



Society of Mary

North West Ward of Our Lady of Victories



Annual General Meeting
St Hilda's, Prestwich
Sunday 5th May
4.30pm

Draft Minutes

Fr Norman Price welcomed us to St Hilda's on behalf of Fr Croft.
There were 23 people present. Fr Ian Brooks took the chair.

1. Prayer

Fr Ian Brooks opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from 25 people:

Maureen Barnett	Sue Korth	Fr Robin Pettitt
Dot Beesley	Susan Martlew	Jennii Shaw
Pat Berry	Doreen McInerney	Sue Shaw
Fr Christopher Cook	Fr Rodney Middleton	Doug Sykes
Fr Tom Davies	Fr Jeremy Sheehy	Viv Turner
Mark Fisher	Chris Parr	Fr Ian Wynne
Andrea Jackson	Fr Roger Parker	Doris Wood
Fr Philip Knowles	Hazel Parker	
Angela Knowles	Edith Pearson	

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

Without dissent, these minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting, and were duly signed. (proposed by Kate Best, seconded by Andrew McDonald)

4. Matters Arising therefrom

There were no matters arising not covered in the agenda.

5. Annual Report and Accounts.

Fr Ian Brooks presented a verbal review of what had been a good and fruitful year for the North West Ward. We had met on all the regular Marian occasions; some of the venues for these events we had visited in the past, and some were new to us. Our meetings had been well-supported and we had had good feedback from those who came. On behalf of the Ward, Fr Ian expressed thanks and appreciation to all the churches which had hosted Ward events, for their unstinting welcome, help and hospitality.

Gwynne James was suffering from loss of voice, so Fr Ian Brooks presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2012.

Receipts and payments account 2012

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Totals	
			2012	2011
RECEIPTS				
Subscriptions and donations	£1422.50	£33.38		£705.00
Chasuble donations				£845.00
Badges and medals	£27.50			
Collections	£307.60			£213.50
Brought forward 1 st January	£1642.05			£1521.13
TOTAL	£3399.65	£33.38	£3433.03	£3284.63

PAYMENTS				
Subscriptions to HQ	£910.00			£380.00
Chasubles				£980.42
Church expenses	£200.00			£172
Printing and postage	£55.80			£110.16
Refreshments		£33.38		
Web site costs at £8.40 per month	£25.20			
Medals and badges	£120.00			
TOTAL	£1311.00	£33.38	£1344.38	£1642.58
Carried forward 1 st January			£2088.65	£1642.05

Fr Ian apologised to the members that due to unforeseen circumstances copies of the accounts were not available for distribution at the meeting, but he indicated that this information would be publicised via the website and copies of the accounts would be available to download. He invited members who were not able to access the website to contact him, when he would be happy to post a copy to them.

Financially, 2012 had been a good year for the North West Ward. The balance of funds at the end of 2012 had been £2089, compared with £1642 at the end of the previous year. Subscriptions and donations had increased; there had been a good response to mailings inviting renewal. Subscription revenue was £1422, more than double that which had been received the previous year. Fr Ian reminded the meeting that of each £15 subscription only £5 was retained to fund Ward activities, the remainder being paid to the Society of Mary in London

In the North West Ward we continue the custom of providing new members with the ribbon medal and the manual without charge at their admission. Also for each event the Ward makes a donation of £100 to the host church to help defray the expenses associated with the event.

A member enquired what was the current membership of the Ward. The Secretary agreed to find out this information **Action: David Martlew**

Without dissent, the meeting accepted the accounts as presented.

Fr Ian expressed thanks to the Treasurer for all the work he had undertaken during the past two years to bring the accounts to order and to secure appropriate cooperation from the bank - a very protracted process! The accounts were now being kept very efficiently.

The North West Ward now had its own website; this had been necessary because the national website was unable to support the Ward in the way the committee felt was needed. He expressed thanks to the Secretary for establishing and maintaining the website, and for the creation of an email publicity service to keep members informed about the Ward's activities. One member expressed appreciation to the Secretary for the encouragement afforded by receipt of emails during the period when he was unable to attend Ward events due to ill health.

During discussion, the suggestion was made that the Ward could make use of the website to request intercessions - for example during times of ill health. Clearly the privacy of people for whom intercession was requested must be respected. The Secretary agreed to look into the provision of an intercessions page

Action: David Martlew

6. Election of Officers - Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary

The Secretary reminded members of the constitutional requirement that nominations for officers needed to be received at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Nomination forms had been made available to members by email distribution and via the website.

Only two nominations for officers had been received:
for Honorary Secretary - David Martlew
for Honorary Treasurer - Gwynne James.
They were therefore declared duly elected.

7. Election of up to eight Committee Members

The following five nominations for ordinary members of the committee had been received by the due date:

Beryl Coates

Kate Best

Howard Anderson

Sandra Anderson

Phyllis Lefevre

Because the number of nominees was less than the number of ordinary committee members allowed by the constitution, no election was necessary and these five people were declared duly elected.

8. Future of the North West Ward

There was general agreement that the nature and structure of the programme was appropriate, as was the balance between new venues and familiar locations for the events. Fr Ian Brooks asked members to come forward with any suggestions regarding appropriate new venues or activities.

The committee had been considering some new events. One concerned Norton Priory, an Augustinian foundation which had suffered badly at the hands of Henry VIII at the Reformation and was now a landscaped archaeological visitor centre. Given that the Priory Church had been dedicated to the Virgin Mary, we have discussed with the Curator the possibility of holding an open-air Mass on the site. As well as being an act of worship on a Marian site, this event would raise the profile of the Society of Mary in the North West and would satisfy the Museum's ambition to give the members of the public improved insight into the way the church would have been used in the Priory's heyday. The committee was planning to involve young people, especially those who had experienced the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage, in such an event.

In discussion, the parallel was made with the Walsingham Festival some years ago at Liverpool Cathedral. That had made a very positive impression on the then Dean of Liverpool, now Archbishop Justin Welby, and gave him insight into the traditional sector of the Church of England.

The meeting was very supportive of linking with the churches in the Ward region which had send young people to Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage, possibly via suitably pitched and organised events.

Another development being considered was the arranging of pilgrimages to Marian sites within reach of the North West Ward. One such would be a holy well at St Mary's church Thornton in Craven. Members and Friends of the Ward would be welcome at the well's Annual Pilgrimage, which this year is on Saturday 13th July. The committee feel that pilgrimages would complement rather than compete with the usual programme of events in the North West. The meeting expressed support for initiatives of this kind.

For the benefit of members and friends of the Ward, the Secretary was willing (if informed) to publicise appropriate events taking place in churches around the region, using the periodic email distribution.

9. Any Other Business

Fr Roger Parker had asked for volunteers to be stewards at the forthcoming pilgrimage to Ladyewell. A good number of stewards is required and they need to be there by 9.45am for a briefing. A sheet was passed around for volunteers to sign.

It was noted that Fr Roger Parker had been admitted to hospital and was to undergo a serious operation: prayers for his wellbeing and speedy recovery were requested.

Fr Ian Brooks urged members and friends to support our catholic heritage. One way would be to become members of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament; ten people present indicated they already were CBS members. CBS is keen to stage a Festival in the North West. Ways of collaborating with CBS and other catholic societies would be explored by the committee as the year progresses.

10. Date of next meeting

After some discussion, it was decided to move the AGM away from the Bank Holiday. Sunday 18th May 2014 was fixed as the date of the next meeting, hopefully at St Hilda's.

Fr Norman Price, who had recently joined the committee as Chaplain for the Manchester Diocese, closed the meeting in prayer.