

St. Thomas More Church, Hartley Wintney

Minutes of Good Shepherds' meeting number 28 held on Thursday 13th March 2014

Present:

Stephanie Bannon (chairman), Fr Thom Amungwa, Dinah Kennedy, Ruth Hudson, Liz Murphy, Cathy Gathergood, Kath Budd, Carole Johnson, Janine Kilroy, John Marcotti (minutes)

Apologies:

Louise Poulter, Dcn Dave Morgan, Pat Paul, Marian Sandle, Bill Bishop, Richard Bannon, Marie Linscott, Paula Simcoe

1. *Previous minutes*

The previous minutes were agreed.

2. *Open actions and matters arising*

Action 24.02: All the benches have been done. Renovation of the kneelers is in progress. This process will take a long time because we must have enough kneelers available every Sunday. A couple of kneelers will be done at a time during the week then returned ready for Sunday.

We will ask Bill Bishop to investigate whether anything can be done to remove the kneelers from the benches beside the altar because they are not used and they take up space. **Action 28.01 Liz Murphy**

3. *Instructions for opening the church*

These instructions have been updated and approved by Fr Thom, and will be circulated shortly to all the Openers.

4. *Last year's charity*

Our year of providing support for Christ the King School, Okene, Nigeria (Fr Dominic's charity) has now ended (only the fund-raising auction remains to be held). So far we have raised a total of £3886. We agreed to send a cheque to Fr Dominic.

5. *Choosing a new charity*

Stephanie proposed a charity that provides health, education and justice support in Malawi, and we agreed to adopt it. A representative of the charity will come to speak to us about it at Mass. **Action 28.02 Stephanie Bannon**

6. *Good Friday and Easter*

As a change from the usual Walk of Witness, Churches Together has hired a theatre company to perform a Passion Play in the high street on Good Friday. More information will be available closer to the time.

Fr Thom confirmed we will have a service on Good Friday afternoon at St Thomas More, subject to Deacon Dave's availability or Fr Thom's being able to find another celebrant.

Fr Thom also proposed that we might be able to arrange other services at St Thomas More at Easter-time, such as a Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. Again, subject to his being able to find a celebrant.

We should know more detail by Sunday 23rd.

Post-meeting note: Fr Thom has confirmed that a celebrant will be available for Good Friday but not for other events of the Triduum.

7. *Disability access*

We decided to obtain a portable ramp for use by people who use wheelchairs, walking frames etc. Stephanie will get some quotes. **Action 28.03 Stephanie Bannon**

There was also a proposal that somewhere in the church we might have a chair that has arms, for the use of people who have difficulty standing up. However, we decided against this because of the shortage of space.

8. *Any Other business*

8.1 *Lectern*

Fr Thom had previously asked if a lectern could be placed beside his chair. None is available at St Swithun's. We will try to source one elsewhere.

8.2 *Auction*

The date originally planned for the auction was 30th March, but this is Mothering Sunday so might not be the best day. Therefore the auction will take place on 6th April instead. We will have tea and Coffee after Mass on that day.

Note that the auction will raise money for Christ the King School, Okene, Nigeria, which was last year's charity, not for the charity we agreed to adopt in item 5 above; there may be another auction for that charity later in the year.

8.3 *Visit from Bamenda*

A delegation from Bamenda is going to visit this diocese later this year and will for a time visit St Swithuns. We are asked to think of a gift for them.

9. *Open items*

Action number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
28.01	Ask Bill Bishop to investigate whether anything can be done to remove the kneelers from the benches beside the altar	Liz Murphy	Open

Action number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
28.02	Arrange for a representative of our new charity to come to speak to us about it at Mass	Stephanie Bannon	Open
28.03	Get prices for a portable ramp for wheelchairs etc.	Stephanie Bannon	Open
27.02	Make an announcement about the next Youth Mass	Richard Bannon	Open
27.03	Make an appeal for more people to help with cleaning	Richard Bannon	Open
26.04	Check whether refund is available from Living Our Faith	Louise Poulter	Open
26.05	Arrange quotes for votive candle stand <i>13/03/2014: This has not yet been done because of difficulty in identifying which firm to approach. Carole Johnson will provide details.</i>	Pat Paul	Open
17.06	Make an appeal for people to use Gift Aid. We will ask Nigel Vince to make this appeal.	Richard Bannon	Open

10. *Closed items*

Action number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
27.01	Suggest to Churches Together that next year's Christian Unity Week services could be in the evening.	John Marcotti	Closed
27.04	Send suggestions for next year's charity to Richard	All	Closed
27.05	Update the Opening and Closing Instructions to include the additional equipment to be set out	Marie Linscott	Closed
26.02	Write a cheque for Friends of St Mary's	Louise Poulter	Closed
24.01	Implement the quick win identified from the disability audit	Richard Bannon	Closed
24.02	Arrange for a trial renovation of a single pew	Bill Bishop	Closed
17.02	Investigate satellite speakers for organ. <i>We decided not to bother. The organ works fine as it is.</i>	Richard Bannon	Closed