

Annual Report of Fr Simon Ellis to St Margaret Mary Parish 29th April, 2018

Overview:

I have served now in this parish for 19 months and feel very settled, in a good, but not complacent, way. We have heard the gospel today and Jesus refers to himself as the true vine (John 15) with us as the branches. Much of what we have experienced this past year has been fruitful. We owe this to God's grace and not to anything we can do alone, for without him we can do nothing.

Prayer, liturgy, worship and music

Daily Mass - the mass times continue with the pattern of Monday 7pm (9.30am at the Convent of the Blessed Virgin Mary); Tues, Wed and Friday at 9.15am. We have introduced adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday, 8.15am-9.15am.

Rosary – this is every Tuesday at 8.55am. There is a small but dedicated group who say the rosary.

Pilgrimage - Deacon Leonard helped to lead a pilgrimage with HCPT to Lourdes in Easter.

A pilgrimage to St Margaret Mary's home town of Paray le Monial has been postponed until 2020 as there are significant other pilgrimages coming up over the next two years.

A significant improvement for this year is enabling a prayerful atmosphere *before* mass starts. Those who are familiar with St Margaret Mary always need to remember that our Lord is here in the blessed sacrament. One person's 'small conversation' may upset half a dozen people's prayer: others then join in as they have no choice.

In music I am very grateful to all that Einir Baxter and the choir have been doing. They have switched their rehearsal time to 11am on Sundays.

Our Patronal Festival of St Margaret Mary in 2017 took place on a Monday and we had a beautiful mass, followed by a reception in the Presbytery. Our preacher was Deacon James Patrick, a Judge based in Bristol.

We had three training sessions for those who read in mass and we reflected on key issues such as praying and preparing through your reading, understanding the text, audibility, difficult texts and words and movement to and from the sanctuary.

Data for 2017:

This is the data from our registers. Many thanks to Betty Fisher as she steps down from her counting role. We will be able to build up a picture as we progress through the years. Many thanks to those who help count at our masses.

Year: 1st Jan- 31 Dec	Average attendance weekend masses	Baptisms	Confirmation	Receptions into church	1 st Holy Communion	Funerals	Weddings
2016	230 (<i>from 27 August – 31 Dec</i>)	24	18	1	21	11	0
2017	222	31	21	4	27	29	3

Deaths: We note, in particular the death of Katie Widdowson, James Twomey, Robert Brough, Keith Bryan, Darren Brennan, Maureen Jones, Letitia Dillon, Mary Connolly, John Rickards, Joe Dodds, Betty Boylan, Paddy Charles, Alex Hamilton, Mary McGloughlin and Lily Cooper this past year. May they rest in the peace of Christ. We had our first memorial service on 7 November for all the bereaved. 120 people attended and lit candles which burned in the sanctuary for a week in memory of loved ones.

Christmas – we had 391 people attend our services at Christmas.

Sacraments, including Ordination Leonard Cox was ordained deacon on Saturday, 17 June, 2017 at St James, Spanish Place, London, by Bishop Robert Byrne. Deacon Leonard has made a great start in his ministry at St Margaret Mary Church and beyond in the Ordinariate and Archdiocese.

Two seminarians - both in the Ordinariate and in training at Oscott College - Jonathan Creer and Thomas Mason from Oscott worked here on placement and their pastoral groups attended worship on some Sundays. We are very grateful for all their work with and for us.

First Holy Communion celebrations this year comprised two masses, on 20 May, at 9am and 11am. The Confirmation with Bishop Pageter was on 22 June.

Eucharistic Ministers

Many thanks to Gerard Boylan, Derrick West, Anne Forrest, John Coffey, Tom Lafferty, John Kearney, Ted Mason and Hugh McConway for their service as Eucharistic ministers. They all renewed their vows at the Maundy Thursday Mass. Many thanks for all they do in mass and in taking the sacrament to the sick and housebound. There is no more privileged or humbling work.

Partnerships

We are part of the partnership with Christ the King, Kingstanding and the Assumption Maryvale (which includes the Convent of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a community of Sisters who are part of the Ordinariate and were Anglican nuns in Wantage near Oxford). The partnership with all of these people, including Fr Eamonn Corduff is developing. For example, we are now providing a more systematic catechetical programme (Evangelium/Transformed in Christ) across the three parishes, so that anyone who comes to us at any time of the year, wanting baptism, reception, confirmation or simply to enquire after the faith can be slotted into a programme within a few weeks. Evangelisation is prior to (and post) catechesis.

Outreach We were part of the Community Festival of Fun on 9 September, 2017 from 12 – 3pm at Witton Lakes. On this day there were donkey rides, a car boot sale, bouncy castles, ‘sea side’ fun and ice cream! St Margaret Mary Church will provided some of the refreshments. We raised £1667. Many thanks for all for their work on stalls, refreshments and general welcome.

Also we continue with a quarterly magazine which will scoop up news and look ahead a few months at our activities.

Many thanks to the ushers and churchwardens, Sandra Anyinsah and John Kearney, who welcome people to mass. There is opportunity to appoint new ushers over the next few weeks to assist them.

School The Governors who attend or are connected with St Margaret Mary Church are Mr Gerard Boylan and Mr Adrian Walczak. Many thanks to Mrs Anne Forrest has retired from school governorship.

We created a new entrance and exit into school coinciding with the upgrade of both the car park adjacent to church and the path that runs next to the school playground.

Building work itself on the school site began early in 2018 with the date for completion being August 2018. Our school will then have a new two storey 4 classroom block: an exciting time for all of us.

One of the biggest issues we face is academisation, the move to MAC (Multi Academy). The Archdiocese is still encouraging schools to join into a MAC. We continue to take soundings and discuss the issues, but remain unconvinced of its value for us locally.

