

Christ the Prince of Peace Weybridge



Parish AGM

July 2nd, 2017

7.00 PM

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Justice & Peace Group:

Coordinator – Mary Lee

“This is what Yahweh asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.”

Our parish (and other parishes in the deanery) does its best to raise awareness of problems of injustice at home and abroad, on issues concerning poverty, human rights, peace and the welfare of our planet. We fund raise throughout the year for our various charities, thanks to the generosity of our parish and beyond.

Awareness and support of the following Charities in the past year:

Apostleship of the Sea

Cafod

Christian Aid

Cardinal Hume Centre in London

The Passage in London

Samara Aid Appeal

Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group/linking in with Refugee Tales

Prisons; Feltham Young Offenders, Brixton, Send and Bronzefield

Liturgy: Hosting the Women’s World Day of Prayer (prepared by the women of the Philippines), Fr. Con said Mass for our Cafod Deanery meeting, attending Mass in the Prison. Stations of the Cross in our Church.

Inviting speakers to our meetings and fund raising events. Aidan Cantwell (Diocesan social action adviser) spoke on Refugee Tales (a walk with 100 pilgrims visiting our parish and some refugees delivering their ‘tales’). Other speakers included a Christian Aid representative for the South speaking at our Christian Aid Concert, Andrew Hollingsworth from the Passage speaking at the Violin Concert about its work, and Jo Leary, the Cafod representative, talking at our Cafod Lunch.

Links with other deanery churches: Chertsey, Englefield Green, - and we hope to make links with the West Byfleet and newly formed Shepperton J&P groups.

J&P Assembly in January in January : ‘Am I a good Neighbour?’ Globalisation and the Fair Society. The event will explore several themes, including: The Challenge of Laudato Si – the Principle of the Common Good, and the Diocesan Response to the Refugee Crisis.

Interfaith Work: Working with CTIW for Women’s World Day of Prayer. Attending services at NW Surrey Synagogue in Oatlands, ‘The Story of the Czech Scrolls’ and screening of the film ‘Paper Clips’ - a true story.

Financial Support:

The Passage – material support from our clothes collection and financial support from our concerts has raised £900 plus.

Cafod – is ongoing, with Lent and Harvest Fast day collections and the Emergency Appeal for East Africa Crisis, with a special lunch.

Samara's Aid – a large collection of 250 boxes of warm clothes for the refugees and £900 of donations towards the transport of these in container ships.

Christian Aid raised over £600 from our musical concert and nearly £300 from our lunch.

Womens' World Day of Prayer – a couple of hundred pounds collected from the service for the Christian Charitable work in the Philippines.

We are selling hand crafted wooden artifacts to buy Rosaries for the prisons.

Future Fund raising with Quiz nights, for Cafod, and a combined fund raising event and an Advent concert with Parishes for Peace for our overseas refugees.

Liturgy & Sacraments

This year we had over 78 children receive their First Holy Communion and 36 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Over the last few years we've tried to make closer links between those receiving sacraments (and their families) and the normal life of the parish. This year as part of the confirmation preparation course, candidates have taken on some service to the parish community, e.g. visit the lonely, helping with children liturgy, parish socials, Eucharistic ministry and cleaning. We are encouraging catechists to take the CCRS and to offering further training and courses.

Our music ministry continues to expand and over the last couple of years some talented organists have offered their services. We now have music at all our Sunday Masses.

The liturgy group continues to plan major liturgical feasts and coordinate the different liturgical ministries.

Medjugorje Prayer Group

“Prayer groups are the hope of the Church and the world”

Christ the Prince of Peace has a very solid Medjugorje presence and support group active in our parish.

Pilgrimage Group: In response to Our Lady's call to pray, pray, pray, we began in 1993 taking pilgrimage groups twice a year to Medjugorje and have not missed a year since. For further information please email John Hoskins at wey.medj@gmail.com

The Medjugorje Prayer Group: In 2004 we began our Medjugorje prayer group with the help of Father Tom at Christ the Prince of Peace. We meet every Thursday at 8pm for one hour, during which we pray the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and The Litany of the Blessed Virgin before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. The meeting always follows the same format which includes spiritual music, singing, silent prayer, readings from the Bible and a Medjugorje message. It is a very moving experience and everyone is welcome. For more information please email Mary Lee at parishpriest@cpp.org.uk

The Medjugorje Calling Foundation

In 2010, stemming from the prayer group and pilgrimage group, we set up a foundation with the purpose to promote Medjugorje prayer groups in homes and parishes throughout the UK. Please visit our website at www.medjugorjecalling.com and send us your prayer petitions which will be offered up at Christ the Prince of Peace and St. Joseph's House of Prayer weekly. You can also email them to petitions@medjugorjecalling.com

St. Martin's Hospitality Group

Coordinator - Carmen Narbona

"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Heb. 13.1-2)

Tuesday 13th September: Refreshments after Maria Rodrigues' Talk.

