

SOCIAL NEWSLETTER

March 2024

Welcome all to the 2nd issue of our Parish Social Newsletter!

We hope that you found the first edition of the Newsletter interesting. In response, a number of people came forward to let us know how they wanted to get involved in social events this year. We also had several suggestions for charities we could support.

In this issue we tell you about what has been happening so far and what you can look forward to in the next couple of months.

Your Newsletter - Don't forget that this is your Newsletter and we would be very happy to hear your thoughts and ideas about what to include.

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Tea, Pancakes, and Thanksgiving!

Afternoon Tea - 2023 was seen out in style when about 30 people attended a successful Christmas Tea held at Norfolk Lavender. This annual event has always proved popular in our parish and has taken place in a variety of places. **If you have any suggestions for where we might hold this year's event, please let us know.**

Pancake Evening – On a cold, and very wet evening last month, parishioners gathered to enjoy a feast before the start of Lent. The hot, tasty pancakes offered with lots of accompaniments kept on coming, and were enthusiastically consumed and washed down with a hot beverage, a cold drink or wine.



It was lovely this year to have some of our younger parishioners attending the event. They did full justice to the delicious fayre on offer and had ice cream for afters!

A big thank you to all those who worked hard to make the evening a success – especially the caterers and all who contributed raffle prizes. The Raffle raised a total £42 for The Purfleet Trust (see item on charities)

Fr Michael Stokes' Diamond Jubilee – February also saw Fr Michael celebrate 60 years as a Priest. Canon Peter had given his approval and blessing for this celebration to take place during Lent.

A beautiful and joyous Thanksgiving service was officiated by no fewer than 8 Priests at OLSE! It was very well attended and about 50 people stayed on to share a buffet lunch with Fr Michael in the Garnett Room afterwards. It was particularly pleasing to have Fr Michael's sister, Angela, join us for this wonderful celebration.

Fr Michael intends to have a larger event to accommodate more of his friends and colleagues in the Summer. This will be held somewhere near Newmarket and we will all be invited, but it was very special to have him start his celebrations of this important milestone with our parish.

Donating to charity – These are the charities that you have suggested we might support this year:

- Aid to the church in need
- Alzheimer Society
- Arthritis Action
- Bowel Research UK
- British Red Cross
- CAFOD
- Children in poverty (any related charities eg foodbanks)
- Homeless Charities (eg Purfleet, Crisis, Shelter)
- Retired Priests
- Salvation Army
- SPUC

Obviously, it will not be possible to support all of these this year, but we will choose one for each of our events where funds are raised.

Raffles held during our events are a big part of our fund raising so please do help by contributing raffle prizes whenever you can.

Upcoming Events - International Lunch Saturday 6 April 12:30 Garnett Room, OLSE

We want to celebrate the fact that we have a diverse parish including people from many different countries. Our aim is to provide a buffet lunch made up of dishes from as many countries as possible!

We would like to make this a fund-raising event and so are looking to charge a nominal fee for tickets and hope also to open it to the wider community.

If you would like to contribute a dish to this event, please contact Pat Fuchter (see details above) – by 22 March please.

You do not need to come from outside of the UK to contribute – there are many British dishes worthy of consideration! – or perhaps you have lived somewhere and would like to include a local speciality? The important thing will be to have a spread that reflects the diverse cultural makeup of our parish!

It goes without saying that there will be a Raffle at this event! Contributions very gratefully received!!

Date and time for 2024	Event	Where	Contact point
13-Feb (time TBA)	Pancake Evening	St Cecilia's	
06-April (time: 12:30)	International lunch	OLSE	Pat Fuchter
15-Jun (time TBA)	Strawberry Tea	St Cecilia's	Contact point to be advised
17-Aug (time TBA)	BBQ	OLSE	Tom & Elizabeth Koning
3rd week October (time TBA)	Harvest Lunch	St Cecilia's	Contact point to be advised
07-Dec (time TBA)	Christmas Fair	OLSE	Elizabeth Howe
Late December	Afternoon Tea	TBA	Contact point to be advised