

St. Thomas More Church, Hartley Wintney

Minutes of Good Shepherd's meeting number 33 held on Wednesday 14th January 2015

Present:

Fr Simon Thomson, Carole Johnson, Richard Bannon (Chair), Tim Davies, Ruth Hudson, Liz Murphy, Kath Budd, John Marcotti (minutes)

Apologies:

Marie Linscott, Pat Paul, Janine Kilroy, Marian Duggan, Stephanie Bannon, Cathy Gathergood, Louise Poulter, Dinah Kennedy, Bill Bishop, Deacon Dave Morgan.

1. *Opening prayer*

The meeting opened with a prayer.

2. *Previous minutes*

The previous minutes were agreed.

3. *Open actions and matters arising*

Action 32.03: We should check if we can hold this event at the Methodist Hall.

Action 32.04: The pyracantha hedge outside the front door should be lowered so you can see the sign.

Action 32.07: We are responsible for the fence. We can't find the plans.

Action 26.04: We had a target to raise £50,000 for Living Our Faith, of which only £30,221 was actually pledged. Based on money actually received, the parish would be able to reclaim £6360. In order to reclaim money we must establish a "case for support", such as refurbishing the floor (already done) or doing maintenance on the ceiling or other spaces in the church.

We could make a retroactive claim for costs incurred for doing the floor and renewing the kneelers.

Fr Simon will get an update on the status of the Living Our Faith fund. **Action 33.01 Fr Simon**

4. *Christmas*

There were not as many people as usual. We assume that parents with young children may have found the slightly later time of 7 o'clock was too late.

5. *Lent and Easter*

There will be Mass at St Thomas More at 7pm on Ash Wednesday (18th February).

We will have Stations of the Cross at St Thomas More each Wednesday in Lent at 7pm, starting from the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday (starting from Wednesday 25th February). Carole and Kath will lead.

5.1 *Palm Sunday*

Our Palm Sunday Mass will begin with a procession, starting at the corner of the cricket green. We will need a couple of marshals to watch for traffic etc,

Fr Simon will source some booklets for th Palm Sunday readings.

At the end of Mass there will be no recessional hymn: people should leave the church in silence.

There was a request that the Church should reinstate the distinction between Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday.

5.2 *Good Friday*

Fr Simon will consider whether we can have a service at St Thomas More on Good Friday. Maybe we will have the service at St Swithuns and St Thomas More on alternate years.

5.3 *Easter Sunday*

Mass will be at 8:45 as usual.

6. *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 at so that that people who are normally at work during the day may be able to attend.

Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

7. *Christian Aid Week*

Christian Aid Week will be the week of 10th-16th May. It is our turn this year to host the united service, which will be on Sunday 10th May at 6 or 6:30pm (to be decided).

The first committee meeting will be at the end of January.

A meeting will be needed with Fr Simon to agree the details of the service.

8. *Parish Charity*

It is time to choose a charity to support next year. Richard will ask at Mass for suggestions. **Action 33.02 Richard Bannon**

9. *Prayer Request Noticeboard*

We used to have a noticeboard in the church, on which people could pin cards containing prayer intentions. We agreed we would like to reinstate this noticeboard. However, we noted that there must be some mechanism to remove prayer requests after a period of time.

10. *Heating*

Some people have complained that the church is too cold. We considered the possibility of having cavity wall insulation installed, lagging the roof, installing double glazing etc, especially if we are planning to have other rebuilding work done. However, all of these are likely to represent a large expense for little benefit since the church is in use for only an hour or so per week.

We decided to try switching the heating on earlier on Sunday morning to give the church more time to warm up.

11. *Churches Together*

Churches Together has arranged a series of events during Lent, including a lecture to be delivered by Bishop Philip and another by the Anglican Bishop of Basingstoke. Bishop Philip's lecture will be on Wednesday 25th March at 8pm. Currently the venue is planned to be the Methodist Church, but it might change to St John's.

We must make sure this event is properly advertised and supported.

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

12. *Any Other Business*

- We agreed there is no need for the Eucharistic Ministers to wear their crosses.
- Fr Simon was asked to make sure there is enough wine in the chalices.
- One of the chalices needs re-gilding. Tim was advised to ask Penny Farncombe. **Action 33.03 Tim Davies**
- First Holy Communion will be on Sunday 5th July.
- We noted that the outside light was not working.

13. *Closing prayer*

The meeting closed with a prayer.

14. *Dates of next meetings*

Meetings this 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.

15. *New and open actions*

Action Number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
33.01	Get update on status of Living Our Faith fund.	Fr Simon	Open
33.02	Ask at Mass for suggestions for next year's charity.	Richard Bannon	Open
33.03	Speak to Penny Farncombe about re-gilding one of the chalices.	Tim Davies	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
30.01	Appeal for people to join the cleaning rota <i>Meeting 32: Richard will ask at Mass.</i>	Richard	Open
26.05	Votive candle stand – contact the blacksmith (using details from Dinah Kennedy)	Richard	Open

16. *Closed actions*

Action Number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
32.01	Advertise our Christmas Masses in Contact.	Carole Johnson	Closed
32.05	Ask Bill Bishop if he would arrange for the noticeboard to be updated.	John Marcotti	Closed
32.06	Update the church closing instructions to say the thermostat should be left at 20 degrees.	John Marcotti	Closed
32.07	Find an organist for the Christmas period and arrange for the organist to speak to Fr Simon about hymns.	Janine Kilroy	Closed
30.07	Garden fence needs repair. Church plans to be checked. <i>Meeting 32: We still have not found the plans.</i>	Richard	Closed
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

