**AMDG**

**Parish 2017 AGM Notes**

As a Pastoral Committee, we have held 4 quorate meetings since our last AGM. The meetings are sometimes low in numbers due a variety of other commitments, but I am grateful to those who are able to attend.

My report is in essence a lists of thank you’s to the people who undertake tasks and activities that make our Church have a purpose and ensure the laity play their role

1. The Sacramental programme was run by Sarah Hodgkinson again year and it has been a successful outcome for our candidates for Confirmation and First Communion. Thank you Sarah
2. Similarly, Sarah has supported the Children’s Liturgy at St Joseph’s with additional volunteers helping the very young children to have their own space and activities. Our thanks again to Sarah for supporting this. We have a great room space at St Joseph’s now to deliver the liturgy programme and have some social time after Mass
3. Advent Services: all the Masses enjoyed very good attendances especially the Vigil Mass and our thanks are extended to Lucy Harrison and John Thomasson for their efforts in putting together all the Christmas Packs and for all others who provided assistance particularly on Christmas Eve. The Vigil Mass Choir and servers was directed by Mary Mann and family, the Midnight Mass was particularly supported with the Turner family.
4. The Easter Triduum was wholly shared with the College retreatants. This is now I think the third year of joint sharing and it does seem to go well for all concerned. On behalf of all the committee I would like to extend thanks to John Thomasson for his lead in this, and the Easter services booklet produced by Frances Ahearne.
5. The Parish Extra was again published at Advent and our thanks to Frances Ahearne for helping its publication. Just a word on why we publish this special Advent booklet: it allows us to publicise things such as our Youth Group, the primary school, charity events, and so try and encourage those who tend to participate only at the feast of Christmas that parish life is an all year round activity and maybe we can attract back more of those Catholics who we know are out there
6. My thanks to Peter Nicholson who runs and maintains our website. If you have not yet had a peep then please do so. Also the flower ladies, vestment cleaning volunteers, the baking and coffee organisers, church collectors and all other wonderful people who respond so generously.
7. Socials: we have not really had a particular programme or even joint events with St John’s this year. We hope to improve on that during the forthcoming months.
8. Cemetery update: thanks to the volunteers Martin Greenhalgh, Kaz Poloczek, Bill Holden and lead by Bernard Holden, we have made some significant strides in the outlook of the cemetery. The work will divide itself into two main seasonal activities: grass cutting and tidying up during the growing season, and tree branch cutting and other ground clearances during the cooler months. Thanks to Fr Peter for helping to remind the Parishioners to keep their family plots as clear as possible during the grass cutting season and to remind us all to remove seasonal memorabilia to keep matters smart and tidy. I would welcome any suggestions and feedback as to how the Parish feel this programme is proceeding.

I hope this is a reasonable summary of the past year in our Parish. We are a small Parish and all around us there is a lot of change going on: Ribchester and Chipping are served by the Longridge Parish priest (Fr David) and Sabden is now served by Clitheroe. We are fortunate to still have a Priest despite our numbers and I for one am grateful for all the work Fr Peter does. My thanks go to all the volunteers and I apologise if I have not name checked you – that is my error entirely. Without your commitment too much would fall on the shoulders of Father and we have a responsibility to take up our Laity Mission and serve the Parish accordingly.

Thank you for listening and thank you for coming!

**LDS**