

## *Father Hugh Writes*

Please remember in your prayers Andrew Hall, father of Susie Newbold, who died on Sunday 1st December. May he rest in peace.

Your fund raising efforts have brought in an additional £2,530.51 to which must be added donations separately of £3,521, a total of £6051.51 this year. With the additional gift aid over the year this will help to the costs of rewiring etc.

We have made significant improvements and minor adjustments to the property over my 18 months with you, some of which have been outstanding for several years in the quinquennial surveys.

The capital items were improvements to the heating and lighting, as well as replacing the ill fitting front door, decayed garage doors and roof repairs.

It seems next on the agenda must be a new 'Organ'. Our current one is fading, now with 15 stops no longer working, and is deemed to be beyond repair. We certainly need an organ sound in the church but maybe a multifunction keyboard may be appropriate? Your thoughts will be appreciated as our Finance committee will make a decision in 2020.

With Christmas approaching, may I remind you please to Gift Aid the Christmas offering. If you have parish boxes of envelopes, then you will find coloured envelopes at the back of the box. Those whose offerings are on a Standing order should please use one of the yellow envelopes in the church entrance.

I'm delighted that we shall have a Confirmation group in 2020. It would be helpful to have all names as soon as possible please, so that we know how to plan some preparation time.

The Third Sunday of Advent again brings to the fore John The Baptist. But our Mass also returns us to the hope that all Christians share in eternal life, and still awaiting the return of Jesus Christ as he promised. It seems a distant thought for most of us, but perhaps not as life draws on to our mature years. The word rejoice also marks this point in the season, which is not penitential as in Lent but rather joyful in hope. St James talks to us about patience until the Lord comes, and then reflects on the farmer awaiting the rains! That's not the case this autumn, rather we wonder if it will ever stop!

As we hear of the plight of crops lost to flooding for some farmers we should hold them all in prayer and if necessary remind our newly elected MP's of the importance of supporting those working in

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## *Father Hugh Writes cont/d...*

agriculture to provide our food. I was particularly disappointed to hear of farmers who will receive no compensation for loss because of flooding. Maybe, just maybe, we will have some dry weather once the solstice occurs next weekend! SEE STOP PRESS ON BACK PAGE.

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## *Parish Notices*

**Please do come to our parish celebration of Sing-Along Christmas Carols at 3pm today in the hall.** Mince pies and mulled wine will be provided for a small donation. All profits to help the homeless. There will also be a sweet treat "prize every time" Tombola for Church funds.

**The Co-workers of Mother Teresa:** There is still a box in the porch to collect items for the homeless in Brighton. A list of the items needed can be found on the box or the notice board. Please give any monetary donations direct to Jo Slaughter.

**Our parish website is now up and running at the following address: [www.corpuschristihenfield.com/](http://www.corpuschristihenfield.com/)**

**Christmas Week Masses:** 10am on Monday 23rd, Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th and Friday 27th. The Vigil Mass of the Nativity on Tuesday 24th will be at 8pm.

*This year our Crib Collection is to be directed to the Catholic Children's Society's A&B Crisis.*

**Organ Recital in aid of the Henfield Haven.** Gerald Taylor, FRCO, performed a selection of traditional and seasonal music in our Church last Sunday. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a glass of mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall. Voluntary donations raised almost £200 in aid of the Haven, for which we are extremely grateful. *Digby Stephenson*

### **Advance Notices:**

Liturgy here on 19th January during the week of Prayer for Christian Unity and again at St Peter's on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st during their 1250 years celebrations.

**The Laudato Si** meeting will be on 25th January. Full details of both events will be available nearer the time.

**World Day of Prayer:** In 2020 the service, written by the women of Zimbabwe, will take place on Friday 6th March at St Peter's Church, Henfield. Everyone welcome.