

The last twelve months in our parish

The parish income is approximately £89,000 with expenditure at approximately £105,000 and a bank balance of approximately £32,000

The Mass times on Sunday and throughout the week changed as a result of Canon John's departure.

Children from the parish made their First Confession and First Holy Communion in May. It is always a joyful occasion to celebrate these sacraments and this year, as always, it was greatly received by parishioners.

The parish took part in the Rosary for vocations every Tuesday morning. The Faith Group of eight meets regularly and attends retreats throughout the year

The Children's Liturgy takes place during 10:30 Mass every Sunday during term time and continues to be well supported. It gives children the opportunity to receive the Word of God at a level they can understand and gives parents the opportunity to stay in church. The children are welcomed into the parish meeting room where they hear the Gospel from the Liturgy book. There is then a quick follow up to help them understand the reading more fully. This is then followed by a chance to draw or do some activity based on the Gospel they have heard. After the activity, a closing prayer ends the Liturgy and the children all process into Church as part of the Offertory Procession and inform the congregation what they learnt.

The St. Francis' and St. Clare's Justice and Peace Group continues to support the Parish's Millennium commitment to Medical Aid to Ethiopia. St. Luke's Hospital is now running very well and so our fund-raising has been expanded to include help to a maternity school, a dental clinic, two primary care clinics, as well as a new hospital in Karediboma and one in Ikele, both of which are in Tanzania. Since the parish took on this commitment for the Millennium, a minimum of £3,000 per year has been raised with many years having a much higher figure

We have held a Christmas Fair for 'Crisis at Christmas' and an Afternoon Cream Tea for CAFOD during the year. A fantastic Ukulele Night was held to raise money for the Ethiopian Medical Fund as well as the annual, much-loved Christmas Quiz! A member of the Group runs a Fairtrade Stall regularly for both parishes and collects for the Mary Thompson Fund.

The Group has researched the biodegradable issue as part of the Global Healing initiative following on from the Papal Encyclical 'Laudato Si' and two of our members attended the Cafod London Climate Change Rally in June this year.

The Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) has eleven box collectors with one hundred and eleven box holders donating £2774 in the past twelve months. Some parishioners make contributions directly to head office in Liverpool which are not part of the yearly total.

St Francis is committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk. As part of this commitment, we have two Safeguarding representatives, Frances Flood, and Marie Mead, performing this vital role plus support from the Cathedral parish. The diocese has trained all safeguarding representatives on an on-line training course. Safeguarding continues to be an on-going process.

Mother and toddlers still takes place from 10:00am until 12pm in the church hall, on Tuesdays.

Frances Flood and Marie Mead are looking after the 200 club and are part of a team who offer coffee after the Sunday 10.30am Mass.

We had the following retiring collections:

Holy Places	£223.35
Priests' Training Fund	£418.33
Peter's Pence	£169.89
Day for Life	£169.88
Lent Fast Day - CAFOD	£1010.64
Autumn Fast Day - CAFOD	£412.99
CAFOD - collection Boxes	£473.79
Ethiopia - Fund raising	£2697.82
Apostleship of the Sea	£534.84
SPUC	£409.83
PAX Christi	£248.80
St Columbria Mission	£768.50

The parish website is expanding and constantly being updated. We received 2633 hits in the last twelve months.

Besides general maintenance in the two churches and presbytery two areas of flat roof were replaced at St Clares. The brick pillar and wall area was rebuilt at the entrance to parish hall at St Francis after damage done by a taxi.

Theresa Flaherty took part in a sponsored bike ride from London to Brighton. For a good number of years a little boy has been on the Parish Sick List, Jacob' Haworth, Jacob's mum successfully completed her cycle ride through Wales. Katy Oemoily took part in a sponsored walk to raise funds for the Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship.

There was the annual Christmas shopping trip.

There was the 'Churches Together' in Brookfield

We celebrated Mass in honour of Our Lady Star of the Sea

The National Pilgrim Virgin statue of Our Lady of Fatima and Relics of Sts. Jacinta and Francisco visited the Cathedral. There was a procession to welcome the Statue, followed by Evening Prayer and Benediction.

Sisters from St. Elizabeth's convent, Belarus. visited the parish in September with a variety of hand made religious and craft items.

Earlier in the year many thousands of people were made homeless because of an earthquake which affected parts of Iran and Iraq; many people were still living in tents and the open and were in desperate need of the blankets and warm clothing, which were donated by parishioners.

There were two parish dinners with Irish and Italian cuisine,

There was a Mount Grace Pilgrimage to Osmotherly

Teesside Hospice benefited from the Christmas 'share a card' by avoiding the cost of postage

There was a Mass in honour of Our Lady Star of the Sea and 116 gift boxes donated to seafarers..

Tees Valley Music Service presented their Annual Christmas Concert at St. Francis in December. This was an excellent concert, led by some very talented musicians.

Claire Colleran from APF Mission took the opportunity to thank the Parish for their support, prayers and donations to the 1069 World Missions. £2930 was raised through the APF boxes and donations.

Cardiothoracic AOC team from James Cook hospital arranged a mission trip to Kumasi in Ghana and operated on young adults with rheumatic heart disease. £570 was raised from the tom bola and raffle.

You supported the Mary Thompson Fund over the past year. Their two boxes were always available in the side and rear of the church for non-perishable foods and toiletries. Also, gifts of warm clothing, hats, scarves and gloves were gratefully received.

There was an ecumenical service in December with traditional carols and Christmas readings

You donated £50 to Zoe's Place from 'Share a card'

Claire Omoni, a St. Clare's parishioner undertook a 4 day Arctic trek in January in aid of Teesside Hospice. The trek involved cross country skiing, snow shoeing and husky sledding in Finland along the Russian Border.

St Clare's Lenten soup kitchen raised £601 which has been sent to CAFOD.

There was a Lourdes race night on Saturday 11th May

Holiday hunger bags were donated