

Update for members of St Elizabeth's Pastoral Council April 2021

I thought it would be good to give everyone an update on how things are going /progressing in the Parish since it hasn't been possible to hold a face to face meeting for some time.

School – Parish Links

We had a good response from school for the CAFOD water project. Miss Fletcher organized a walk for water day in which all year groups were involved. The event was primarily to raise awareness but the school also raised £75.

The children visited the church to see the Lent garden and left prayers there. This type of activity seems to be a way forward.

Peter Gatley who is doing a survey of the church grounds (see below) is visiting school with me on Friday 30th April with a view to engaging the children in the environment.

Mass

Sunday Mass the system to pre book your place at Mass has continued to work well. The Dean approved raising out number to 70. We have been achieving this number regularly over the last few weeks.

Wednesday Mass has been re- introduced. Fr Hugh cleans spaces before hand and we have a full clean afterwards. We are asking people to pre book at the moment. We are probably averaging 10-12. I have suggested to people who are concerned about returning to Sunday Mass this may be a way to 'break themselves in'.

Streamed Mass – Since the church is now open this has been discontinued.

Funerals - Since December we have had a number of funeral services in church. Again thanks to the cleaning and stewarding team.

Finances

The first CIL payment has been made by the Parish without prejudice, to avoid additional late charges. Various attempts have been made to contact and discuss with Lulworth. The new solicitors have now written to them, the estate agent and the previous solicitors BSG. Fr Hugh is handling this on behalf of the Abbot.

Health & Safety and Maintenance

Barrier – no progress. We are still awaiting plans

Drains – Joe H has done this work

PAT testing – the firm who used to do this for us has gone bankrupt. A new supplier is being sourced so this is outstanding

Gutter Cleaning- this needs to be arranged – we will ask for a high level clean of the lead gulley too due to the damp patch which has reappeared over the chancel arch

Roof above Marquis entrance- there is a leak from this roof. Ted has inspected and in the first instance is going to do a temporary reseal.

Tree Issue SMN tree surgeons have quoted for the work. The Council have visited site and verbally approved the work. Forms etc are being submitted. Work is expected to be complete in ~3 months

Web Site

The new website is up and running. We are sign posting people to the bulletin on the web from Facebook. Any comments re improvement etc. would be appreciated as we are due to have a review w/c 10th May

Environmental Project

We are in the process of kicking this off, whilst it is in no way limited to the church grounds and graveyard this is where the initial focus is. Peter Gateley a retired botanist has made several visits to look at the fauna and flora and will come forward with ideas which we might want to take forward.

Already a raised bed has been put in the priests' garden (Thank you Ted) and is being planted up.

A meeting to discuss ideas has been arranged in the garden for after Mass this Sunday May 2nd.

Communication with Parishioners

Phoning - has continued particularly those who do not have access to the internet. Fr Godric, Fr Hugh and Fr Boniface have continued to phone people especially if they have been alerted to someone needing an extra bit of help.

Facebook - this continues to be updated several times a week. Historical items seem to gain the most interest.

Parish Directory- This is on going and is being used to send a weekly bulletin and the Wednesday Word to people. The aim is to eventually reduce the number of paper bulletins needed in the future. The email is sent blind copy so peoples email addresses are not visible.

Easter

Thanks to Kath for the outside displays and to the team who arranged the flowers. Attendance at the Good Friday service was better than usual and we were at capacity for Easter Sunday. time.

Parish History

Fr Hugh is now doing the final editing of this so we should be able to publish , using the grant from the CRS, later this year.

Miscellaneous

Vases Project – we are looking to refurbish the brass altar vases. Prices have been obtained and this is open to parishioners who might want to make a donation in memeoery of a loved one.

I am still working from home at the moment. I think this is working OK as no one has said otherwise. Other than the day to day activities the main focus is on the Environmental Plan and data base developments.

I am aware we have not completed last year's **First Holy Communions**, and this years programme is yet to start. This is something Fr Godric is currently considering.

Heritage Weekend – 2022 now seems the likely date for this. 2022 is also the 150th Anniversary of St Marys School opening – we need to consider how we can mark this.

I hope this is helpful, any questions either give me a call or drop me an email

Best regards

Mary