

St. Thomas More Church, Hartley Wintney

Minutes of Good Shepherd's meeting number 32 held on Wednesday 12th November 2014

Present:

Richard Bannon (Chair), Marie Linscott, Pat Paul, Fr Simon Thomson, Janine Kilroy, Carole Johnson, Kath Budd, John Marcotti (minutes)

Apologies:

Marian Duggan, Stephanie Bannon, Tim Davies, Liz Murphy, Cathy Gathergood, Louise Poulter, Dinah Kennedy, Ruth Hudson, Bill Bishop, Deacon Dave Morgan.

1. *Previous minutes*

The previous minutes were agreed.

2. *Open actions and matters arising*

Action Number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
31.01	To co-ordinate and discuss arrangements at the next Good Shepherds meeting in November	Carole Johnson	Closed
31.02	Mention the walk after Mass for the next two Sundays prior to the walk	Richard	Closed
31.03	Invite Fr Simon to take part in the walk	Richard	Closed
31.04	Pre-Christmas Social – afternoon tea – to be discussed at the next Good Shepherds Meeting	Marie	Closed
31.05	Sacristy Storage Improvement Project – to discuss at next Good Shepherds Meeting	All Good Shepherds	Closed
30.01	Appeal for people to join the cleaning rota <i>Meeting 32: Richard will ask at Mass.</i>	Richard	Open
30.07	Garden fence needs repair. Church plans to be checked. <i>Meeting 32: We still have not found the plans.</i>	Richard	Open
26.04	Check whether refund is available from Living Our Faith <i>Meeting 32: About £4000 is available if we should need it. The way that the Living Our Faith 'refund' works is that it is not a refund as such, rather that the money is available should it be needed for a church project.</i>	Louise Poulter	Closed
26.05	Votive candle stand – contact the blacksmith	Richard	Open

	(using details from Dinah Kennedy)		
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3. *Christmas*

There was some discussion about whether Mass should be on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We decided on Christmas Eve. Mass will be at St Thomas More at 7pm. There will also be Masses at St Swithun's at 5pm and midnight on Christmas Eve and at 10am on Christmas Day. Carole will put an item into Contact. **Action 32.01 Carole Johnson.**

There will be no children's pageant as such at St Thomas More, but children will be invited to come dressed as shepherds, angels etc if they wish.

Fr Christmas will come after Mass on 7th December and will give presents to the children (possibly some Fair Trade Advent calendars).

We will put up a Christmas tree on the 4th Sunday of Advent, decorated with plain lights (although the lights will not be lit until Christmas). If any children have made some decorations they can hang them on the tree.

For Christmas, we will set out the African crib set on the altar steps as usual.

Instead of having a collection for Cabrini this year, we will have a crib collection (i.e. a collection basket beside the crib) to support children in the Holy Land (managed by the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre).

Janine will be away over the Christmas period but she will try to find an organist, especially for Christmas Eve. The organist should contact Fr Simon to discuss the hymns. **Action 32.07 Janine Kilroy.**

4. *Social*

After Mass on 7th December we will have coffee as usual, and possibly mince pies.

After Mass on 21st December we will have mulled wine and mince pies.

Somebody also suggested sausage rolls on one of these occasions, but that would be too much to hope for ☺

We will hold a tea party one Sunday afternoon in the New Year. Richard will announce it at Mass one Sunday in January with a view to holding the tea party about a month later. **Action 32.02 Richard Bannon.**

5. *Christian Unity Week (18-25 January 2015)*

There will be a service at St Thomas More on Wednesday 21st January at 7:30pm. As an experiment, the service will be in the evening so that people who are normally at work during the day may be able to attend.

Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

6. *Sacristy*

We should consider building an extension along the south side of the church to provide space that can be used for meeting rooms, children's liturgy, social, kitchen/servery, and so on. Fr Simon will make some initial contacts with some architects. **Action 32.03 Fr Simon.**

7. *Churches Together*

John gave a brief summary of forthcoming events being organised or supported by Churches Together.

- Advent service at St Mary's on Advent Sunday (30th November 2014) at 5pm. This will not be ticketed. There will be a shuttle bus from the car park.
- Lent lectures, including one by Bishop Philip and another by the Anglican Bishop of Winchester. Dates are yet to be notified.
- Passion play on Good Friday. Fr Simon has agreed that our contribution can be paid from parish funds.
- Songs of Praise on the day after the village festival i.e. on Sunday 14th June, with music provided by the Salvation Army Band.

Wherever possible, these events should be advertised in the church newsletter and by announcing them at Mass.

8. *Garden*

The hedge has been cut but the allotment has not yet been cleared up. After this has been done we can go ahead with the idea of planting some shrubs and perhaps some annuals that can be used to provide flowers for the church.

Janine will ask Hedi if she would mind being responsible for planning the garden, arranging working parties, etc. **Action 32.04 Janine Kilroy.**

9. *Noticeboard*

We should get a small noticeboard that can be attached to the gate which can be used to contain a copy of the weekly newsletter.

Also, we must update the large noticeboard on the church wall outside the front door. We must update it to have the new Mass times (including the Thursday Mass) and to remove the priest's name. Bill Bishop has arranged for this to be done on previous occasions so we will ask if he can do so again. **Action 32.05 John Marcotti.**

10. *Any Other Business*

- Fr Simon is required to form a finance committee.
- We need a new collection plate for retiring collections.
- When Carole prints out new hymn sheets she should send a copy to Fr Simon.
- The thermostat in the church should be set to 20 degrees, not 15 degrees as is usually the case at present. The closing instructions should be updated to reflect this. **Action 32.06 John Marcotti.**

- We tried to think of ways to discourage parents from giving their children food during Mass to keep them quiet, but did not come to any satisfactory conclusion.

11. *Dates of next meetings*

Meetings next year will be on the second Wednesday of alternate months, starting in January. Meetings will be on:

- 14th January
- 11th March
- 13th May
- 8th July
- 9th September
- 11th November.

Each meeting will be held at the church and will start at 7:30pm.

12. *New actions*

Action Number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
32.01	Advertise our Christmas Masses in Contact.	Carole Johnson	Open
32.02	Make an announcement at Mass about the tea party.	Richard Bannon	Open
32.03	Consult architects about the proposed extension.	Fr Simon	Open
32.04	Ask Hedi to be responsible for the garden.	Janine Kilroy	Open
32.05	Ask Bill Bishop if he would arrange for the noticeboard to be updated.	John Marcotti	Open
32.06	Update the church closing instructions to say the thermostat should be left at 20 degrees.	John Marcotti	Open
32.07	Find an organist for the Christmas period and arrange for the organist to speak to Fr Simon about hymns.	Janine Kilroy	Open