

# Reports from Representatives of Parish Groups

## PAC activity – (John Golden)

### **Personnel**

During the year Four new members joined us who had been elected (in a contested ballot) by the congregation: Rob, Judith, Eoin, and Simon.

Not much later we received the news of the unexpected death of Peter Gunn our loyal and dedicated secretary for many years. Fortunately, we have found another well-known parishioner, Paul Spooner, as a volunteer replacement

Finally, all members are named with small photos on a notice on the Narthex board.

### **Meetings**

The previous Parish Annual Meeting (PAM) was in December '17, to include Parish Accounts for calendar 2018 this meeting has been moved to March, and for succeeding years also. The Parish Advisory Council (PAC) met in January, May, September and January, based on 3 meetings a year. This is now likely to be 4 meetings a year. We are trying to develop small 'working groups' to tackle specific projects or groups of projects, involving wherever possible other parishioners.

### **Organisation**

We were encouraged by Fr David, and even more so by Fr Matthias to take a more positive role.

With a new Parish Priest / Parochial Administrator comes his opportunity to revise the form of the PAC. This has taken the form of a new constitution, which will be put to you this evening (both the old and the new constitutions require any change to have the approval of the PAM)

### **Topics discussed include:**

Copyright issues following the purchase of new hymn books (Laudate), also the use of the old books and the white local books. For some occasional uses statistics have to be reported to the copyright holders or agents.

Strenuous efforts to update the parish web-site and to develop a new means of communication via Facebook, both now bearing fruit. A parishioner has voluntarily offered to work on the web-site and a member of the PAC has produced a Facebook page.

We are being reminded by the insurer's agents of areas relating to health and Safety which lag behind current acceptable standards.

A survey of the needs of Hall users is being carried out preparatory to recommendation of up-grading. The PAC was very pleased to see the work done on the kitchen, thanks to Fr David's pressure on the Diocesan surveyor.

The value of the residue from Canon O'Donnell's bequest has been sought and the Executor contacted, this bequest was for certain measures to decorate the Church and like items. This interest is seen as related to the money needed for the organ.

Our church organ (the pipes and case being over a hundred years old) is in need of repair in several parts, particularly the bellows of the wind-chests and the electrical connections between the console and the pipes. Members are asking that the PAC should make a recommendation to the parish finance committee regarding repair or replacement with an electric instrument designed for the task. We noted that it might be necessary to accept a temporary solution pending information on likely repair to the concrete of the church. Reference to the booklet produced at the original opening of the church shows that Canon O'Donnell wanted there to be an organ.

The PAC supported the work of Sr Catherine and her team for the celebration here of Canon Acton's Golden Jubilee of ordination and, earlier, of 80 years since the first Mass here. Members of the PAC, with considerable help from Marianne Haynes, produced a booklet marking the occasion while Sr Catherine produced an excellent small card advertising 'Adoremus' and the church and posted in all letterboxes within the parish boundary. Further celebrations and activities are at the planning stage.

Car parking, both within the grounds and in the street, by church-goers, together with the state of the car park were discussed but nothing has yet been decided. There are two aspects, best use of space by appropriate parking marking and avoidance of obstruction for access, by emergency vehicles or neighbours.

The PAC discussed and approved the installation of CCTV in the Narthex. Also considered was the consequent ability to open the Narthex for the whole day so that people could come and pray. After consideration of associated risks it was decided to only open at first during the Parish Secretary's advertised working hours and during the Thursday Exposition.

At the end of our most recent meeting we were asked to consider improving access to the lectern for those who are 'unsteady on their feet'. This is being progressed on an ad-hoc basis by the Parish Secretary with others.

### **Hall Activities/Users – (Simon Bruton)**

I have been in St John Fisher Parish for over 40 years and about 30 years ago I was approached by David Honour, a long term parishioner then, asking if my wife and I had considered joining 'Teams of Our Lady', which was a group for married couples. We went along with some other couples to find out about what was involved and we ended up joining 'Teams' becoming 'Merton 5'. Although no longer in Teams we still meet regularly with two other couples and occasionally our chaplain once a month.

