

St. Thomas More Church, Hartley Wintney

Minutes of Good Shepherds' meeting number 29 held on Thursday 13th May 2014

Present:

Stephanie Bannon (chairman), Fr Thom Amungwa, Carole Johnson, Kath Budd, Janine Kilroy, Liz Murphy, John Marcotti (minutes)

Apologies:

Cathy Gathergood, Marie Linscott, Pat Paul, Dinah Kennedy, Richard Bannon

1. *Previous minutes*

The previous minutes were agreed.

2. *Open actions and matters arising*

Action 28.01: It was considered that to remove the kneelers from the back of the benches beside the altar would impair the stability of the benches and thereby render them unsafe.

Action 27.02: We will revisit the question of a youth Mass in September or October.

Action 28.03: A portable ramp would be £150-£200 and would probably be quite bulky and therefore awkward to store and to use. We wondered whether we should consider having the step levelled instead. We decided to investigate the cost of this too.

Action 26.05: A catalogue shows the cost of a new stand for the votive candles to be around £650. We therefore considered whether the one we have could be restored in some way. A couple of the candle holders have been broken or lost so these would have to be replaced, but otherwise the structure seems sound.

3. *Parish picnic*

Dr and Mrs Saunders have once again kindly offered the use of their garden for a Parish picnic/BBQ or social event. Their preferred timing would be early July. The people who organised it last year are not able to do so again this year, so we need some people to be responsible for organising it, otherwise it will not happen. John will make an appeal for volunteers at Mass. **Action 29.01 John Marcotti**

4. *Garden*

Nicky Stevens has said that she is no longer able to look after the garden. We considered whether to hire a gardener to cut the grass every couple of weeks; we did not consider what to do about occasional maintenance such as weeding and pruning.

The problem is quite urgent because the garden is already in quite a bad way. We decided to focus first on tasks that would provide quicker results. In particular, we decided not to tackle the allotment at this time.

There is a reasonable amount of equipment (such as canes and netting) around the allotment. We will ask Nicky to remove anything that belongs to her, and we will dispose of anything that remains.

We decided to

- a) Hire somebody to cut the grass as soon as possible. Janine said she knew somebody and so would arrange it. **Action 29.02 Janine Kilroy**
- b) Organise a working party to do some weeding and pruning. Liz would send an email round to ask for volunteers and John would make an appeal at Mass. **Action 29.03 Liz Murphy and John Marcotti**

5. *First aid kit*

There was a suggestion that we should keep a first-aid box in the church. We felt this was a good idea so we agreed to get one. **Action 29.04 Stephanie Bannon** However, we decided not to go so far as to train first-aiders because a number of the congregation have medical training and we felt we would probably be able to manage.

6. *Bamenda visit*

Portsmouth diocese and St Swithun's in Yateley is shortly going to be visited by a delegation from Bamenda. We considered what gift we could give them.

We decided to hold a retiring collection on Sunday 8th June for the Archbishop's Education Fund in Bamenda, which we would present to them during a meal which is to be held in their honour at St Swithun's. Stephanie offered to obtain a card, which we would invite all the congregation to sign. **Action 29.05 Stephanie Bannon**

This meal will be held on Thursday 19th June at 6.30pm – 8.30pm. We have also been asked to contribute buffet-type food for this meal.

7. *Any Other business*

7.1 *Liz's wedding*

Liz's daughter is getting married at St Thomas More on Saturday 12th July. Liz asks if anybody would be prepared to open the church.

7.2 *Weekday Masses*

Attendance was around 14 or 15 for the first few weeks but lately has dropped off to just a handful of people. We recognised that time-of-day might be a problem for some people but there is probably no time that would be ideal for everybody. All we could suggest was that perhaps they could be promoted more.

7.3 *Christmas concert*

Rosalyn Bannon would like to arrange a concert of music and dance. We all agreed that was a very good idea.

8. *Open items*

Action number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
29.01	Appeal at Mass for people to help organise a parish picnic.	John Marcotti	Open
29.02	Arrange for somebody to come and cut the grass.	Janine Kilroy	Open
29.03	Ask for helpers at a gardening party.	Liz Murphy and John Marcotti	Open
29.04	Obtain a first-aid kit for the church.	Stephanie Bannon	Open
29.05	Obtain a greeting card for the visitors from Bamenda and bring it to Mass so that members of the congregation can sign it.	Stephanie Bannon	Open
28.03	Get prices for a portable ramp for wheelchairs etc. Also get quotes for 'smoothing' the step to create a permanent ramp.	Stephanie 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

9. *Closed 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	Closed
28.02	Arrange for a representative of our new charity to come to speak to us about it at Mass	Stephanie Bannon	Closed
27.02	Make an announcement about the next Youth Mass	Richard Bannon	Closed