

St. Thomas More Church, Hartley Wintney

Minutes of Good Shepherds meeting number 2020-01 held on Tuesday 7th January 2020

Present:

Marie Linscott (Chair), Ann Hollis, Francesca Cornwell, Liz Murphy, Dinah Kennedy, Cathy Gathergood, Marian Duggan, Janine Kilroy, Ruth Hudson, Pat Paul, Carole Johnson, Fr Wojciech, John Marcotti (minutes)

Apologies:

Patrick Wilson, Helen Wilson, Kath Budd, Anne Chanda

1 *Opening prayer*

The meeting opened with a prayer.

2 *Previous minutes*

No comments.

3 *Open actions and matters arising*

2019-01.01: John reported that despite two appeals at Mass, we are still short of a few people for the Openers and Closers rota. Pat and Marie kindly volunteered. We are still one or two people short – it might be time to do some shoulder-tapping.

2019-01.02: We contacted a sound engineer, who advised us to contact the manufacturer of the organ and arrange a service. The manufacturer's serviceman has been asked for an estimate. Fr W will review the estimate.

2019-01.03: Fr Wojciech has confirmed that STM does have its own bank account, and we should raise any requests via the Parish Office. Marie Linscott will coordinate this. Action closed

2019-01.04: See below. Action closed

2019-01.05: We now have a 'Ewbank'. Action closed

4 *Parish social*

This will take place at the cricket club at 7:30 pm on Thursday 23rd January. Admission will be free, but there will be a cash bar. People will be invited to pop

in even if they can't stay all evening. People will also be invited to bring along some food (nibbles) to share, but this is not a condition of admission.

5 *Car parking*

Now that we are no longer able to park at Grey House School because the gates don't work, many people are finding it difficult to find somewhere to park.

We considered whether the owners of Grey House School would agree to let us fix the gates at our own expense in order that we should be allowed to continue to park there until the rebuilding work starts, but we felt the owners would not be interested in this and that we should accept that being able to park there was a thing of the past.

There are other places we could park, all of which would be free:

- The village car park
- The high street
- Opposite The Cricketers
- Oakwood School

If any parishioner has issues with mobility they should speak to Marie, so we can arrange some transport.

6 *Hole in path*

A hole has developed in the path near the side door. The first priority is to prevent an accident, so we will get a bollard to place over it. Then we will get somebody to come and assess the cause and give us an estimate.

7 *Candle stand*

There are drips of wax on the carpet underneath the candle stand. These are caused by our use of tapers to light the candles. We have therefore agreed that instead of tapers we will in future use matches or a gas lighter such as an oven or hob lighter (a long wand that produces a flame).

This applies to the candles on the candle stand and also anywhere else we have candles, such as on the altar.

8 *Children's Liturgy*

The intention is to provide a children's liturgy every Sunday except 1st Sundays (because the sacristy will be needed on 1st Sundays for the after-Mass tea and coffee).

Anne Chanda has offered to run the children's liturgy but would no doubt welcome some helpers.

These helpers must have undertaken safeguarding training and passed the appropriate police checks. If anybody would like to be involved with the children's

liturgy please make themselves known to Marie, and we will organise the training and the checks.

A notice will be put into the porch inviting parents to write the names and ages of their children who may wish to take part. This is not a formal enrolment, but rather is just so that we can identify approximate numbers and ages and can ensure that suitable books are available.

On 1st Sundays – because there will be no children’s liturgy – Fr Wojciech will target his homily primarily at children (as he did during Advent).

9 *Nativity set*

Everybody agreed that Anne’s knitted nativity set and Fr W’s homilies for the children had been a great success.

Most of us felt that the size of the figures and the crib was just right, however there has been an offer of a larger stable. Anne will investigate.

10 *Any Other Business*

10.1 *Toilet*

It needs a new seat. We should get one.

10.2 *Keysafe*

There was some discussion about the key safe, which is sometimes difficult to operate, and also about the front door, which some people find hard to lock. We can discuss this further next time.

10.3 *Emergency contacts*

It would be useful to have a list of emergency contacts in case something happens when the parish office is closed. For example, if somebody notices a plumbing problem, what should they do?

10.4 *Maintenance officer*

We should have a named “maintenance officer” to be responsible for looking after the fabric of the church (not necessarily doing the work themselves, but taking responsibility for getting it done).

10.5 *Various instructions are out of date*

The instructions for opening and closing the church and for operating the heating are out of date. John will get them updated.

10.6 Churches Together

The next meeting will be at St Thomas More on Thursday 5th March at 7:45 pm.

The meetings normally are attended by one or two people from each of the churches in the village. The format is usually:

- Tea or coffee
- Opening prayer
- An update on what is going on in each church, in which we share information about special activities, events or services being hosted by each church
- Closing prayer

Our representatives are currently John Marcotti, Janine Kilroy and Mary Lane. It would be good if more people could take part. This should perhaps be coordinated through John, Janine or Mary to make sure we don't outnumber the other churches too much!

10.7 Suggestions for other socials

Some suggestions were made which can be explored more fully another time

1. In Fleet they sometimes have a "progressive supper" in which groups of parishioners visit each other's houses and share a meal that has been prepared by the host; or just a course, in which case they go on to somebody else's house for the next course. Maybe we could do something similar.
2. A parish outing. A trip away for one or two days.

11 Closing prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer.

12 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th March.
The meeting will be held at the church and will start at 7:30pm.

13 New and open actions

Action Number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
2020-02.01	Update or produce instructions for opening and closing the church and for operating the heating controls.	John Marcotti	Open
2019-01.01	Start up the Openers and Closers rota again	John Marcotti	Open
2019-01.02	Get a quote for fixing the speaker on the organ	Janine Kilroy	Open

14 Closed actions

Action Number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
2019-01.03	<p>Speak to Tony Murphy to see whether we have our own bank account</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: Fr Wojciech has confirmed that STM does have its own bank account, and we should raise any requests via the Parish Office. Marie Linscott will coordinate this.</i></p>	Marie Linscott	Closed
2019-01.04	Arrange a social in January	Ann Hollis and Ruth Hudson	Closed
2019-01-05	Get details of the proposed floor cleaner.	Hedi Lewis	Closed