During many discussions around that time, David Honour told me about his dream for the parish hall. He thought that it should be knocked down and a new 2 storey hall built

in its place. We would have some badly needed meeting rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor along with a lift and accessible toilets. I wasn't disabled then, but David had a son with Spina Bifida, so David was very much thinking about access for people with disabilities. He looked forward to having a hall which was connected to the church to encourage more people to come for tea and coffee after Mass, to give more sense of community among parishioners. The new hall would be able to be used by more than one group at a time but sadly we are still stuck with a hall that can only accommodate one group meeting at a time. David's vision of a new hall was ahead of its time, although I doubt he thought that it would have taken this long to even start the process!

My vision is based around just what David Honour had talked about over 30 years ago and that is one of the reasons I am working on this project, in his memory. The hall usage is dominated in the weekday evenings by the uniformed groups and the leaders do a magnificent job engaging with the young of the parish. This does mean though, that the hall is mostly unavailable during this time for other activities. To increase the usage of the hall we would need to add a second floor over part of the hall. This would add those badly needed meeting rooms that David Honour talked about all those years ago. We would add a lift and toilets to make the hall accessible for all and fit for purpose for the future. A hall with 2 floors would allow other groups to meet at the same time as other activities. The second floor couldn't extend over the whole hall as we would lose the height in the main hall area, which is essential for the uniformed group activities as well as others like the youth club. It is also important to retain a large double height area to hold parish functions, dances, etc . The present large space has a really nice wooden parquet floor which we may be able to reuse.

A redeveloped hall would be properly insulated so that there would be no need to sit in the hall shivering in the winter, even with your coat on and the heating turned on. Even the last PAC meeting was cut short as we had all got so cold, even though the heating was on! Storage in the hall is another problem - there is not enough of it. The storage under the stage currently gets damp and those using these spaces find that some of their materials are spoilt or ruined. So, dry storage would be planned in from the beginning. Sadly, despite asking for specific information about storage for those groups that need it, only one response has been returned with partial information on it others have not given the dimensions requested. I will now have to write and send out another set of questions for more detailed information to be provided, despite this being in the original questionnaire.

The hall is very old, cold and needs to be updated. A redeveloped hall would have fully updated kitchen and toilet facilities, although the kitchen has recently been refurbished and those using it are very happy with the new facilities. This shows what could be done to the whole hall, making it much more pleasurable to be in. The tea/coffee area needs to be separate from the main hall area so that it could be heated separately and wouldn't be closed when other functions go on in the main hall area. We are looking to make the hall much more welcoming. We would look at improving the storage areas for the various groups that need it. A new hall could be made available to run many other events and which could help in bringing more people into the church through the events run in it.

I would very much like to see the church and hall interlinked, there are so many other parishes where this has been done and it improves the welcoming feel of that parish. I am also keen to look into the possibility of seeing if the choir loft could be linked to the upper floor of the hall. That way the choir loft would be accessible by all using the hall/church lift and the choir would have easy access to toilets on that level.

So far it has been hard going, questionnaires were written and sent out to the groups that use the church hall but unfortunately there are still four groups who have not responded. They have now been sent a 3<sup>rd</sup> reminder about completing the questionnaire. Over the last few months I have also been heavily involved with the organ repair/replacement investigation so haven't had the time to devote to the hall project and with the lack of responses I have felt quite down about it recently. I was thinking of stepping down and handing it over but a few weeks ago at Mass, a name came up under remembering those who died about this time and David Honours name was read out, so it gave me the impetus I needed to continue with the project!

### **Facebook/Website - (Melissa Russell)**

#### **Website**

The current parish website needs updating to be responsive and mobile friendly so that it can be viewed on different screen sizes/iPads and on mobile devices. We are waiting for the diocese to advise us when a new parish website template will be available for us to use. We are hoping that this will be by Summer 2019.

Newsletters and rotas are updated regularly to the current website, and some minor text changes have been made to the existing site such as updating the clergy and liturgical calendar.

#### **Facebook**

Eoin O'Connell has created a private Facebook group for the Parish which parishioners need to request access to. The link is:

**[www.facebook.com/groups/StJohnFisherParishMerton](https://www.facebook.com/groups/StJohnFisherParishMerton)**

The link has been advertised in the weekly parish newsletter for the past two weeks and will continue to be advertised in the hope that as many parishioners as possible join the group.

A parishioner (Lucy) has kindly offered to help with the Facebook site and we are very grateful for her assistance.

The Facebook group currently has approx. 40 members, we would like to grow the membership and feel that it could be a very useful resource to the Parish.

