

St. Thomas More Church, Hartley Wintney

Minutes of Good Shepherds meeting number 2023-01 held on Wednesday 14th June 2023

Present:

Fr Wojciech, Kath Budd, George Race, Ruth Hudson, Jenny Rodgers, Keith Rodgers, Janine Kilroy, Carole Johnson, Liz Murphy, Jerry O'Mahony, John Marcotti (minutes)

We were joined by Ciarán Wadd, who is the Campaign Director for the Closer to Christ campaign; Ciarán made it clear that his role as Campaign Director is that of managing fund raising, and that his remit does not extend any wider, for example to the closer community objectives of the Closer to Christ campaign. Ciarán left after we had discussed item 4 (the Closer to Christ campaign).

Apologies:

Dinah Kennedy, Marie Linscott, Francesca Cornwell, Mary Lane

1 Opening prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer.

2 Previous minutes

Not applicable.

3 Open actions and matters arising

Not applicable.

4 The Closer to Christ campaign

This is a campaign designed to provide funds to support seminarians and active and retired priests.

- There are over 100 priests in total in this diocese (including priests from overseas). These need financial support for ongoing training, medical insurance, and other expenses.
- Training a seminarian costs £200,000 over six years. We currently have 10 seminarians.

- We currently have 40 retired priests, and in five years' time there will be another 30. These need support with the cost of healthcare, accommodation, etc.

The hope is that each parishioner will pledge a certain amount of money for a three-year period. These pledges could be subject to gift aid if appropriate.

The target is to raise £70K from our parish in the next three years (£50K from St Swithuns and £20K from St Thomas More).

Of the money collected, two thirds will go to the campaign objectives and one third will be returned to the parish.

Ciarán gave an information pack about this campaign to each of the attendees, and said that these information packs would be sent to all the parishioners.

Fr Wojciech asked if one of the Shepherds would speak to the parishioners one Sunday about this campaign.

Ciarán also undertook to send those interested an account of spending of funds raised under the Living your Faith campaign of 12 years ago.

5 *Parish finances and planned giving*

The amount of money collected each week (whether by planned giving or the collection plate) has not increased in line with costs. We currently have £13K in the bank – it was £21K three years ago.

If we had a printed statement of assets and weekly/monthly incomings and outgoings, it would help parishioners to understand the nature of the problem. This statement could be handed out at mass, then followed up by an appeal by one of the Shepherds. Fr Wojciech agreed to this approach and advised us to ask Sue Round for such a statement. **Action 2023.01-01 John Marcotti**

Fr Wojciech stated that relatively few parishioners use planned giving or gift aid. One of the Shepherds will ask the parishioners to consider using planned giving (probably at the same time as the appeal in the previous paragraph). Fr Wojciech will bring some planned giving forms.

6 *New chairperson*

Unfortunately, Marie Linscott is unable to continue as chairperson of the Good Shepherds. The parish owes a big Thank You to Marie for all her hard work during her tenure.

None of us present wanted to take on the role ourselves.

Fr Wojciech suggested that if we were unable to find a single individual to take over the role, perhaps we could have two people sharing it. Also, we could limit the term to one year; at the end of the year the incumbent would stand down,

and it would be the responsibility of the parish – not the incumbent – to find a replacement.

We agreed to advertise the vacancy in the bulletin and to ask at Mass for volunteers. We will put together a “job description” first. **Action 2023.01-02 John Marcotti**

7 *Garden maintenance*

George Race has taken on the task of cutting the grass regularly – which first meant getting the lawn mower fixed. He has also pruned the forsythia and cleared the gutters. So Thank You to George.

Thank You also to Carole Johnson for planting the daffodils and various other plants at the entrance to the church.

Andrew Linscott has agreed to cover grass-cutting if George is away.

As decided at the previous meeting, Marie arranged for Swadling Garden services to cut the hedge a couple of weeks ago (Mildmay Terrace side) and Doug Swadling will come back in the autumn to cut the church-side of the hedge (as this is a better time to cut a yew hedge).

8 *Actions from diocesan strategy*

Once a month we are going to have a children’s Mass. Also, we will try to encourage children to help with greeting (ask Rosemarie).

9 *Parish social*

We discussed the possibility of holding a social. In many ways the cricket club would be an ideal venue if it is available. We will ask Anne Stanley to find out (via her husband Chris) the earliest date we could use the cricket club. If the cricket club is not available we will try some local pubs or restaurants (such as The Cricketers or Sorriso).

10 *Other Business*

None.

11 *Date of next meeting*

1. None scheduled

12 *New and open actions*

Action Number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
2023.01-01	Ask Sue Round for financial statement	John Marcotti	Open

2023.01-02	Put together a job description for Good Shepherds chairperson	John Marcotti	Open
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13 *Closed actions*

Action Number	Description and update	Actionee	Status
	None		