

St. Thomas More Church, Hartley Wintney

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 18th September 2008

Present:

Geoff Jennings (chairman), Marian Sandle, Paula Simcoe, Carole Johnson, Viviane Faye, Margaret Jennings, Anne Stanley, Rosemarie Cooke, John Marcotti (minutes)

Apologies:

June Walsh

1. *Finance*

1.1 *Finance Committee*

We have formed a new Finance Committee, which currently has 3 members.

1.2 *Paying a share of Fr Dominic's expenses*

We discussed the proposition from St Swithun's, that we should pay a share of Fr Dominic's expenses. The total amount is £20000 per year, and St Swithun's have asked us to contribute one eighth, namely £2500 per year.

Geoff set the scene by reading out the parish report he sent to NEHPACT.

We began by considering our income and expenses. We receive about £250 from standing orders and the collection. Our payment to the diocese is £25 per week.

Our bank balance is reasonably healthy, and the only large bill we might anticipate is associated with the maintenance of the church building, for example to do with the crack in the floor.

We concluded that we could afford the £50 or so per week requested by St Swithun's.

There was some discussion about what this payment actually covers. We don't need a detailed breakdown, or even any kind of breakdown, just a statement of what costs are in and what are out so that we know what we are paying for. We have asked St Swithun's for information but they have declined to provide it.

We voted unanimously to accept the proposal.

2. *Cafod*

There will be a collection for Cafod on Sunday 12th October. Envelopes will be distributed on 5th if possible. We can't invite a guest speaker because Fr Dominic doesn't have time, but we will ask Janine or Ruth to say a few words at Mass.

We decided that on this occasion we will not have a special fundraising event, just the collection.

3. *Picnic*

The picnic will be held in the church. We have borrowed some chairs and tables from Chris Wilkins and some tables from the Methodist church. These will be set out inside the church. The garden will be open and activities are being arranged for children.

The parish will provide tea, coffee, soft drinks and wine. People should bring their own food.

The event will start at 1 p.m. and finish at about 3.

We will check with the school that they will allow us to park there.

4. *First Holy Communion*

Rosemarie will run some classes, starting on 4th October. Anne and Marian offered to help, and we will ask via the bulletin for some more volunteers.

Deacon Dave will supply some training material.

We talked about when the meetings would be held and we thought that Saturday afternoons perhaps once a month would be reasonable; also, we discussed whether it would be possible to schedule the course in time for the children to make their First Holy Communion on Corpus Christi. All the details of the schedule are still to be decided.

We will consider ways to involve the children in the Mass and in parish activities. Perhaps we could have aboard with all their photos on display in the church. And involve the children in the offertory, bidding prayers, etc. We also wondered about some kind of social at the end of the programme.

We will see if some registration forms could be made available via the website.
ACTION: John to investigate.

5. *Advent and Christmas*

5.1 *Wreath and candles*

These will be organised by Carole as usual.

Some of the children in the FHC group could be involved in lighting the candles at Mass.

5.2 *Christmas Tree*

Provided Fr Dominic is happy to have a tree, we will as usual source it from Sacred Heart at Hook.

5.3 *Advent*

We will not do anything special to mark Advent Sunday. There will however be the ecumenical service with Churches Together.

We decided to hold a series of reflections – probably lasting about ½ hour - on Sunday afternoons during Advent, starting on the second Sunday. Carole will lead them.

5.4 *Reconciliation*

We will ask Fr Dominic if we can have a reconciliation service during Advent. Obviously depends on Fr Dominic's availability.

5.5 *Christmas*

The time of Christmas Mass depends on Fr Dominic's availability, but our preference would be for a Mass on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.

When we know when our Mass will be, we can start looking for an organist.

5.6 *Social*

We will explore the possibility of having an evening social sometime in December, possibly at the cricket club.

6. *Blessing of graves*

We will ask Deacon Dave if he would bless the graves in the village cemetery.

7. *Other business*

7.1 *Harvest festival*

There was a suggestion that next year we could have a harvest festival, at which people could bring fresh produce. But what to do with it afterwards? It's hard to give away and generally charities prefer to receive money. We considered we could have the best of both worlds by bringing the produce for the Mass, then buying it ourselves and giving the proceeds to charity.

7.2 *Catholic Children's' Society*

We will as usual have a collection of toys for the Catholic Children's' Society. This will be arranged by Pat Paul.

7.3 *Second collections*

On occasions when there is a second collection, we need somebody to be responsible for standing at the back of the church after mass holding the plate; this works better than just leaving the plate on a table. We will ask Kath Budd to organise a rota.

7.4 *Sacristy*

Fr Dominic has asked for the sacristy to be tidied up. Bill Bishop will form a group responsible for doing this. He will also arrange for an altar handrail to be fitted.

7.5 *Next meeting*

The next meeting will be on 6th November.