



Parish Magazine of
the Sacred Heart & St
Margaret Mary

The Shack

December 2022
Issue No.2

... from humble beginnings



*Bishop Alan blessing Fr. Jay at his Installation as Parish Priest
- 25th October 2022*

In this Issue

- The Shepherd's Corner
- Fr. Jay Installed as Parish Priest
- Confirmation & First Communion 2023
- Growing in Faith
- Parish Meeting
- New Parish Website
- News and Views
- From Humble Beginnings ... *more from the archives*
- Looking Ahead ...*Some key dates*
- Poetry Selection
- Next Issue

The Shepherd's Corner

Tempus fugit, as they have wings. What's more, when our wings are gliding towards one direction, the East, where the light of Christ shines perpetually, we tend not to notice it as we enjoy it. It has been an exciting year for the Parish, with movements firing all cylinders, as we are about to enter the new year of the Church – Advent. We thank the people in the Parish who were behind it, some could come upfront but oftentimes they were those working silently behind the curtain. All the more, we tend to appreciate the spring of talents and individual creativity that everybody could contribute.

Of course, our hearts sank when our own beloved Brenda May passed away this November, and any death in the Parish feels like a part of us dies also. However, we pray as we console one another with hope in Christ.

When everything is said and done, let us enjoy the warmth of each other's presence in this season of Advent by taking part in the spiritual and communal exercises in the Parish. In so doing, we are saving a bit our soaring energy cost this winter. Keep warm and keep loving, little hearts of Christ.

Fr. Jay Installed as Parish Priest

It was with great pleasure that the parish witnessed Fr. Jay's Installation as Parish Priest by Bishop Alan on 25th October 2022. The Bishop was accompanied by Fr. Sean Connolly of St. George's, Norwich. After the special service, there was a light buffet, giving an opportunity for parishioners to greet Bishop Alan and Fr. Sean and to congratulate Fr. Jay.

Confirmation & First Communion 2023

Eleven candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation were enrolled at Mass on Sunday, 6th November. The parish is asked to support and pray for them and their families as they prepare for their Confirmation on 26th June 2023.

There are two candidates this year for First Holy Communion, which will take place on Sunday, 11th June, 2023. Please pray for them and their families as they prepare for this Sacrament.

Growing in Faith

Over the Summer, a well-attended scripture study course in the parish explored, aside from the Bible itself, a book entitled '*Jesus and the Mystery of the Tamid Sacrifice*' by Michal E Hunt et al.

Following the success of that course, a second Faith Talks course took place over seven weeks in October/November led by Kevin & Rachel Pugh. These talks followed a series of short video presentations given by Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, the papal household preacher, looking at the richness of our faith in all its wonder and mystery. The discussions each week provided much food for thought and those attending generously shared their reflections and helped make the whole course very rewarding.

In preparation for Advent, on 28th November we were invited to share an Advent Recollection given by Fr. Jay on the theme of the face of Christ. 'Believing and Seeing: Do you have eyes and fail to see?' (Mark 8:18).

Parish Meeting

An open parish meeting took place on 5th October and was attended by 28 parishioners. This was the second parish meeting to be held this year.

The meeting received updates on the parish's financial standing and progress on the various projects being carried out under the Alive in Faith programme, as well as general maintenance issues affecting the parish's buildings and grounds.

Other reports were given on the various aspects of the parish's spiritual and social life.

From the finance report, it was noted that more people were making their regular Offertory donations by Standing Order. There is scope for the parish to increase income through Gift Aid and parishioners are encouraged to consider signing-up to this if they have not already done so. Notwithstanding this, however, parish expenditure is greater than income and the parish is currently running at a deficit. The parish's 'reserve account' stands at approximately £20,000, which is sufficient only for another couple of years at current levels of expenditure. The parish finance committee is, therefore, keeping a careful watch on the situation.

Of the Alive in Faith programme, the return to the parish from the pledges made amounts to some

£50,000, of which £15,000 has been spent to date on the parish's special projects.

The first two projects to have been completed were the upgrade to the church kitchen and the toilet facilities.

Of the remaining projects, the most difficult one had been finding a solution to the deteriorating car park entrance. The cause of the problem and a preferred solution had now been identified. Difficulties remained, however, in finding a suitable contractor interested in carrying out what was, in effect, such a small contract.

The second outstanding project is the replacement of the three windows at the back of the church, i.e., the lobby, kitchen, and sacristy windows. A preferred option has been agreed and specialist contractors identified. Currently, the windows do not meet statutory requirements and their replacement will entail obtaining Building Regulations approval.

In other areas of parish life, Judy Reid reported on the work of the music team and updates to the music liturgy. There was some discussion at the meeting about the need for a quiet period of reflection during or after Communion at Mass and it was agreed that the Communion hymn would be delayed until after Communion had been given. Volunteers were also sought for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers at the various Masses, and for the flowers and church cleaning teams. Welcomers for the 9.00 a.m. Mass were also sought.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) continued to be very busy in the parish. Members were providing lifts for people for medical, shopping trips, etc., and visiting the sick and housebound. The visiting list was presently being updated. In addition, the Society offered practical help to those in need wherever possible but did not give cash aid.