Academic achievement at KS2 (% achieving national standard):

87% Reading	87% Writing	90% maths
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New teachers this year: We welcomed Ms Elizabeth Fellows (Reception) Ms. Emily Riley (NQT in Y3), Ms. Katrina Winchurch (NQT in Nursery) and Ms. Ellie Parkes (temporary teacher in Y4) to accommodate expansion. They have settled in very well.

Admissions:

- Reception 2017 admitted 55. They were 73% Catholic.
- Nursery 2017 26 full time places. 73% were Catholic.
- 161 applicants for Reception 2018.
- Admissions policy updated in line with BDES recommendations.

Our thanks and prayers for Mrs Jacqui Gillom went out in December on the occasion of her retirement from the school kitchens after 36 years at St Margaret Mary School.

Finally we keep in our thoughts and prayers all the children taking their SAT tests early in the summer term. Many thanks to Mr Aldred, Mrs Logue and all the staff for their support of all that we do in the parish church. It is a vital partnership which is mutually enriching.

Child Protection – Safeguarding

Mrs Virginia Okeke has taken on the role of safeguarding officer and training will be accompanying that position. We appointed a deputy safeguarding officer, Nicola Brown. Many thanks for all that you do for our young and vulnerable people.

Youth work

Some of our young people attended the Taize European gathering in Birmingham, entitled 'Hidden Treasure', 27-29 April, 2017. They had a chance to meet other Christians and to participate in workshops and Taize evening prayer.

Our servers attended the St Joseph's Guild annual mass in March at St Chad's Cathedral. Well done to all those who attended that mass. The servers have had two outings to a local fast food establishment as a way of thanking them and their families for their sterling work. We now have 24 servers: many thanks to John Kearney for coordinating what they do, and to Derrick West, John Coffey, Anne Forrest, Ted Ware and Gerard Boylan for their work in keeping the daily mass served and readers and the organisation of daily mass taken care of.

Charities/Second collection/The needy - Many thanks to all those - in parish and school - who help with the St Chad Sanctuary collection of food and clothing. It is well supported and is a good cause. Our second collections are well supported, for example we gave £130 to Peter's Pence, £408.11 to

the Fr Hudson's Society and £111 to Day for Life. We raised, through the Red Mission boxes, £513.57 for Missio (APF). We now also support the foodbank in Kingstanding on Kettlehouse Road, run by Elim Church, which opens every Tuesday.

Finance - this will be introduced by Terry Brown in collaboration with the Finance Committee which meets regularly. Terry also reports to the Parish Pastoral Council which meets quarterly. Our established principles are for our giving to be regular, proportionate and generous. Parishes which don't attend to this end up on a continuous round of fund-raisers. Having said this, fund-raising is important for special projects, like our gallery restoration.

Many thanks for all your fund-raising efforts specifically for the gallery, which have raised £12,339.65. Thanks also to Laura Hines from the Archdiocese for her help in securing grants.

Further note - we shall be part of the 6 trial parishes in the Archdiocese having a contactless giving facility.

Fabric - Our main fabric project this year has been the redecoration of the church. Want to place on record our thanks to Mr Jim Sullivan for his very generous donation of the redecoration of our church. It has been a great gift. I also put on record our thanks for the generous donation of the scaffolding by Mr Danny Lafferty. Not only has this enabled us to improve the look of the church, but other maintenance jobs have been carried out e.g. getting rid of old defunct heaters, completing some, replacing the lights with LEDs and sealing the windows to stop water ingress. The decorators have also started work in the new gallery. The main mass of blessing and rededication took place on 21 January, 2018 and the celebrant was Mgr Keith Newton of the Ordinariate.

Our Diocesan Architect, undertook a Quinquennial inspection in June, 2017. This now gives us priorities for the next five years for the fabric of the church.

We restored our bell from 1937 and we record thanks to the anonymous donor. We also have renewed the PA system.

Pastoral Care – Our improved facilities in the gallery and elsewhere, will enable us to offer support to people who need long term help, e.g. advice, education, support, catechesis.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2018. It was a good season and we will remember the talks on THE FIVE C'S OF THE FAITH (SERMONS on Sundays in Lent), the walk of witness on Good Friday in the community with our ecumenical partners (Pentecostal and Anglican), the Washing of Feet on Maundy Thursday and the baptisms and confirmations at the Easter vigil and throughout Easter. We also will remember the Polish blessing of baskets, which drew 350 people to church. Many thanks for Magda and Adrian Walczak for their organising of this special service.

Ordinariate – are working to produce a number of social events and visits during the year, to which all are invited. There is also the Divine Worship Mass on Monday evenings at 7pm, the Convent of the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Mass daily at 9.30am - Fr Simon celebrates on Mondays) and there are occasional services of evensong from the Customary, for example at Advent. Divine Worship is now more embedded in the life of the Church and is becoming an established part of the Latin rite.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF ST MARGARET MARY CHURCH,
BIRMINGHAM B23 7AB**

Sunday, 29 April, 2018

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AGENDA

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
4. Annual Report of Parish Priest, Fr Simon Ellis
5. Finance Report (Terry Brown and the Finance Committee)
6. Appointment of Ushers to assist at mass on the basis of a 3-year term of office.
7. Dates for the remainder of the year

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Appointment of Ushers to assist at mass on the basis of a 3-year term of office. All those applying need to have a proposer and seconder and be baptised. Furthermore, all those applying need to have worshipped at St Margaret Mary Church for 6 months.

I _____ wish to apply to become an Usher for the next 3 years for St Margaret Mary Church to assist in worship in particular with welcoming people to mass and with the distribution of sheets and books at mass.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____

Tel _____

Proposer _____

Seconder _____

