

St Thomas and St Bede's
AGM on Monday , 23rd October 2023

APF/Missio Red Box Report

Summary

- In 2015 I took over the administration of the Parish APF Red Box scheme from Mrs. Gudge when she left the Parish.
- In 2015 there were 22 'active' Red Boxes in the Parish
- In 2023 there are 12 'active' Red Boxes in the Parish
- In 2015 the Parish red boxes collected £350.20 for the missionary work of the APF. The Diocese as a whole collected a total of £90,538.18.
- In 2023 the Parish red boxes collected £472.79 for the work of the APF/ Missio. The Diocese as a whole collected "over £70,000.

Some thoughts

- In common with other parishes we have, over the years, seen a fall in numbers attending mass.
- This, coupled with deaths and people leaving the area, has meant a gradual fall in the number of Red Box holders.
- However, this fall in numbers has been more than matched by the increasing generosity of those that remain.
- Unfortunately, it would seem that the days of the Red Box within the Church in England and Wales are numbered.
- This in my view would be a great pity as the scheme does, in my view, epitomize the very nature of the missionary church.
- The concept of the APF started by Pauline Jaricot in Lyon in 1822 has spread throughout the Catholic World as a means of supporting the missionary activities of the Church. It would be sad to see it die out through lack of interest.