Currently newsletters are added, events are also added if it is felt they may be of interest to parishioners. The Facebook group is also used to advertise events in the parish, for example the upcoming Unlock walk in April.

### **CCTV- (Melissa Russell)**

A CCTV system supplied by ADT for the narthex area was installed at the beginning of the year and began recording on Monday 4th March.

The installation comprises three cameras, one located inside each of the entrance doors. Footage (video only) is recorded constantly and kept for approximately one month, this gives us the ability to look back on previous recordings in the event of a crime.

As agreed at the recent PAC meeting, the Narthex will be open for a trial period during parish office opening hours (Monday to Thursday 9am to 2pm).

During the CCTV installation, it was discovered that the broadband connection was not fast enough to stream the footage from the cameras, so the line was upgraded to a fibre connection.

This upgrade has allowed us to install a wi-fi extender in the Church Hall and parishioners are now able to use the free wi-fi in the Hall (posters are on display in the kitchen and noticeboard with the login credentials for the network) We hope the users of the Parish hall find this useful.

### **Liturgy Group – (Sister Catherine)**

#### **On Going Formation**

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have made the year 2020 a year to focus on the God Who Speaks. It is the 10th Anniversary of Pope Benedict's Apostolic Exhortation of the 'Word of the Lord' and the 1000 anniversary of St Jerome's death.

So, this year of the word begins on the Feast of St Jerome, 30th September. We will respond to this by forming new scripture groups if needed.

May, month of Our Lady, we will have 3-4 topics on Our Lady – Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Walsingham and Our Lady of Guadalupe. At the moment the Guild of Our Lady are circulating a statue of Our Lady. This statue is kept in the home for a week. We did this for several years, so we are reviving it again.

**Liturgy** – Mass at Kelstone Court, some 10-12 residents attended this Mass and they were overjoyed that they could be present. There was laughter and tears from the group. This week we will be celebrating Mass at Liberty House.

**Mothers prayers** – This group has started. These are small groups to pray for children, parents etc.

**Senior Citizens** – Continue to meet regularly and enjoy each other's company. A 'Scams' talk was held on Thursday 28th February during the Senior Citizens group but was open to all parishioners. The talk was arranged by the community police and Merton Councils Trading Standards department and was well attended. Another talk on 'Personal Safety' is arranged for Thursday 25th April from 1:30pm to 3pm.

At their recent meeting, the Liturgy committee noted and wished to publish the following liturgical events:

Christian Unity Octave 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January. Prayers each day for Church Unity.

## **January**

20<sup>th</sup> World Peace Day – Prayer for peace at all Masses on this Sunday.

## **February**

2<sup>nd</sup> Presentation of the Lord – Blessing of Candles at Mass

4<sup>th</sup> St. Blaise – blessing of Throats at 9am Mass

9<sup>th</sup> Mass of Healing at 11am followed by refreshments in the Hall

10<sup>th</sup> Service of Commitment for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Groups at the 9:30am Mass

## **March**

1<sup>st</sup> Womens' Day of Prayer

6<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday – ashes distributed at all Masses

10<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent. Welcome back from Cathedral visit with Archbishop Peter of R.C.I.A. Group. Stations of the Cross 4:00pm

31<sup>st</sup> Presentation of the Creed to R.C.I.A. Group  
Mothers Day – Special gift and prayers for mothers at the 9:30am, Mass.

## **April**

7<sup>th</sup> Presentation of Our Father R.C.I.A. Group. 9:30am Mass  
Penitential Service with confessions at 4pm

14<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday – Blessing of palms at all Masses. 11am Mass begins in the hall  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 4PM ending with Evening Prayer of the Church at 4:45pm

18<sup>th</sup> Holy Thursday – Mass 5pm for those who cannot attend 8pm Mass  
Mass of the Lord's Supper 8pm  
Watching until 11:30pm. Night Prayer of the Church 11pm

19<sup>th</sup> Good Friday – Service of the Passion of Jesus 11am  
3pm Passion of Our Lord  
Reading of Passion – St John.  

- Solemn Intercessions
- Adoration of the Cross
- Holy Communion

Stations of the Cross 7:30pm. Veneration of the Relic of the Cross.

20<sup>th</sup> Prayers with R.C.I.A Group 9am  

- Vigil Mass 8pm
- Reception into Church

Easter fire will be lit outside the Church by the entrance as it is felt some people cannot go out but are able to take part when the fire is lit there.  
Candles will be lit from the Paschal Candle when the priest has carried it halfway up the Church.

