

GREEN PAPER – 12.04.2014

STRATEGIC PLANNING – HOLY FAMILY PARISH

1 Holy Family Parish is in debt. We currently owe £1.67 million. The parish is struggling to reduce this debt burden and to pay the interest that accumulates from it. Last year's accounts show that parish income for the year ending December 2013 was reduced by some £70,000. Had it not been for some generous bequests made to the parish in that year, parish expenditure would have exceeded parish income.

2 The tangible assets of Holy Family Parish include:-

3 Holy Family Church

4 Holy Family Presbytery and adjoining house

- Pastoral Centre, 222 Limestone Road

1 Gate Lodge at the junction of Newington Avenue / Church Gates

2 The premises used by the Youth Club and also Newington Amateur Boxing Club [NABC}

3 St Therese Church [considered to be in need of work**]

- St Therese presbytery [unoccupied, largely weather-proofed but in need of extensive internal refurbishment]

- 65 Somerton Road [used in partnership with Little Flower Girls' School]

1 The Church of the Resurrection

2 Resurrection Presbytery [now unoccupied]

3 The Parish Centre [120 Cavehill Road]

3 Holy Family Finance Committee has recommended to Father Strain that parishioners should be consulted about the current and future use of these properties in order to meet the changing needs of the parish. It may be possible to sell or to use otherwise some of the properties in order to boost parish income and / or reduce parish debt.

4 To that end, the Finance Committee has recommended to the Parish Administrator that he should seek professional advice about potential options for the use and development of all parish properties. Father Strain has committed himself to engaging with Parishioners in a consultation process in which the various professional opinions and advices will be shared.

** Storm – glazing of stained glass windows, improving heating system and remedial works to the roof.