

“Going for Growth”

A summary of the Chairman’s Report to the APCM 2011



- Fr Neil began his remarks by inviting a moment of silent prayer to remember those of our church family who had passed away since the last APCM: Peter Gwilym Roberts (Priest), Frances Luft, Derek Clawson (Priest), Maurice Noakes (July 2010), Frank Sharples. **P May they rest in peace and rise in glory.**
- Fr. Neil thanked all those who had served on the PCC and undertaken other offices in the church, as well as **all** who have undertaken any kind of service and work in the parish – that which is seen on Sundays and that which is very much preparation and ‘behind the scenes’. He hoped he would be forgiven for not singling out particular individuals or jobs – thereby running the risk of seeming to value some more than others! We have many different body parts but they are working very well to make up the Body of Christ in this place.
- Since the last APCM we terminated the contract of our Parish Administrator, Liz Mooney, on financial grounds. The PCCs then created a new post, that of Parish Office Manager, and appointed Geoff Dunn to it. I think it is fair to say that we are all very happy indeed with his work although the subsidy given from the Diocese has now finished.
- The joint PCC Away Day will take place on 21st May at the Seafarers’ Centre. This will be facilitated by our Parish Office Manager, Geoff Dunn. Fr Neil reminded everyone present, as on previous occasions, that **all meetings are public and open to everyone** although only PCC members can exercise a vote. **All those who love their Lord and their Church are welcome.**
- A year ago we were in a very precarious situation regarding the Diocesan quota (parish share). Thanks to a number of factors we are in a much stronger position than we have been for a number of years with the majority of each month’s payment being made. Whilst we need to work with some urgency to reduce the relatively small outstanding debt it does seem within our grasp – something we might not have said a year ago!
- It is disappointing that there are still some who worship regularly at St. Faith’s but who do not match that commitment by planned giving. Such an attitude inevitably puts even more pressure on those who do give financially (and in some cases, sacrificially) to the work of the Church. During the coming year the PCC will discuss ways in which this problem can be challenged and improved. Fr. Neil said he was very aware that the PCC will be asking everyone to review their giving whilst the world around us is in recession. Jobs have been lost, people fear more redundancies and many are worried about the future. That stringent assessment has to apply to the Church, too. We cannot isolate ourselves from the real world: we can only carry on as we would like to if we can find the money to do so!

- The different reports from the various groups who serve the Church and the Community show what a vibrant and busy year it has been. We have managed to rise to every challenge!
- We continue to welcome Mirfield students with us and are grateful for that link which seems to have been forged and strengthened in the past year. We thank particularly those who came to preach during Lent and pray for those to be ordained this summer.
- Fr Neil emphasised the importance of the Ministry to sick and housebound and thanked all who share in this vital ministry.
- The Diocese remains committed to promoting the liturgy at St. Faith's as a model for good practice in its capacity as the first Diocesan Resource Church. That is something we should feel proud of.
- Despite figures showing a decline in church attendance, both nationally and more locally, St. Faith's remains the best attended church in the Bootle Deanery! Whilst that doesn't invite complacency, we can however rejoice that people clearly demonstrate their very clear commitment to the Lord Jesus. With such dedication and commitment we have much to look forward to and build upon.