

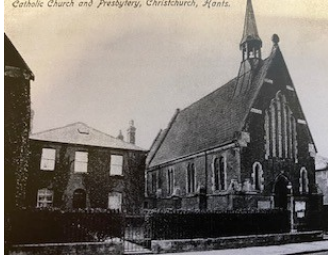
Finance Matters Fact Sheet 9

Keeping you informed

from the Finance Team

Buildings

Three old cottages, with a large orchard behind were bought in the 1860s, for the site of the new church and presbytery in Purewell. The foundation stone was laid in March 1866 and the construction, mostly done by parishioners, used many of the bricks from the cottages.



The church, seating 100 people, opened on 20 December 1866. It was not notable for design or construction standards. The small chapel, St Catherine's, was built in

Fairmile in 1950, and demolished in 1993.

Increasing numbers necessitated the building of a new church on adjacent land in 1992/3 at a cost of £560,000. This was partly financed by a loan from the Diocese. An anonymous legacy enabled the purchase of the bakery building next door in 1995. The presbytery, which was in a poor state of repair, was demolished in 2007, when the priest moved into the newly renovated apartment above the bakery, with the remaining rooms and garage put to use as offices etc.



Work started on the new parish centre in 2007, at a cost of an additional £500,000. The old church was renovated by Faithworks Wessex in 2021/2 to enable them to use the whole building to extend their outreach services, through the Food Bank Plus.

The lovely buildings evolved through the inspiration of priests, who with a great love for God through prayer and liturgy, and a good grasp of finance, worked in partnership with parishioners, for the glory of God.

Benefactors

The loan, repaid at £3,000 a month, was finally cleared in July 2021. To achieve this, needed generosity in time and money from so many individuals and families; from so many of **you**. Thank you.

You will have seen that a recent Mass was our annual Mass of Thanksgiving for our benefactors. That includes many past and present parishioners.

Over the years we have been truly blessed by the individual generosity of so many parishioners who have borne the brunt of repaying the loans to the Diocese, gifting a huge asset in buildings. This was done by many small acts of fundraising and sponsorship over the years. Many will remember the *Buy a Brick* initiative and other fun events and ongoing fundraising efforts.

We have also benefitted from the generous gifts of individuals over the years and are truly grateful to **Gemma Chapman** and **Gill Fisher**, who made bequests totaling well over £200,000, which shortened the loan period by about six years. We give thanks for the anonymous donor who helped buy the old bakery building, the benefactor who gifted the stained glass windows in the church and all the kind people who have given gifts of thousands of pounds over the years, even to the present day. We keep you in our prayers.

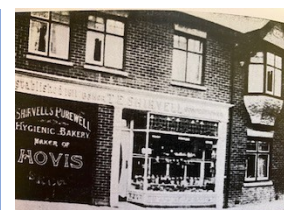
Fe Reid, known to many of you, died in March 2022. She bequeathed to the parish an initial sum of £10,000, followed by nearly £94,000 which we received in December 2023. Her wish was that Father wasn't worried about money. She asked that Mass be celebrated for the repose of her soul, twice a month for two years. Please come to these Masses to pray for her and all our benefactors, giving thanks for their kindness.

The Future

What does the future hold? This recent bequest enabled us to pay off our overdraft, which was nearly £50,000 and will cover the remaining costs for replacing both boilers, which are grinding to the end of their efficiency and repairs to the leaky roof. You will understand that we must shepherd our resources carefully, as we do not cover running costs in most months.

The parish finances and buildings are there to enable us to be a vibrant and welcoming missionary parish, with Christ at the centre of our liturgy and prayer.

As well as developing within our parish, we seek to respond to various needs, work with others, care for creation and be visible in our local community.



Please label donations as PROJECT so that 100% of the money given, goes to the specified cause.