

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Monday 13th October, 2024

CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes

Attendees : Matthew Ives, Andrew Dodd, Bernard Hunter, Donna Patros, Sarah Dodd, Peter Robson, Martin Sharkey

Apologies

Fr Michael Copps, Patricia Jolly, Robin Shearmur, Cynthia Oji & Geraldine Mansbridge

Donna opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Matters arising

At the event for Eucharistic ministers on 5th October it was noted that there was a general reluctance to take responsibility for presiding at a Eucharistic Service. It might be necessary to identify others who are not necessarily Eucharistic Ministers to preside over a service with the assistance of Eucharistic Ministers.

The discussion about support for our priests was deferred in Fr Michael's absence.

Henrietta Suite – what to do

We started the meeting in the Henrietta Suite so that we could better understand the proposed changes.

The responses received, including a late one sent to some members, were all discussed.

The following changes were agreed:

- a) The proposal to make the existing storage room (extended into the corridor) the new bar, and re-purpose the existing bar as a larger, accessible storage area was agreed without demur. It is a far superior layout than the current one.
- b) The strong consensus is that the flooring should be uniform throughout (ie no carpet), and the PPC accepted that.

The PPC agreed to proceed with the plan that had gone to consultation, most elements of which attracted no comments or positive ones, with the above notable changes.

It was noted that all these plans were subject to architect's review.

Among other ideas discussed, the PPC rejected the idea to reshape and foreshorten the existing bar, and saw no good reason to replace the cookers.

Action: BH to document the revised plan and pass it to the project management team (see below)

Henrietta Suite – How to manage the project

The PPC discussed how and who to manage the project: designing, commissioning and monitoring. Another important element would be communicating with parishioners and other stakeholders.

Bernard reported that the parishioner favoured to manage the project had been asked to comment on the proposed project briefing document circulated to members, but had

declined to do so.

Three others with project management experience had expressed an interest in helping, and the PPC asked Bernard to form a planned structure around them. The Chair of the Finance committee has agreed to providing finance oversight and support.

Action: BH to put together a project management team for PPC approval.

Year of Prayer

Matthew reported that the time of **Adoration** had been moved to the 4th week in Lent. He would look into the feasibility of organising a coach for the **Diocesan Pilgrimage** to Walsingham (or linking with another parish) and including Trinity students with the use of their minibuses. He would also consult with Michael Copps about the possibility of reinstating **Morning and Evening Prayer** which had been discontinued during the Covid outbreak.

Peter said he would offer a **time of reflection** one Sunday in Lent. He also proposed a **Week of Guided Prayer** which entailed a one to one meeting with a Spiritual Accompanist or Prayer Guide every day for one week in Lent. Sarah said she would see if members of the Brentwood Youth Service could also come and **accompany school students**. Once Peter had liaised with the Spiritual Directors and negotiated a date with them and Geraldine, Sarah would check on BCYS availability and liaise with the relevant schools.

Plans for older parishioners

Patricia wasn't well enough to be with us. Bernard conveyed her wish to convene an initial meeting in November. It would be advertised in the Newsletter, and specific potential supporters sought, including through bodies like the Catenians and the CWL.

That meeting would discuss how to move forward, and hopefully identify individuals to run a group starting in January.

There would be no shortage of ideas of what this group could do together.

Peter stressed the value of involving younger people.

Project Status Update

Young people: Two members were critical of the amount of time we have spent discussing the needs of young people and eliciting their concerns and needs but have not, in their view, actually done anything about them.

Nevertheless, Martin reported back on a meeting with Citizens UK which he had recently attended with Bernadette, Bernard, Michael Copps and other interested parishioners.

This was to look at campaigns and social involvement options that may appeal to our young people.

Bernard noted that, while young people will want to be self-determining, we need a light-touch steering group to stimulate action and for support and continuity.

Action: Martin will seek others to help him, and plans to liaise with our Confirmation Programme and with Trinity,

Any other business

The PPC agreed the proposal to improve pedestrian lighting at an estimated cost of £3,000

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

Please note: the next meeting will take place on Monday 11th November at 7:30pm