

SOCIAL NEWSLETTER

Oct 2024

Welcome all to Issue no. 5 of our Parish Social Newsletter.
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Strawberry Fair

We reported briefly last time that this year's Strawberry Fair had been a great success which raised £700 for The Alzheimer's Society. During the summer the funds raised were formally presented to the charity.



Maureen Vernon and Chris Davey present a cheque for £700 to Jacky Phipps, Community Fundraising Ambassador for the Alzheimer's Society

Every pound raised will directly fund Alzheimer's Society's vital support services so it can offer help and hope to everyone affected by dementia. However, please note that we made clear that our donation must not be used to fund Stem Cell research which is against our Catholic teachings.

Summer BBQ

What Summer? You might say!! And although it poured, the summer BBQ went ahead, indoors, and it was wonderful!

This year, we wanted to try a different approach: Previously, people brought plates to share with everyone, and whilst these were always generous and delicious, we often found that a lot of food was wasted. So, in this year of being more conscious of our own impact on our world and the environment, we decided that other than the barbequed burgers and sausages (and free drinks) all attendees would be asked to bring their own "picnic".

Despite the rain, over 40 people turned up with their picnics. There was a real buzz in the Garnett Room at OLSE as we all tucked

in, chatted with friends, and tried our luck at the raffle and on the Bottle Tombola.

Even though the event had not been a fund raiser, there was a net profit of nearly £200 which went into our Parish funds. Again, this was only made possible due to the continued generosity of all parishioners – thank you so much to everyone who donated raffle prizes and bottles for the tombola.

This was another occasion when our parish showed how much we value these opportunities to meet socially and get to know each other better. We ended the event with a good sing song of well-known favourites. Everyone joined in and, as one parishioner commented: "everyone went home with a smile on their face!"

Songs of Praise on The Green, Hunstanton

And talking about singing, some of our parishioners also took part in this Ecumenical event during the summer. A Service of Hymns and Readings was presented by Hunstanton Churches Together accompanied by the Salvation Army Band. Many visitors to the town joined in with the singing in what was another successful gathering. One of our parishioners told me "It was lovely to see so many people come together in Praise and Faith"

Feast Days and Solemnities

In September we celebrated the Solemnity of Our Lady of Walsingham. A lovely Service was followed by refreshments at OLSE. During which Canon Peter regaled us with some amusing personal recollections of getting the statue of Our Lady to Wembley for the open-air Mass when Pope John Paul II visited UK in 1982!

We have previously mentioned about Feast Days in our annual calendar, and we would very much like to see more parishioners share these with us. See overleaf for what is happening in November!

WHAT'S COMING UP

9 November – 11am St Cecilia's - FILM: THE LETTER, followed by a soup and bread lunch - This striking film features frontline champions from around the world. Each person represents a voice that is not being heard: the voice of the Indigenous, the voice of the young, the voice of the poor, and the voice of nature. The film follows these people coming together in dialogue with each other and with Pope Francis himself around care for our common home. Throughout the film, we see the characters find unity in their distinct worldviews and strength in the common values we all share.

The morning is open to all; please encourage friends and family to attend. The simple lunch after the film is replacing this year's Harvest Lunch. There will be no charge, but donations will be welcome, in aid of South Sudan (SVP October appeal).

A list is now in each church for you to confirm your attendance - by 2nd November please (to help catering).

20 November – Feast of St Edmund - 10am OLSE, Mass followed by refreshments in the Garnett Room. *The celebrations on this day will also mark the 120th anniversary of the church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and St Edmund in Hunstanton.*

22 November – Feast of St Cecilia – 10.15am Mass followed by refreshments – As well as the Feast of the Patron Saint of the Dersingham Church, the Mass on this day will also celebrate the Anointing of the Sick.

30 November – 11am OLSE – Christmas Fair at OLSE

This year's Christmas Fair will be a Coffee Morning fundraiser for the Children of Ukraine. There will be a variety of cakes on sale, as well as raffles, Bottle Tombola, and a books/gifts stall.

Please have a root around at home for anything (in good condition, still working, within date etc!) which you feel you may be able to donate for the raffle or any of the stalls.

Also, if you would like to help on the day, please speak to Elizabeth Howe. Look out for further announcements in the Weekly Newsletter as we get nearer the date.

Pre-Christmas Afternoon Tea

This year's Afternoon Tea in December will take place at The King William in Sedgeford. We will confirm the date as soon as possible.

Ecumenical Events

Our part in Ecumenical Events has grown this year and we want to continue to build on this.

Look out for items on our Notice Boards about upcoming events – there are usually things happening each month. There will be quite a lot going on around Christmas for example, and of course there are the quarterly Faith Meal hosted by each church in turn. Last week the Methodist Church hosted a moving and thought-provoking service on Fellowship, followed by a lovely lunch. The next one will take place early next year. All are welcome to these.

Teas and Coffee after Mass

Don't forget that there are more regular opportunities to meet with fellow parishioners: Every week, you can catch up with others over a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits at each of our churches.

In OLSE, Hunstanton this is available after the 11.00am Mass on Sundays; and at St Cecilia, after 10:15am Mass on Wednesday. St Cecilia's also offer refreshments after 9:00am Mass on the first Sunday of each month.

It would be lovely to have more people join us on these occasions, and visitors as well as regular parishioners are always welcome.

Calling all families!

It is wonderful to see families with children at our Sunday Masses, but we notice that few ever attend our social events.

We would dearly love to see more children at our events and would welcome any ideas on how to achieve this. For example, if the timings of events are inconvenient, please let us know – most of these can be flexible and we do want to try to accommodate our young families.