

St. Thomas More Church, Hartley Wintney

Minutes of Good Shepherds' meeting number 17 held on Tuesday 10th January 2012

Present:

Bill Bishop (chairman), Liz Murphy, Ruth Hudson, Emma Robson, Carole Johnson, Fr Dominic Adeiza, Dcn Dave Morgan, Pat Paul, Richard Bannon, Nigel Vince, John Marcotti (minutes)

Apologies:

Cathy Gathergood, Marian Sandle, Marie Linscott, Janine Kilroy, Louise Poulter, Paula Simcoe, Kath Budd,

1. *Previous minutes*

Pat Paul had in fact attended the previous meeting, not been absent as reported in the minutes. Apologies to Pat.

Action 14.01 should have been marked as Closed.

We should have had an action for minute 2.2 (advertise for volunteers to look after the garden while Nicky is away). **Action 17.01 John Marcotti**

Apart from the above, the previous minutes were agreed.

2. *Open actions*

Louise reports that she is still waiting for a response on the various things she is looking into, so no update at the moment.

3. *Organ*

Janine has met with Paul Sudell, the organist at St Swithun's, and seen the spare organ that St Swithun is offering. They felt that it would be too powerful for the size of St Thomas More, and would take up more floor space such that we would have to remove a pew. So Janine decided we should stick with the organ we've already got.

However, there is an issue with our present organ, which Janine has discussed with Richard. It seems that the design of the organ is such that the sound is projected backwards (i.e. in the direction of the organist) and not forwards (towards the congregation). To rectify this we need to fit some additional speakers. Richard is on the case. **Action 17.02 Richard Bannon**

4. *Gift aid*

Fr Dom introduced Nigel Vince, who is the gift aid officer at St Swithun's. Nigel has agreed to take over responsibility for our gift aid from Jonathan Plumtree, who is our current gift aid officer. Louise has put Nigel in touch with Jonathan, and it is up to the two of them to sort out a handover.

Louise will agree with Nigel as to how frequently she should pass the gift aid envelopes to him.

With the new tax year approaching and a new gift aid officer at the helm, we felt it was time to try again to get more people interested in gift aid. Richard and Nigel kindly offered to get together to draft an appeal that one of them would then deliver at Mass. **Action 17.06 Richard Bannon**

5. *Candle holders*

There is an issue with the votive candles, in that the plastic holders sometimes melt. Because of this we have adopted the practice of extinguishing the candles when we close the church after Mass.

Next time we ask Carole Williams for more supplies, we will ask specifically for candles in metal holders.

A question arose about who collects the candle money. Nobody knew, so Bill promised to find out. **Action 17.03 Bill Bishop**

6. *Carole Williams's tasks on our behalf*

We all agreed that we do not want to take secretarial tasks back into our own responsibility. We agreed that we would offer St Swithuns £1000 per annum for Carole's services. **Action 17.04 Bill Bishop**

7. *New crib for next year*

Our present crib set is looking the worse for wear. Some of the pieces are either lost or broken. So we considered whether we should replace it.

We were in two minds about this, but we agreed there was no harm in seeing what alternative sets might be available. However, this does not amount to a commitment to acquire a replacement. Carole will investigate this further. **Action 17.05 Carole Johnson**

One suggestion was that we could ask the diocese if any churches are going to be closing down; we might be able to acquire a set from them if they would no longer need it.

Another suggestion was for Fr Dom to see if he can get hold of an African set from any of his contacts.

We did agree that any new set should ideally be about the same size as the set we have now; the figures should be about 20-24 inches tall.

8. *Review of Christmas*

We agreed that Christmas went very well and congratulated Emma and her team on the children's pageant. However, there were some problems:

- There were no ushers
- We were short of space
- People taking photographs blocked the view of other people in the congregation
- The early start meant that Fr Dom did not have enough time to get here from Yateley.

We agreed to discuss this more fully at the next meeting.

9. *Lent and Easter*

On Ash Wednesday we will have a Mass at St Thomas More at 7.30 pm.

On Good Friday we will have a service at 3 pm.

Each Sunday during Lent, we will have Stations of the Cross after Mass.

10. *Other business*

The website currently provides the following services to regular parishioners, new parishioners, occasional visitors and people who just happen to stop by on the information superhighway:

- Lists mass times
- Provides occasional news items
- Provides downloads for recent bulletins, rotas and minutes, and forms
- Provides contact details, including our address and a map to show people how to get here, St Swithun's phone number and postal address
- Allows people to send emails to Fr Dom and to us for general enquiries
- Photo gallery
- Links to other churches

John asked everybody to let him know what other services they would like the website to provide.

The frequency of the children's liturgy will be increased to twice each month, on the second and fourth Sundays.

11. *Dates of next meetings*

Meetings in 2012 will be on:

- 10th January
- 13th March
- 8th May
- 10th July
- 11th September
- 13th November

Each meeting will be at the church, at 7.30 pm.

12. *Open items*

Action number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
17.01	Advertise for volunteers to look after the garden on those occasions when Nicky is away.	John Marcotti	Open
17.02	Fit satellite speakers for organ.	Richard Bannon	Open
17.03	Find out who collects the money for the votive candles.	Bill Bishop	Open
17.04	Deal with St Swithuns to 'buy' some of Carole's time.	Bill Bishop	Open

Action number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
17.05	Investigate alternative crib sets.	Carole Johnson	Open
17.06	Make an appeal for people to use Gift Aid.	Richard Bannon	Open
16.01	Order some leaflets about Reaching The Unreached and distribute them at Mass.	Janine Kilroy	Open
16.02	Make an announcement at Mass about our support for Reaching The Unreached.	Janine Kilroy	Open
16.03	Ask the Diocese what form our support for Reaching The Unreached can take.	Louise Poulter	Open
16.04	Investigate reclaiming some funds from Living Our Faith	Louise Poulter	Open
16.05	Set up a meeting to look into the matter of Carole Williams spending too much time on St Thomas More tasks.	Fr Dominic	Open
14.06	Arrange for a new tap in the kitchen	Richard Bannon	Open
14.07	Arrange a meeting of parents and catechists to review how the 2011 FHC went	Fr Dominic	Open
13.01	It was agreed to postpone selecting a charity until after the Jubilee celebrations. Janine has received leaflets, posters and a DVD.	Janine Kilroy	Open
13.03	Arrange quinquennial survey	Richard Bannon	Open
13.04	Should we make a contribution to Grey House school for use of the car park?	Bill Bishop	Open
12.02	Provide leaflets about "Reaching the Unreached"	Janine Kilroy	Open
1.03	Appeal for more people to join the planned giving scheme.	Louise Poulter	Open

13. *Closed items*

Action number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
16.06	Put an item into the newsletter about the Christian Unity Week service on 18 th January	John Marcotti	Closed
15.11	Say something at Mass about the red collection boxes and appeal for somebody to organise them	Dcn Dave	Closed
15.10	Ask the Gift Aid officer at Yateley if he would take us on too	Fr Dominic	Closed
15.09	Obtain some Gift Aid envelopes	Richard Bannon	Closed

Action number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
14.01	Speak to Nicky Stevens to see if she wants to continue to be responsible for the garden, and also to arrange cover for when she is away	Janine Kilroy	Closed