Saturday 17th September: New parishioner's lunch

Saturday 15th October: South African Night. This event was led by a very enthusiastic group of South Africans from the parish, assisted by the Hospitality team. It went very well.

Friday 21st October: Refreshments after Nigel Wright's talk.

Saturday 19th November: Lourdes Tea in the hall.

Sunday 20th November: International lunch (shared lunch) after 10:30 International Mass

.Sunday 27th November: Care Group Christmas Lunch.

Sunday 11th December, 2016: Gospel and Youth Choir Event – drinks and refreshments were provided.

Friday 23rd December, 2016: Servers Christmas lunch after practice.

Sunday 1st of January, 2017: We had, for the first time, our way of welcoming and celebrating the New Year with Adoration and a drink in the house afterwards. A great success.

Sunday 8th January, 2017: Baptism Celebration: This year we had the presence of Bishop Richard...who cut the cake very professionally...

Friday 20th of January, 2017: Burns Night. This year we have some candidates for Confirmation helping out alongside the youth group.

Saturday 11th February, 2017: The HT helped out with the Cambodian Dinner.

Friday 24th February, 2017: New parishioners were invited to meet us and each other. It was very successful! We will keep alternative day/evening receptions.

March 10th Rugby Night - Stadium food and drinks were provided through the evening while people enjoyed the 6 Nations rugby match between Wales and Ireland

March 17th St Patrick's Night – Live entertainment; Irish dancing, singing and live music by talented parishioners young and not-so-young...A meal of ham, colcannon and apple pie was served during the evening.

April 15th Vigil Mass – a party in the hall with cake and prosecco after the Easter Vigil Mass helped to celebrate the baptised and received into the Catholic Church.

April 28th Movie Night "The Way". We provided popcorn and soft drinks while we enjoyed this very good movie. Very well attended!

April 29th Marriage Preparation Day lunch: A meal was provided (buffet style) for 14 couples and 8 tutors.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP)

Coordinator – Brian Watt

The SVP is a group of parishioners who help those in need in the Elmbridge area. The main areas of focus are :

Visits to the elderly - we visit around 15 elderly people in their homes or residential homes each week for a chat.

Furniture Store - We collect and distribute used furniture with a small team of volunteers. We have helped over 50 families in the last 12 months

Food Parcels - At Christmas and Easter we distribute parcels to families in need. St Charles School and parishioners donate food which the team pack and distribute to families. Also we delivered small gifts to the elderly we visit in the parish and Whitely village.

In addition to these activities we also

- Manage the teas at the Weybridge Old Folks club once a month
- Help a family have a holiday in the SVP caravan in Bognor
- Visit St Peter's hospital as part of the chaplaincy

We are twinned with SVP conferences in rural India and provide support for them with a small donation of money and by corresponding with them on our activities and their activities. Last year we started to sponsor two groups of mothers in India to help them start micro businesses to support their families.

Our motto is to turn concern into action and any parishioner is invited to our meetings held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8pm in Canon Francis Room. We could always do with more hands to help with the various areas.

Youth Group

Coordinator - Andy Rodrigues

Looking back:

Youth Group - This year has been a mixture of fun, friendship building and developing faith. Topics addressed this year include forgiveness (Joseph), living life to the full (Lazarus being raised from the dead), maximising your gifts (parable of the talents).

Youth Masses – This year we have seen a transition from using an outside lead guitarist to one of the young people in the youth group having been trained up to lead. We have guitars, violin, cajon (drum), piano and plenty of singers. People regularly comment after Mass on how wonderful it is to see so many young people involved in singing.

Growth - Both youth groups have grown substantially in size this year, with a larger number of committed members. There are now around 20 regulars in the younger youth group (years 7-9), whereas this time last year there were around 5 people in this group.

Parish socials - The youth have enjoyed serving at the parish socials, waiting at the tables and selling raffle tickets. They participated in the St Patrick's night and South African Night. Some youth from the confirmation programme joined the youth at the St Patrick's night and had a great evening, so came along to youth group.

Pilgrimage – Building on the success of the trip to Rome in 2016, we took the youth and those with young families to France, visiting Normandy beaches, Lisieux (St Therese) and Paris (Sacre Coeur). The youth thoroughly enjoyed it. We received great feedback from parents about the way their young person's faith has been positively impacted by the experience.

Summer Musical - Auditions for the musical Summer School solo roles took place and main parts for Oliver have been cast.

Looking forward:

Continue fun, faith and friendship building.