The social life of the parish continues to offer a variety of regular events, including Tuesday chess group, monthly SVP coffee morning (1st Wednesday of the month), monthly afternoon tea & chat (2nd Monday of the month), Altar Servers/Youth Group, weekly tennis on Saturday mornings and Youth Group table tennis after 1100 Mass on Sundays.

A bring & share Christmas Party is to be held on Sunday, 11th December. News of all events can be found in the weekly parish newsletter.

A copy of the full minutes of the parish meeting has been posted on the parish website.

New Parish Website

With grateful thanks to Richard May, Andrew Bell, and Ian Campbell, we now have an updated and interactive parish website. The website also provides an online donation facility, 'DONA', which makes it very easy for parishioners and visitors to make donations electronically. Check out the new website ... www.sacredheartdereham.co.uk.

News and Views

Help us to make our new magazine as informative and interesting as possible by contributing news and views. We would welcome news from our parish organisations on their activities and plans. Or maybe you would like to submit a topical reflection or tell us about a personal experience or story. Or perhaps you write poetry and would like to share a poem with us. If so, please send us your offerings. We would love to hear from you. Send your item in the first instance by email to edsacredheart@gmail.com.

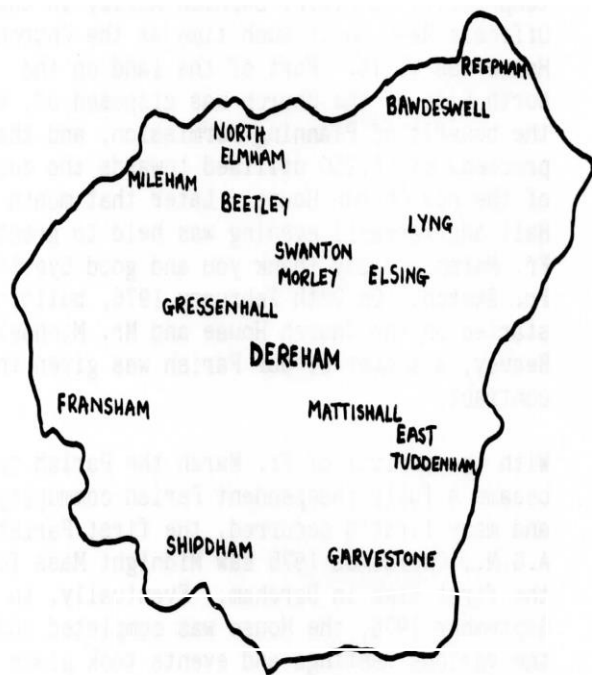
From Humble Beginnings ... *more from the Archives*

On 21st July 1975, the church celebrated its Golden Jubilee, with a concelebrated Mass led by Bishop Alan Clark, followed by a reception at the King's Head Hotel.

Then in October that year, Fr. Julian Peter Marsh became the first Parish Priest of Dereham. He came from Wellingborough and began living temporarily at RAF Swanton Morley in the Officers' Mess until the church house was built. Part of the land on the north side of the church was sold and the proceeds of £6,250 went towards the cost of the new presbytery, which was completed in 1976.

With the arrival of Fr. Marsh, the parish became a fully independent parish community and many 'firsts' took place, including the first Parish AGM, and Christmas 1975 saw Midnight Mass for the first time in Dereham.

The boundary of the new parish community covered the following areas:



Map of the new Parish Boundary 1975

During all this time, the church remained un-Consecrated, and so this became the next parish event, when Bishop Clark came to Consecrate the church on 24th September 1976. At the ceremony, the Bishop blessed and wore the new white vestments which had been made by the parishioners. The new church house was also blessed.

Looking Ahead... Some key dates:

Christmas Mass Times

- 24th December 2022 – 1830 Carols; Mass at 1900 and 2230
- 25th December 2022 – 1000
- 26th December 2022 – 1000 Altar Servers' Mass (with pizza afterwards)

Feast of the Epiphany – Friday, 6th January 2023 is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Lent & Easter 2023

- 22nd February 2023 - Ash Wednesday
- 25th/26th February 2023 – Columban Missionary Appeal
- 26th February 2023 – 1st Sunday of Lent
- 2nd April – Palm/Passion Sunday
- 6th April – Maundy Thursday (*Triduum*)
- 7th April – Good Friday (*Triduum*)
- 8th April – Holy Saturday (*Triduum*)
- 9th April – Easter Sunday

Poetry Box

A Dust of Snow

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

Robert Frost 1874-1963

Next Issue

The next issue of the magazine will be published on the weekend of 25th-26th March 2023. We welcome interesting and original material for the forthcoming edition. The deadline for the next edition is 20th February 2023.



'O Holy Night'

With every blessing and peace
for Christmas and the New Year

~ Fr Jay



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