21<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday – Renewal of Baptismal Promises at all Masses

30<sup>th</sup> Feast of St George

### **May**

12<sup>th</sup> Service Crowning of the Statue of Our Lady and Procession 4pm  
World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

### **Adoration – (Rob Roy)**

Since last November Eucharistic Adoration has taken place in the Church every Thursday. We have built up a number of regular Adorers, who have committed to spending an hour a week with Jesus. However we do need more Parishioners to be involved as there are gaps in the time slots, particularly mid to late morning and late afternoon. Comment sheets are now available on the table in the Narthex and a box for Petitions will soon be added. A meeting for all Adorers is scheduled for the beginning of April.

### **Evangelisation - (Julie Brook)**

Following the sudden death of our Dean, Fr. John Mulligan, in September the Merton Deanery Mission Group met at two previously organised meetings, one at the Centre for Catholic Formation in October and the other in the Sacred Heart Parish in November. Both meetings were well attended by delegates from all over the Diocese of Southwark to consolidate ideas following the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool in September, which seven members of our parish attended.

We were able to meet the new Dean of Merton, Canon John Clark, parish priest of Sacred Heart, at a meeting on Tuesday 19th February to discuss future action. The twenty-five people present came from members of the Deanery Mission Group and delegates to the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool in September and included Theo Howard, Diocesan Evangelisation Coordinator at the Centre for Catholic Formation.

Following the Eucharistic Congress several parishes in the Merton Deanery already have all-day Adoration and are working on plans for implementing the findings of the Congress within our parishes, with much emphasis on publicity and good communications. We are at a very early stage here, but a small group is being formed in St. John Fisher Parish. We hope to keep everyone informed as things develop and know we can count on the full support of all.

### **Music Groups – (Simon Bruton)**

**9.30am Music Group** - The group continue to provide music at Mass, despite the musicians wishing to step back/down after doing this for over 20years. Only one

musician has come forward, Bettina who plays piano accordion. We very much welcome other players to join us or take over!

The new Laudate hymn books have been used since September so both music groups have been able to play/sing the correct mass settings. The old white books have been retired as they were missing copyright information and a good number of the hymns are in Laudate. We are working on a new supplementary/white book and are investigating where to buy the published music as well as checking that our copyright licences permit us to reprint the words in our own booklet.

**11am Mass group** - a lot of effort has been going into investigating the purchase of a church digital organ to replace our old pipe organ. There is now less than half of the pipe organ working which makes playing it rather difficult. It has got to the point where it needs a complete overhaul which unfortunately would cost over £100,000. A digital organ will be a much more reasonable cost.

Sadly a number of the choir have passed away this year and they are greatly missed. The choir would welcome new members and the group meet once a week for rehearsals.

### **Uniformed groups – (Jaki O’Nell Ford)**

#### **5th Morden Beavers Colony**

The Beaver Colony is currently running at its full capacity, offering 24 places to boys and girls of our Parish. We continue to have a healthy waiting list, however if you wish to put your child’s name on our waiting list then please contact our group scout leader, Tracy at [tracy@sterlini.plus.com](mailto:tracy@sterlini.plus.com). Most of our Beavers continue to earn the Chief Scout’s Bronze Award before moving on to Cubs. We continue to participate in events at group and district level as well as doing many activities as a colony. We began the autumn term with wide games on the Cannon Hill Playing Fields. We had fun making experiments (slime, chromatography, oil lamps...), created puppy puppets out of kitchen rolls, visited and explored Cannon Hill Common, learnt about Water Aid and created a natural water filter. We learnt about various disabilities and how to help people with those disabilities, we enjoyed classical music evening where we listened to Peter and Wolf by Prokofiev and listened to our Beavers playing their instruments. We pretended to be spies and accepted mission to cypher messages in secret codes, took fingerprints, wrote in invisible ink, learnt our parents’ phone numbers and sent them our messages and deciphered Morse code messages. We also celebrated St. Andrews Day by creating dragons and Christmas by sewing Christmas puppets, listened to music and played games.

We joined district on a trip to the RAF Hendon for the Air Activity Stage Badge and on a District Beaver Fun Day where we experienced a lot of fun, we cooked on BBQ, had fun on inflatables, ... We supported our group by attending our annual fundraising event by packing bags at Sainsbury’s, funds will go towards replacing our very old minivan.

