

## Report of the Parish Social Committee to the AGM Friday June 18<sup>th</sup> 2010

2010 has been a pretty fruitful twelve months for Parish socials, with a healthy number of events instigated both by the Parish Social Committee and via Parish Organisations having taken place at regular intervals (see attached list)

As the current Chairman of the Parish Social Committee initially I would like to formally extend a sincere hand of thanks to all those individuals who generously gave up their valuable time ensuring each event put on went off well and most importantly without adverse incident.

The principal aim of the Social Committee's programme throughout 2010 has been to get all parishioners to socialise together regardless of age and status in harmonious environments, indoor and outdoors, to promote friendship and fraternity within our Parish. I believe we have made great strides and much progress, and have achieved it through predominately channelling our various Committee member individual talents and joint resources towards mounting family friendly social events. How very much nicer it is when people stop to say hello and chat to each other at Masses having spent an afternoon or evening together during a Parish Social. I myself, my wife and family have certainly benefited enormously through taking a more active part in Parish life over the past twelve months. We shall be striving hard to continue along this path by both maintaining and raising socialising standards in 2011.

We have remained steadfastly conscious throughout the year of our other important Function; that is to help the Parish Fund Raising Committee to raise those much documented and needy outstanding funds towards the cost of our New Parish Centre. Although many final amounts raised maybe appear to be quite small amounts seen in black and white on paper, joint efforts in this domain have certainly all had their merits. For example, the Quiz Night at St Mary's School in April produced a magnificent £1600 for the Hall Fund, raised in a mere four hours, demonstrating clearly what can be achieved with a modicum of application and effort. We shall nevertheless continue next year to endeavour to strike a fine line between the actual socialising content and fundraising initiatives when we sit down to plan each new social event.

All Committees with ambition to advance such aims reach a stage when fresh impetus is useful to help keep things going in a positive vein. New ideas for social themes and such like are absolutely vital, people's individual skills in running them are also a must, and our Social Committee is no exception. I therefore hereby appeal to the Parish generally for "some new faces, some fresh blood" to come forward to join me and a relatively small loyal band at working together towards an even healthier future. If you are willing to devote a fraction of your spare time and above all, you possess what I term to be a 'sensitive feel' for how best to go about promoting a healthy social life, then we certainly want you to join the team. You would be most welcome in our midst.

Finally I would like to thank the Parish as a whole for both their support and generosity supporting our social programme over the past year and I look forward to enjoying even more fruitful occasions in your company in future. With not a moment to lose, in about a month's time, before we all go off on our holidays, we begin with a Hog Roast and Garden Party on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July – from 12.00 midday till 4.30 PM – on the grass Parkland behind the Old Monastery Gardens – overlooked by our New Parish Centre – entrance tickets for adults/children at reasonably rates will go on on sale from this weekend and after all weekend Masses thereafter– it's a typical family and friends afternoon set up in a convivial outdoor atmosphere, with stalls and a bit of side show entertainment, not forgetting a cake competition, delicious hot Hog Roast food and a bar, with comfortable space on which to lounge around and picnic. We urge you to make it another strong turnout, please spread the word, we're looking forward immensely to seeing you. Canon Eddie, please lead us in prayers for a fine day!

Stephen Craston (Chairman Parish Social Committee) June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010

**Parish Social Committee Main Events + £ amounts after any cost deductions raised for New Parish Centre**

	<u>£</u>
Hog Roast Summer 2009	1,853.00
Wine Tasting Autumn 2009	805.00
Valentine's February 2010	320.00
Quiz Night April 2010	1,410.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>4,388.00</u></b>