generosity when it comes to fundraising. Our door collections for the poor and needy of the parish demonstrates it every single month over the past year. So did a 'one-off' appeal, the Tsunami Adopt-an-Orphan scheme, held, courtesy of Canon Bunce, over the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> February. The conference has supported a twin conference in India for some time. The 'Adopt-a-Twin' appeal invited individual parishioners to become personally involved in the work of the SVP, which a lot have done, magnificently.

I thank them, and all who have contributed to the door collections. I also thank Canon Bunce, and the parish clergy, and Brenda and John for their much appreciated support over the year.

Mark Bateson, President

#### **100 CLUB**

Another successful year for the 100 Club in which all 100 numbers were 'sold' early on in the year. Two monthly winners of £20.00 have been drawn throughout the year and four lucky members will win £250.00 each in the Grand Draw on 9<sup>th</sup> May, at the A.G.M.

The 100 Club has been described as a 'bit of fun' whereby the parish gains to the sum of £1000.00, and parishioners and friends may win a few extra £'s along the way. If you

want to continue to be part of the 'fun' its time to be thinking of renewing your membership (or joining for the first time). Look for the membership form for 2005-06 in a forthcoming newsletter – fill it in, return it and you could be lucky for the next year.

*Ron Arcari, 100 Club Organiser*

### **MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON MONDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2005.**

**Mass** was celebrated at 7pm. The meeting then adjourned to the church hall and was reconvened at 7.45pm.

**Present:** Chris Bull (Chairman), Canon Bunce, Father Philip Seed, Father George Marsden, Deacon David Avery, members of the Parish Pastoral Council and Parishioners.

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Father Richard Bateman, Jean Johnson, Barbara Markham and Mike Garside.
2. **To receive any other business.** Sue Purbrick wished to talk about the financial committee's report and implications arising from it.
3. **Minutes of the AGM held on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2004,** were accepted as a true report. Proposer: Brian Molloy. Seconded: Jonathan Butchers.
4. **Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising from the minutes. Two matters arose from the Annual Report. Referring to her talk on St Therese of Lisieux to the Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Leslie Smith wished the sentence beginning: 'The effect of her entry into Carmel...' to be omitted. Deacon David pointed out that his second report should have been titled 'Extraordinary Ministers of Communion'. Greta McHugh challenged the ambiguity of the word 'Communion'.
5. **The Chairman's Report.** Chris wished to add that this year is the year of the Eucharist and that every Saturday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 11am – 11.30am. Sean O'Connor, our Seminarian, leaves us in June, so in July, August and September a Eucharistic Minister will be needed to put the Host in the Monstrance. The guidelines for Eucharist Ministers have been clarified and Fr Philip Seed explained them. The Chalice should be purified only by the priest or the deacon. At the Communion the Chalice is given to the deacon first and then the priest gives the extraordinary ministers the chalice.

They don't give it to each other. Similarly with the Host. This is to heighten the reverence.

John Renn objected to all these details. He felt the inner attitude was more important.

6. **Finance Committee's Report.** Sue Purbrick felt strongly that the finance committee's report should not be accepted, as she felt there were inaccuracies in it. Rob McGillie proposed that Sue should meet the Finance Committee and express her objections to them. Ron Arcari proposed a vote of confidence in the finance committee.
7. **Parish Priest's Report.** Canon Bunce took it that his written report had been read and asked if any clarifications were needed. RCIA. It was noted the RCIA was in abeyance; however a good number of converts were being instructed by the Canon and by Fr Philip. The practical instruction/initiation happens at Mass. However, the RCIA needs to be relaunched, so that those inquirers are accepted by the community, which gives support and prayer. Canon expressed how much he values the ministry of the parish clergy: Fr George with Masses and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr Philip, who is his mainstay. This ministry is very much appreciated, always cheerful, positive and willing, sometimes accident prone! Fr Richard is in America. Still working two years after his operation, wanting to do as much as he can. Deacon David, quiet and non-confrontational, giving instructions, visiting, officiating at cremations. Fr Sylvester is coming in July and August. Frances Gerth is organising a concert in the church on 13<sup>th</sup> June to raise funds for Fr Sylvester's School. Sean O'Connor, our seminarian, visits St Anselm's School, the hospital, the prison and helps in the sacristy. Brian Molloy proposed a vote of thanks to him. Canon Bunce thanked all the parishioners.
8. **Any Other Business.** There was none.
9. **Draw for 100 Club.** Brenda was thanked for taking over from Hugh Sullivan. By last May there were only 80 members, but Cyril Adam bought the remaining 20 tickets. A cheque for £1000 was given to Canon Bunce. The winners of the draw with prizes of £250 were: number 63, Pat Gill,

33, Peter Harrison, 58, Elizabeth Simpson,  
100 Teresa Woolmer.

10. **The Closing Prayer** was led by Fr Philip.
11. **Refreshments** were provided.

**Agenda for the A.G.M.  
on May, 2006.**

1. Opening Prayer (Mass at 7.00 p.m.)
2. Apologies for absence
3. To Receive Any Other Business (already tabled)
4. Minutes of the AGM held on 9th May 2005.
5. Matters Arising (not appearing on the Agenda)
6. Chairman's Report
7. Finance Committee's Report
8. Parish Priest's Report
9. Any Other Business
10. Draw for the 100 Club
11. Closing Prayer
12. Refreshments

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