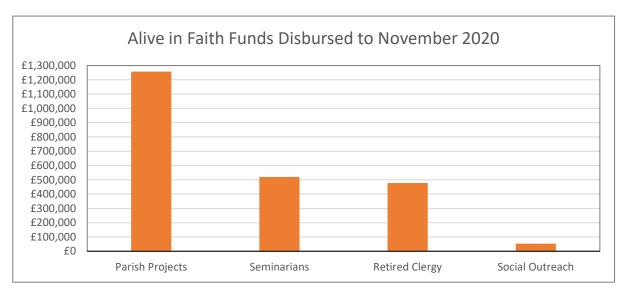
ALIVE IN FAITH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020





We continue to be most grateful to you for your unstinting generosity towards the *Alive in Faith* campaign, particularly at this difficult time of the pandemic. Your contributions are having a very great impact on the life of the Diocese. The total amount pledged by some 3,500 individuals stands at £6.3 million. Total income received so far is £5.3 million. Total expenditure disbursed to the end of November 2020 is some £2.3 million, which is divided across 4 priorities as shown in the graph.





Retired Clergy

Alive in Faith funds have enabled the Diocese to buy a flat for Father Tony Shryane who retired after 50 years of ministry.

The 2-bed flat in Peterborough is just 10 minutes' walk from the parish church of St Peter and All Souls, where Father Tony is able to say Mass, lockdowns permitting.

This photo (above) shows Father Tony in his new bedroom looking at a photograph of himself with Saint Pope John Paul II.

Fr Tony was ordained in Peterborough and was Vocations Director for the Diocese for 12 years. "When the Diocese split from Northampton in 1976," he said, "all the students from the old Diocese were based on the East Anglian side. So we started off with a bumper bundle of 10 or 11 students."

Fr Tony served in Thetford and Norwich before being appointed Parish Priest for Ely, where he was based for 21 years.

Seminarians

We have been blessed with two ordinations this year. Father Peter Wygnanski was ordained in July 2020 and has gone on to further studies in Rome. Deacon Andrew Neate from Cromer was ordained to the priesthood in September 2020 and is now Parish Priest at St Anthony of Padua, Fakenham. We have just had four young men start their first year in seminary, making a total of eight seminarians being formed for the priesthood, with the support of *Alive in Faith*.

Social Outreach Grants

A number of Social Outreach Grants have been made, including one to support the establishment of a prayer and listening ministry for married couples in need of support. Volunteers have been recruited and their training will commence shortly. A grant was also given to the Order of Secular Franciscans to support their work in helping the homeless in Norwich through provision of vouchers for breakfast at the Salvation Army centre. A grant has also been made to the Via Beata project to pay ex-offenders at Emmaus, Ditchingham, to undertake the fabrication of a waypost along this East-West pilgrimage route (which goes from Lowestoft to David's, Wales) within St George's parish, Norwich. If you, or an organisation you work with have a proposal for consideration, and the support of your parish priest, then please do apply for a grant. Grant application forms can be obtained from caritas@rcdea.org.uk



Parish Projects

While some parishes have decided to wait until all their pledges, are completed, 34 of our parishes have now started or completed projects in their parishes. One of those that recently finished work is the Parish of Our Lady, Stowmarket. This parish's facilities were previously quite restricted in terms of the space available. Therefore, it had a long term need to expand capacity for the community and for its many different groups and to improve access for the disabled. Thanks to £23,000 funding raised through *Alive in Faith*, this ambition has now been realised. The hall above the church has been refurbished, with the installation of a lift for the disabled, a new kitchen and toilets and a storeroom.

The photo (left) shows Father Simon Leworthy, who was recently appointed as Parish Priest, inside the new lift.

Electronic Newsletter

If you receive this newsletter by post and wish to receive an electronic newsletter in future via email, please can you email <u>AliveInFaith@rcdea.org.uk</u> with your name and parish. This will help us to save on printing and postage costs.

Thank You for Your Continued Support

Thank you once again for your generosity, your support and your prayers, which are all making a real difference to the Diocese. Please be assured of our prayers for you and your families at this time.