

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF OUR LADY AND ST WULSTAN CHURCH  
HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009**

Present           33 members of the Parish.

1. The meeting started at 6.30 p.m. Father opened the meeting with a prayer. Father Bernard said he had been a priest in the Church of England for 37½ years. He was ordained by the Bishop of London Graham Leonard. He went to Oscott Seminary, Ilmington, Shipston on Stour and Brailes. He spent a year in Bicester and Bishop Kenny asked if he could come to Southam. He said it was lovely to be here, everyone had been very welcoming and friendly. He is hoping over the next few months to invite everybody to the house. He said whatever else we do between now and next Easter we must get the Church decorated.
2. Apologies from Val Berridge, Sister Maire and Kathy Reeves.
3. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting were read. There were no matters arising.
4. Peter Guy talked about the Parish Committee and included a brief financial report. He said the update was useful for Father Bernard to see what everyone does in the parish. He also talked about what the committee does and that we are the fund raising arm of the parish. In the middle of the booklet were parish events – we have kept things going since 2008 but have dipped a little bit. The £7,321 was from the promise auction which did really well. However, we have yet to receive £1,058 from the bank for the match for match at the fete, which can then be added to £4,928. All the events, such as the Christmas and Easter Bingo all go to Parish funds, with exception of the bonfire, which we give to local charities. On this note, should anyone have any rubbish (that will not harm the environment), they wish to go on the bonfire, please bring it down to the cricket field on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> November.

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009 Father John left the Parish and we had a celebration for his services to the parish over the last few years. Father John was overwhelmed and received many presents. We also had a second farewell after Mass with tea and cake. The next parish committee meeting is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, and everyone is welcome. We are always looking for new volunteers.

The Restoration Fund currently stands at £10,998 after £16,648 for renovation to the roof areas, £928 for the Celtic Cross. We have been offered an interest free loan of £5,000. The restoration of the windows amounted to £135. Funds raised were £4,798 and the cost of the renovation was £4,933. Collections are holding up well and said we didn't need to look into the other figures as they look after themselves. With regard to gift aid, if you wish to do this please contact Gratton O'Brien.

Going through the Parish update, Peter said we need to thank everyone who takes part in some way. The altar servers, administered by Deacon Terry, Julie Hum and Mary Hughes. The very important area of Eucharistic Ministers. Church cleaning organised by Julie Hum. Flower arranging and refreshments which are done by rota. Peter thanked Morris Griffin for his child protection work. Music arranged by Andy Hughes. Father said that we are excellent singers and thanked everyone who played instruments on a Sunday morning. Peter mentioned the children's liturgy and said it is a big ministry, which looked after and instructed on what is being talked about in Mass. In July there was a family picnic and now that this has been established more people may attend it. The Parish website, which Russell Hobson and Shirley look after. There is a telephone number in the update if anyone needs it. The Church wardens and repository. The Sacristans, Julie Hum and Mary Hughes who do such a wonderful job with the albs and altar cloths. The senior citizen's group has an attendance of 23 people and it is nice to see that lunches, etc go on over the year.

Catholic Women's League – if anyone wants to join they are more than welcome. Father Bernard apologised that he would not be able to attend their next meeting, as he had another engagement.

Val Berridge had written an account of the Old House Retreat and how many different people come and spend time there. Mike Brown highlighted things that were urgent that have now been done. Peter said the redecoration will be done and hopefully we will get on with this soon. The Architectural Committee meeting will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and they will guide us as to what can be done. Quotes will then be sent out for the work. Peter thanked Bob Hefner for the work he has done already in the Church. He has just volunteered to paint the gable end. The 100 Club has 101 members at present. The two ladies who supply the eggs at the back of the Church unfortunately cannot carry on this service, but Peter thanked them for the many years they have provided eggs. The note about St. Mary's Primary School from Mr. Jones was very welcome. Thanks also went to our own Percy Thrower Jim Welton for his great flower beds outside the Church.

At this stage Peter mentioned the forthcoming events as follows:-

Bonfire	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2009
School Bazaar	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2009
Christmas Bingo	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2009
Senior Citizens Lunch	Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> December
Carols in the Courtyard	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2009

5. Deacon Terry's Spiritual Report – Terry read out his report. (See attached sheet). Peter said it does say in last year's minutes that the report was attached, but unfortunately it is not. Terry said it was a shame that Sister Bernadette was not here anymore
6. Any Questions: - Bernard Cadogan said given that we only have £15,000, why have we stopped the second collection. Terry replied that we have to adhere to the statutory second collections of the Archdiocese. If we have a second collection in succession in two weeks we find that people will not put much in on the third Sunday. We then leave the collection to the following month. If we have a second collection we need an independent Sunday. A lot of the parishioners present at the meeting said they would not mind having a second collection each Sunday. A discussion took place about the second collection and it was agreed that a second collection would take place each Sunday (unless the Archdiocese asked for a different collection to take place). Father will announce in the newsletter and at the beginning of each Mass what the second collection is for. Roy Pendleton said using gift aid would make a big difference. Mary Hughes said that not everybody could afford to use the gift aid scheme. We will continue with the bottle at the back of the Church to also collect money, which was the idea of Natalie Braun. Andy Hughes said that Father needs to tell the parishioners what is needed from them with regard to donations. Father said that Mike Brown had done a lot of work towards the restoration and that the Church could even be a listed building. Martin Merritt asked if we had gone through all the lottery grants etc that are available. Peter said that we had not, because there had not been the time, but if there is anyone who has this sort of idea to come forward to help.
7. Peter said that if you do not want to commit tonight then come along on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. We need some fresh blood on the committee. Sister said she had spoken to Father John and he had sent his greetings to everyone and said hello to Father Bernard. Father Bernard said thank you to Peter for the way he chaired the meeting. Peter presented Bernie with a bouquet of flowers and Russell a bottle of wine for their work on the committee. Three people, Martin Merritt, Angie Hughes and Rex Savin said they would hopefully come to the next meeting. The next meeting of the committee is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 8.00 p.m.