We have very exciting spring term ahead of us with planned district events, an International Badge Day and a Cyclist Badge. We have planned our spring term programme around Skills Outdoor and World Challenge Awards and we have invited some special guests this term a local beekeeper and a children’s book author.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank parish for their continued support and to thank all the parents for their support of the weekly parent rota, outings, sleepovers, etc.

We continue to look for a Beaver Leader. If you (1) are interested in this position, /or (2) if you are interested in helping us to plan and deliver our programme, please get in touch with our group scout leader Tracy at [tracy@sterlini.plus.com](mailto:tracy@sterlini.plus.com) .

### **Cubs – 5<sup>th</sup> Morden**

During the Autumn term, our cubs experimented with creating paper aeroplanes of various designs and completed for the longest test-flight.

Staying with the flight theme, they also built kites. These looked brilliant, however with the days shortening it wasn't possible to fly them outside. We look forward to completing this activity next term.

We visited Brooklands Museum. As well as studying (and sometimes sitting-in) aircraft of all shapes and sizes, the (never shy) cubs also joined in a re-enactment of First World War soldiers marching off to the front. We learnt about an important and somewhat dangerous role that the scouts played during the first world war – Zeppelin spotting!

A Cubs Bake-off was organised with the help of cub parents, and some lucky judges got to taste their handiwork and announce the winners.

One of the biggest activities undertaken during the term was the design and construction of two 'soap box' go-carts using scrap materials. This activity introduced cubs to DIY skills and various tools – some of which they were allowed to use, and some of which were demonstrated to them. The results were impressive and great fun to drive!

Fifteen Cubs braved the cold and the threat of rain to take part in Remembrance Day Parade. All were rewarded with a trip to Flip-Out.

We also helped with fund-raising for the group, taking part in bag-packing at Sainsburys in Cheam. The shoppers seemed to enjoy all the assistance they were given and at least two went out of their way to comment to the leaders on how impressed they were.

Unusually there was no October half-term camp due to leaders' work commitments.

One of our leaders, John Line, is retiring after more than a quarter century of volunteering. We wish him the very best, and thank him sincerely for his long service to St John Fisher Scout Group.

As always, we are very keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in becoming a cub leader.

### **5th Morden Scouts**

We finished 2018 with our annually panto it was a flying success. Last year our Scouts did so many amazing activities Feb Freezer June Water camp, Summer Wall climbing camp. We remember the brave solders on Remembrance Sunday. The group won medals at the district quiz. Then flipped out and learnt how to ski.

Looking forward to 2019 we start the year with District Paintball shortly followed by District Football. We will elect John "Barmy" as president. This term we will cover Photography, Cooking, First Aid and Artist badge. Once we have completed the artist badge the scouts will perform in a show for parents.

We continue to raise money for the district mini bus as the Christmas raffle raised over £260. The troop continues to grow, with the scouting offered to more girls within our parish.

### **The Flying Penguin's Explorer Scout Unit (FPSEU)**

Over the last year our explorers have taken part in a wide range of activities including fencing and duelling under the supervision of an ex-UK Olympic fencing coach, indoor climbing and bouldering at the white spider centre, paddle boarding on the river Wandle, canoeing and kayaking on the Thames, indoor go-cart racing, ten pin bowling, miniature Dino golf in New Malden and ice skating at Hampton Court . In addition we have had many games activities and training in first aid, navigation, cooking, camping and team building. 10 of our explorers successfully completed both their practice and qualifying Bronze Duke of Edinburgh hikes in 2018 and will soon have completed their Platinum scout awards. We have a number of Explorers now trained and ready for their D of E expedition by canoe and it is our aim to ensure that this challenge will be completed during 2019. In January we will take 9 new recruits from the scout section increasing our numbers to nearly 30.

Our Explorers have also taken part in a range of District events over the last year including a Hill walking weekend in the Peak district. Our Explorers successfully defended their District sports day champions title, took part in the indoor go- carting completion and attended the Remembrance Day service in Wimbledon Village. In January 2019 we will take part in the annual paintball competition followed by a district camping weekend in March. We hope to run a summer camp this year in the new Forest and take part in this year's District hill walking weekend and sports days.

