

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Monday 9th September 2024

CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

Attendees : Fr Michael Copps , Matthew Ives, Andrew Dodd, Bernard Hunter, Donna Patros, Sarah Dodd, Lorna Spears, Patricia Jolly, Peter Robson, Robin Shearmur, Cynthia Oji & Geraldine Mansbridge.

Apologies

Martin Sharkey

Fr Michael welcomed all to the meeting and opened it with a prayer.

Election of Vice Chair and sub-committee representation

- Andrew was elected Vice Chair
- Robin was nominated to be the liaison PPC member with the Finance Committee
- It was agreed to defer appointing a link PPC member for the Becket Centre Committee until a future date
- The Health & Safety Committee and Fabric Team would not have a link PPC member but they would be invited to update the PPC at a future appropriate meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

Matters arising

Chigwell – it was agreed not to pursue a response from the PPC letter seeking representatives at this time.

Parish Partnership – It was agreed that there was no merit in pursuing this matter with the Diocese.

Henrietta Suite

A paper was presented which outlined proposals to address the upgrade and improvements required in the Henrietta Suite. The issue of whether to replace the carpet provoked most discussion, and the option will feature more prominently in the next version. After discussion on options, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to seek the views of parishioners before finally deciding how to proceed. The paper will be adjusted accordingly for consultation purposes to clearly set out for ease of reference:

- the issues that need to be addressed,
- how they will be addressed and
- include some idea of expenditure expectations

Bernard suggested that based on professional estimates and quotes already solicited, the cost might be between £120,000 and £150,000.

It was agreed that there will be a notice in the newsletter drawing parishioners' attention to the proposals which will be on the website and accessible by all.

They will be invited to comment in a two week window. We will also have paper copies available and will offer to do a walk around for those who need any ideas clarified.

As a point of clarification, it was noted that new chairs will be provided in the Henrietta Suite and this will not be part of the above proposals

Priest Shortage

Following discussion with Fr Michael, Bernard had prepared a paper for discussion about the need to put contingency plans in place in the event of Priests to provide a mass every day over a number of locations. Options included training Eucharistic Ministers to deliver a Eucharistic Service. In light of the event taking place on 5th October for Eucharistic Ministers it was agreed to defer any further discussion on this matter until after that event.

Project Status

The Project status update was noted.

For the database project, thanks were recorded to John Crighton and Paul Kinman for their technical support, and to Geraldine for having driven this essential project forward. 629 parishioners are registered, the potential number being expected to be about 1200. Plans are in place to seek further registrations over coming months.

Geraldine reported that the website is much improved in terms of layout and content, and work continues. Bernard suggested that a communications person or small team would be a great asset if suitable volunteers could be found.

Geraldine and Bernard reported that efforts to improve safety and behaviour in the car park around school times had been overwhelmingly well received by parents, with the letter sent out by schools at our request often being cited. After daily attendance at the start of term, a weekly presence is planned until Christmas to embed the improvements.

It was also noted that a new parish group based on TELCO has convened ("The Ginger Group"). They met recently and a focus was issues related to youth within the parish. Martin and Bernard attended on behalf of the PPC, and Martin will lead on our plans for youth; Sarah and Cynthia were invited to contribute to that.

Future Parish Events

The following parish events were noted.

- Adoration – originally planned for 11/12 October. However, it was agreed to postpone until the next year and to seek volunteers to assist with the arrangements
- Bereavement service – will take place on 17th November and Lesley Beerli has agreed to lead the arrangements for the service.
- Christmas Fare will take place on 23 November
- Lent 2025 will be discussed at the next meeting and members were invited to bring any ideas that they may have to the meeting.

PPC website page

Members agreed to the new wording on the opening page of the website for the PPC. They also noted the request to provide some personal information in relation to their role as a PPC member and a photo if they wish, so that parishioners can better recognise and relate to them.

Church Kneelers

It was acknowledged that there were different style kneelers in the Church. To start to make some changes it was agreed that all the centre aisle pews should have the same style of kneelers and that two of each of the side aisle pews should be changed. The PPC would then review if any others would need to be updated.

Any other business

- **Fairtrade Foundation**

Following a request from David Underwood the PPC agreed to promote the pledge to the Fair Trade Foundation by formally asking the Woodford & Wanstead MP to support it, and asking parishioners to contact their MP asking for support. This will be promoted through our website.

The meeting closed at 9pm with a prayer led by Peter.

Please note: the next meeting will take place on Monday 14th October at 7:30pm