

# Parish of St.Cuthbert

One Parish Family, Two Places of Worship

## *Autumn Update – actions, plans and help needed*

After a lovely long summer we think it's a good time to update everyone on what has been happening behind the scenes and what is planned for the near future. We also have a list of areas where we need your help.

Running our parish and all of its facilities takes a significant amount of effort 7 days a week. It can't happen without your help.

**PLEASE DO READ AND DIGEST THIS UPDATE!**



## **Actions completed and in progress:**

### **St. John of Rochester – electrical works**

We have had a set of long term electrical issues at St. John's and recently completed two phases of remedial work to (a) replace some faulty equipment, (b) reduce the power consumption / cost, (c) install low power lighting. In the longer term, we will also need to replace many of the existing circuits as the wiring is getting old. We plan to address this as part of the large restoration, refurbishment and renovation projects starting in early 2019.

### **St. John of Rochester – insurance claim**

Our long standing insurance claim for the damage caused by the leaking oil tank at the rear of the presbytery in conjunction with the bad floods is finally coming to an end. After many and varied soil tests, analysis, specialists on site and plenty of negotiation we aim to close off the settlement before the end of the year.

### **The Assumption of our Lady – heating / boilers**

It might surprise you to know that we have 6 gas boilers in total on the EG site, between the presbytery, church, Jurgens Centre and chaplains flat. After a full survey in the early summer, a number of key issues needed to be addressed so that we could be warm, dry and safe for the approaching cold weather. These items are being addressed as we come to press and work should be completed by the end of November.

### **The Assumption of our Lady – drains**

The car park as you know is a great source of income for our parish, being used 5 days a week by RHUL. The heavy rains before the summer highlighted significant blockages to the drains so we have had a specialist company remove and flush through the main car park drains. We will now monitor for the autumn and winter to ensure we have resolved the problem.

### **Jurgens Centre - roofing**

Early in the summer we had to clear many of the gutters around the Jurgens Centre as they were blocked. The inspection then highlighted some further leaks around the roof vents (20 in total) so we have now planned to have them replaced during November to protect the roof and ceiling in the Jurgens Centre from further damage.

### **The Assumption of our Lady – flower room**

If you notice the wonderful flower arrangements each week on the altar, it is all prepared in a small room adjacent to the sacristy. A pleasant Saturday morning was spent and led by Penny Donegan to clear out the well-used flower room. It is now a much more usable place but still needs further enhancements as a working space so help needed please.

### **The Assumption – Roof/Gutters**

Various blockages in the roof drainage prompted a major clean out of the gutters at The Assumption along with some minor short-term roof repairs.

### **Both Sites – Tree Surgeon**

We had a number of trees that needed pruning to various degrees and to eliminate dangerous overhanging branches at both our sites and this was completed earlier in the summer.

## **Plans – short and medium term:**

### **GDPR**

Everyone will be aware of the legislation surrounding GDPR and we too must work towards full compliance as a parish. Following on from a recent diocesan meeting on the subject we have a set of initiatives to move forward to ensure that we are fully compliant with the GDPR regulations. John Connors had kindly given his time to lead this forward for the parish but as we move into the latter part of the year, John will be looking for some additional help as one of our early tasks is to run a parish wide census to get a clear and up to date picture.

### **Finances**

We recently published our full 2017 approved accounts and accompanying notes on the parish web site. If you have any questions, please address them to the Finance Team. The accompanying notes provide an interesting read and will allow you to understand the real picture of our income and expenditure.

### **Fund Raising**

We have some significant projects on the horizon as well as the usual maintenance tasks to keep our parish moving and to make these happen we need to have some additional funds. If you have any ideas or are willing to help raise funds, either on a one-time event, or longer term, please do get in touch. Contact details at the end.

### **Major Restoration, Refurbishment & Renovation – both of our churches**

We are working closely with the Diocese to select a company to lead (architects/surveyors) our larger church projects and we aim to have this process completed before the end of the year with plans and priorities set for early 2019. We will update you again once we have moved this forward.

### **Strategic Planning**

Fr.Chris will be attending a key diocesan meeting organised by the Bishop in December to review and discuss medium and longer terms plans for the diocese. Many of you are already aware of the challenges faced by the Catholic Church so planning ahead needs careful consideration so we build a solid future for the next generation. We plan to share the outcome of this meeting with the key stakeholders in our parish once the information is agreed and available.

### **Time, Talent and Treasure**

Early in 2019 we will be organising a weekend where we meet socially and explore and discuss our mission on both a practical and spiritual level with the objective of identifying the wonderful talents and treasure spread amongst our parish community so that we can then leverage them to the good of all over time. We will update you early in the year as to the location and time.

## **Help Needed**

### **St. John of Rochester – DIY**

We have a good list of small remedial works required around the community room and kitchen area. If you could spare a few hours with some tools and have DIY skills, please get in touch.

### **Presbytery – DIY / Carpenter**

There is a kitchen cupboard that is blocking full access to the boiler. We need to review options to get this modified or moved. Any keen DIY / carpenters available for a few hours would be most appreciated.

## Jurgens Centre – new fridge

Our old tiny fridge in the kitchen is getting to the end of its useful life. It is time to replace this with a much larger and more useful fridge. The summer proved that for a reasonable sized social function, the current fridge is not really practical. We can consider purchasing a new one, but if you have any ideas in this regard, please let the Finance Team know.

## Contacts:

If you can help in any way or offer your services on a one-off basis, please do get in touch.

Function	Contact
Parish Finance Team	Jim Forkin (07879 888 863 / jim.forkin@btinternet.com)
Parish Office Finance and Administration	Cath Bowers / Rita Fanning (parishofegham@yahoo.co.uk)

## Thanks

Everything you have read about today and plenty more besides have been actioned or moved forward by a relatively small number of parishioners. There is so much that takes place daily and weekly to clean, beautify, maintain and manage what we have and we should all be extremely grateful for all the effort, but what is clear is that we need additional help. It is not onerous and it is extremely rewarding both spiritually and socially, so please do consider putting aside a little time to get more involved on the vast and varied tasks that face us as a parish.

As a parish, we have a very special word of thanks to Deacon Stephen Sharpe from our Diocese, who has been extremely helpful in all our property related tasks over the last year both at EG and EH. To thank Stephen, we have made a contribution to his nominated charity.

**With best wishes to you all,**

**Your Parish Finance Team**