Over the last year several of our explorers and Tom Carter were nominated for a Jack Petchy awards providing funds for a wide range of activities

Riccardo D'Andrea: Thorpe park fright night

Oliver Redford: climbing at White spider

Oliver Sansum: petrol go-cart racing

Amelia Newman: indoor skiing/snowboarding in 2019

Aiden Healy: indoor sky diving in 2019

Alex Yip

We would like to express our thanks for the support of the Parish and for the use of the facilities at St John Fisher parish hall. Without this support we would not be able to provide the young adults of the parish with opportunities for self -development, skills training and fun.

### **Rainbows For Girls - 4.30-5.30 Friday Church Hall ( Ages 5-7 )**

We do arts and crafts and other activities and girls work towards badges.

We mix with other Rainbow units in District

Enjoyed panto on 4th January with other uniformed groups in Parish

Currently have 2 leaders and 2 young leaders

After 13 years Sue Green has decided to leave Rainbows in July; Mabinthy Kanu is also departing. If no one comes forward the Rainbows Unit will have to close

Anyone interested please email Sue at Sigreen@live .co.uk

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Morden Brownies**

September; we started the term by providing the girls with an opportunity to work towards their own badge. This was to use up our old badge stock ready to start the new brownie programme in January. The brownies worked towards lots of different badges including disability awareness, sports, musician, writers and lots more.

October; we had a mini indoor camp evening including putting up tents and toasting marshmallows over a campfire (outside!).

During October half term we went to Blacklands farm in East Grinstead for an adventurous pack holiday; we took part in Abseiling and crate staking. It was a cold weekend, but we all had a lovely time.

We had a Children in Need evening. We brought in our teddy bears and made iced Pudsy Bear biscuits.

For Christmas we had an evening making homemade wreaths and also we had our very own Strictly Come Dancing evening.

To end the year and start of the new year we joined in with all the uniform groups with a visit to the Wimbledon Pantomime to see Aladdin. Oh no we didn't, oh yes we did!

### **Guides - 2nd West Barnes and 3rd Morden Guides**

We had a really busy 2018 as we have already mentioned in Talkabout during the year. We started with the visit to the pantomime in Wimbledon with all the groups from St John Fisher. Then we took part in the Division Craft Competition and were delighted to come first and be presented with the shield for the second year running.

In February we were off to PGL to take part in the Big Sleepover. A great time was had by all despite the freezing weather.

First May Bank Holiday we were off again this time to Heyswood for our usual Spring Camp. The weather was much kinder and we concentrated on conservation, thinking about birds and animals both home and abroad. We made bird tables, looked at the role of the RSPCA and painted elephant money boxes.

The highlight of the year was the Staffordshire International Camp "Unity - In my element". The girls all had their own individual timetable (depending on the choices they had made earlier). We only saw them at mealtimes as they went off to the numerous activities, each day covering a different element, Earth Air, Water and Flame. They met Guides from Canada, USA, Kenya, Denmark, Scotland and Wales and swapped a lot of badges with them.

Finally in October we were back at Heyswood, this time for the Indoor weekend with a Disney theme. This was a chance for the girls who had just joined us to go away for the weekend. It was a good chance to get to know everyone.

Once again in January we joined all the units from the Parish for a trip to Aladdin at the Wimbledon Theatre where the 3 D effects were brilliant and the water squirted on us by Wishy Washy not quite so nice!

We will shortly be constructing our entry for the craft competition and hoping that it will be as successful as the last 2 years! At the same time we are starting on the new guide programme in earnest having trialled some of the new activities during last term.

At half term we will be visiting Pax Lodge World Guide Centre to take part in the International activities organised by Rangers and Leaders from around the world, who

are staying or working there, to celebrate World Thinking Day. It is an opportunity for the girls to appreciate World Guiding.

We have 2 camps planned for the start of the summer term, our usual Spring Camp at Heyswood with the guides from Epsom and our Division Camp at Bentley Copse. At the end of the term we will be off to an activity camp at Blackland Farm where the girls will be doing a lot of planning for themselves.