Youth Masses – Encouraging younger members to get involved and use their gifts whilst also encouraging the more experienced members to grow in leadership.

Plan musical Summer School Week and promotion for ticket selling.

Plan 2018 Youth & Families Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lisbon.

Take part in autumn parish social events.

Advertise and market youth group to increase numbers – by word of mouth, posters and encouraging young people to bring a friend.

Weybridge Deanery Care Group created for those with special needs

Coordinators - Sue Corley, Celia Hansford

The name "Care Group" is a rather formal name for what is simply a very happy and welcoming group of people, some younger, some older, Catholics and non-Catholics, some who are mostly

housebound, some with special needs, some physically disabled, but all great friends. Everyone is welcome to join us. Our core activity centres around our Care Masses which are joyful celebrations with plenty of singing and are always followed by afternoon tea- - the teas are always a real treat! The intention of these very happy occasions is to provide a warm welcome for many people who have few other such opportunities.

· Our Masses take place at 3.00pm on one Sunday each month in one of the parish churches in the deanery. In the course of the year, a visit is made to each of the parishes in the deanery, none of which is more than a twenty minute drive from Weybridge. We also celebrate Mass in St Augustine's Care Home in Addlestone.

· One of the highlights each year and one we all look forward to immensely is the Mass we hold round about Christmas time in the Church of Christ the Prince of Peace, which is always followed by a generous Christmas party in the parish hall.

Parishes for Peace

Our aim is to reach out to all in our parish to give them the opportunity be involved and enjoy being part of our catholic community. In the process we raise money for our Christian friends in Zarqa, Jordan. Through prayer or supporting events we can all do our bit!

Awareness

Launch in September to the Parish during mass.

In December we had an information stall at the St Charles Borromeo Christmas Market. This was aimed at the local school children and young families. From this event we gave 300 prayer cards to the head of Religious Education at St Charles Borromeo to give to each child

Fr Con and Carmen had been out to Jordan to assess the situation. In January 2017, six of our committee also visited Zarqa to develop relations and understand how best to help. Going forward it was decided that money raised should be put towards

- 1) English for life classes. We have donated six laptops to help
- 2) The Beautiful Women voucher scheme, gives women access to a chemist for basic toiletries
- 3) Lunch and transport for school children
- 4) Funding of greenhouses- to supplement their diet

We offered all of the local catholic primary schools a visit from C. Prescott to give a presentation to the children about life in Zarqa as a refugee. This offer was well received from St Charles Borromeo. We had a group of St George's College pupils to spend the morning with us finding out what problems are faced by our fellow christians and how we support them. We met with the confirmation group to raise awareness and to involve them in future events. Our weekly update in the parish newsletter of events and points of interests hopefully keep all informed.

Prayer

In the weekly parish newsletter we encourage prayer for our friends in Zarqa. More specifically we've had holy hours and stations of the cross dedicated to this intention.

Fundraising Events

There have been a number of wonderful events that had the dual purpose of raising money and bringing the parish community together.

- Christmas Wreath Making
- Christmas Tags on trees. This link up our parishioners with the refugees in Zarqa. We sent over 140 cards with money for each person and a Christmas message.
- Burns Night
- South African Evening
- Local Schools Football Match
- Meal at Mazzat, FA Semi Cup Final Tickets
- Rugby Evening
- Beautiful Women Coffee Morning
- Art Lecture by Ann Clements

We are grateful to individual parishioners for supporting PFP. For example we've had individuals complete the following

- A sponsored swim
- Running the London Marathon on behalf of PFP
- Some children asked for money instead of chocolate Easter Eggs. All proceeds were donated to PFP.
- Another parishioner asked for money instead of birthday presents and donated the proceeds to PFP.

Going Forward

We have a number of future events in the pipeline. During our planning meetings we have taken into consideration our diverse community of different ages and stages. Therefore, being mindful to have events that appeal to a broad range of interests. We invite our parish to the following;

- Garden Party in August,
- Talent Show
- Christmas Carol concert.

A Look at Our Future Plans

Divine Renovation

In the last few months, the Pastoral Committee has reviewed the opportunities we have in our parish to bring to life more fully the mission of our church. According to St Matthew's Gospel (28:19-20), this mission is to "Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them everything that I have commanded you". The essence of this mission is to "make disciples". To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to be engaged in a lifelong process of learning from and about Jesus the master, Jesus the teacher – (Fr James Mallon – Divine Renovation).

This work was done under the inspiration of Fr James Mallon's book, Divine Renovation. This was introduced by the Weybridge Deanery Change Management Group, who organised a Deanery workshop in March, hosted in our Parish Hall, to discuss the opportunities coming from our own experiences and Fr James Mallon's inspiration.