### **Youth Group - (Fr Hyacinth)**

For the past 6 years there was no youth club in St John Fisher Parish. We started a new Faith Youth Club last year (in November, 2018). We meet at the Parish hall on Fridays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. We offer a safe space for young people to relax, have fun and be together. There are also snacks, drinks and games. The Faith Youth Group is made up of 2 groups: Group 1: (years 7,8,9) and group 2 (years 10+ ). During the first 30 minutes we do an opening prayer and spiritual reading led by Fr. Hyacinth Edokwe (their chaplain) and sometimes by Paul Healey (the leader of the youth group). Claire comes as a volunteer to help facilitate the meeting. We need more volunteers. We have had meeting with the parents of the members of the youth group. We did appeal to the parents to come to the meeting as volunteers. Only one parent- Mrs Melissa Rousell has responded to our appeal. We need more parents to volunteer to come to the meeting. We are trying to get the young people to sign a behaviour contract and to get a register for the young people to sign when they come in for the meeting and sign out at the end of the meeting. We are also trying to get more facilities to engage them in sports during the one hour period of fun and games. We are trying to bring in some rules of discipline without being too rigid. Right now the young people are enjoying the meetings. We welcome suggestions to make it more efficient and more enjoyable. We are extremely grateful to those who are already helping us. We also need more volunteers. May God continue to bless our efforts through Christ our Lord.

### **Justice and Peace - (Peter Nash)**

As a parish-group, we want to thank all the clergy, deacons and parishioners for their continued support of the work we do and co-ordinate.

1. Food-collections - We continue to promote and support the monthly food-collections. These collections make a positive contribution to the work of our three partner charities; Christian Care, Faith in Action and The Wimbledon Foodbank. In 2019, we will be exploring how we can deepen our relationship with the parish and these organisations in the context of continuing poverty..

2. Prisoners of conscience – Prior to Christmas we organised the distribution of several hundred Christmas cards to parishioners for them to send to people who have been imprisoned for their Faith. For some prisoners these cards may be the only communication they receive.

3. Mary's Meals – We supported the collection made by Mary's Meals which received overwhelming support from the parish. In 2019 we will explore how the Justice and Peace Group might give additional support to future collections by Mary's Meals.

4. Peace Service - We helped organise the New Year inter-faith peace service.

5. We are an active group, although few in number, and very much welcome new members to support us in the application of Catholic Social Teaching in the parish

### **SVP – (Sean Deane)**

There has been an SVP Society in St John Fisher church for many years trying where possible to turn concern into action.

This work is continued on a very modest scale but the numbers are declining and will shortly be reduced to two members only.

They do provide modest cash sums and help with some household tasks such as gardening but unless they can recruit more members this may simply be no longer possible. Country wide the Society provides low cost goods, recycled furniture and household items to disadvantaged individuals and families.

If no one volunteers then the SVP in ST John Fisher could simply disappear. If you believe that you could help in any way please contact the parish office

### **Talkabout – (Marianne Haynes)**

Early in the year we were shocked and saddened by the loss of Peter Gunn, who had been a rock of support to Talkabout throughout its 29 years, as contributor, distributor and collector. In addition Belinda O'Rourke, who had been part of the editorial team for 20 years, moved away.

However, we have been delighted to welcome Teresa Pollard and Josette Kisnorbo, already regular contributors, to the editorial team. And we welcome new contributor, Tracey Eaden and new distributors: Fran, Patience and Bernadette.

In June, Father David celebrated Mass for us in Julie and Tony's garden, a lovely opportunity to thank all those who support us, despite competition from the parakeets.

It has been another busy year with Canon Acton's Diamond Jubilee, the Eucharistic Congress, visits to Knock and the Holy Land, the 80th anniversary of the first Mass here, (members of the team were involved in the Parish History booklet), the arrival of Father Hyacinth and most recently Fr. Matthias' induction as Parish Administrator. We continue to welcome contributions from all parishioners and hope we reflect all the many faces of the Parish.

### **Parents & Toddler Group – (Pippa Lindsay)**

The Toddler Group runs on Thursday morning from 9.30 until 11.30. It is well attended with families from the parish and outsiders too. We usually have between 20 -30 children ranging from new born babies to nursery aged children.

We provide a variety of age appropriate seasonal activities for the children, we try also to link activities to the church calendar. The morning finishes with refreshments and a music session. Refreshments are included for adults throughout the morning. The Toddler group provides a place where adults can meet other adults with children of similar ages and meet other families from the parish and get to know other people in the local community. It gives the children a place to meet other children, play and develop.

We are extremely fortunate to now have weekly help from Janina, Jane and Beth and also thank Greg for his help with setting up the equipment. I would like to thank everyone for their help, it is invaluable. If anyone from the parish would like to help in any way they would be most welcome. Also if parishioners would like to drop in for a tea or coffee or meet the children that would be lovely.