Father James Mallon's work is founded on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, guiding the work of changing the way his congregations have taken a journey to reflect on their faith, transform their lives, bring them closer to God through prayer and to re-energising the Church through its 'living stones' (us). The unifying force of the Spirit links the different strands of our Parish life which – if taken to a logical conclusion – is key in delivering Pope Francis' mission of creating disciples and reaching out to others, so that they, too, may be touched by the Spirit. Parish life – our Ministries, Events and Sacraments (and more) – helps us to develop our spiritual lives and sense of community – a family of Christ.

Alpha Courses

At the core of our church's mission is the call to make disciples, as we have seen above. In order to help achieve this, we need to ignite a yearning for faith and for a living connection with our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Alpha courses have been proven in many cases parishes as being very effective at doing this important evangelization mission.

We aim therefore to start an Alpha program in our parish. Alpha courses are a way of discussing fundamental questions around faith and life, in an open inclusive, non-judgemental manner. There are no right or wrong answers, and in this way they offer participants the opportunity to encounter Jesus, and to get answers to these fundamental questions.

This was inspired by the Divine Renovation experience, and also the experience of several Catholic parishes in our Diocese. One of Fr Mallon's most important achievements was introducing the Alpha course into his parishes – thus enabling that reflection and questioning of the important aspects of our faith and to enhance our ability to pray and really connect with Christ. Most of all, it is about our personal experience and journey towards greater love and a deeper relationship with God. The other positive aspects emerging from Alpha included encouraging leadership for and involvement by participants for successive courses and, eventually the word spread - reaching out beyond the converted to those who did not share the faith. Alpha was instrumental in building and extending Father Mallon's parish community and its activities. It enabled leaders to emerge, created a vibrant and caring community and gave opportunities to parishioners to use their talents and gifts for the good of all – creating contagion and using the basis of Alpha for a pathway towards discipleship 'getting out there' and responding to Pope Francis' call. So much of what is described here reflects our energy at CPP – we can use that energy positively - and the Pastoral Team fully supports the idea of Alpha.

As a first step, we will organise a pilot course for a limited number of parishioners involved in the parish ministries, who are interested in this. We will then gradually expand the course in the next year and beyond, so that many of our parishioners have the opportunity to take part, and ultimately to bring those who don't have a strong connection with the church. This will be a journey which will take several years to come to fruition.

Welcoming Ministry Renewal – the Open Church

Divine Renovation – Father James Mallon's seminal work on his dream for transforming his parish (St Benedict's, Halifax, Nova Scotia) has provided the basis of reflection and a call to action in relation to our Ministries. The Pastoral Team is developing plans to take some of his ideas forward, as we move towards a Missionary church, as advocated by Pope Francis. Welcoming is core to the culture of our parish – caring, inviting, reaching out.

With the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit, we aspire to make the welcome in Christ the Prince of Peace as if Christ Himself were embracing each person and finding them a place at the King's feast.

This will be a work of the Holy Spirit, seeded by a group of dedicated enthusiasts, and will bear its fruit when welcome becomes the natural mode of every person in the parish. We can do our best to welcome people at the door, but it is also when they arrive in the pew or at any parish event that they will know and recognise that they are being treated as if they were Christ Himself.

Work is starting to transform this Ministry through the vision of Adam and Barbara Simon, who will be leading a workshop of ministers on 1 July, and the outcome that we seek to achieve is to make a difference and to be in touch with those around us, to foster communication and to speak to our neighbours with those words that will make a difference, through conversation and prayer.

Margaret Fraher will be attending the workshop and she is the inclusion advisor for Arundel and Brighton Diocese. She will lead with a presentation in the early part of the workshop.

Bereavement Support for our Parishioners

Christ the Prince of Peace is a refuge for those of us who have encountered difficulties in our lives, in illness, in bereavement and in supporting us in times of distress. The Pastoral Team is reviewing ways in which the parish can support bereaved parishioners and families and will consider how this is best achieved with the resources at the parish's disposal.

At present, Eucharistic Ministers from our parish bring Holy Communion to around 25 housebound parishioners, the majority of whom have been bereaved or live alone. We also take Holy Communion to two Residential Homes in Weybridge - Bridge Court and Heath House, as well as to six local nursing homes in Weybridge - and, again, the majority of those have been bereaved. The spiritual care of our parishioners for those that cannot attend weekly Mass is vital as a link for their faith and being a part of the Church Community.

The parish will continue to do all it can to provide ongoing support - it is a core part of our Pastoral ministry and will be the subject of ongoing discussion in order that we can develop it appropriately. We thank Clare Wordsworth for bringing to the Pastoral Team the idea of bereavement support in the parish.