

**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday 16th August 2021

Attendees : Kit Tranmer, Fr. Quentin Jackson, Fr. Isidore Faloona, Paul Turpin, Mike O'Sullivan, Fr Michael O'Kane, Rob Fernandes, Lorna Spears, Matthew Ives, Debbie Giddings & Geraldine Mansbridge

Lesley Beerli & Kathy Wilson – Observing

Apologies for Absence: Paul Kinman & Michelle Spears

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Following a secret ballot Kit Tranmer was elected Chair.

Election of Vice Chair

Mike O'Sullivan was elected Vice-Chair.

Meeting in June

There were no formal minutes produced for the June meeting. It was noted that items discussed included the arrangements for the AGM, an update on decoration of the Becket Centre and plans to address the audio improvement in the church and screens in the church to replace hymn books.

Clarification was sought about the boundary between Trinity and the church. The meeting was informed that the wall was the responsibility of the school and they were seeking funding from the Diocese to repair the wall and install a metal fence.

Events to be planned for included:

- Open air mass on 12th September at 11.30, followed by a picnic (weather permitting) – plans would commence with a contingency to revert to normal services should the weather be poor. A decision to be taken in this respect at least a week before the planned date.
- 24 Hour Adoration commencing on 1st October – lead organiser is Michelle Spears
 - It was also noted that this weekend coincided with the Diocese environmental launch

The Chair then referred to the agenda for this meeting which included matters which was for the PPC approval and to enable work which has commenced to continue.

Parish Organist

Kit referred to the paper he had circulated and advised the meeting that the Council's approval was being sought to moving away from the current voluntary arrangement for an organist at St Thomas' to a more structured and formal basis on which music is provided at Sunday services etc. This would be achieved through a form of contract which the Parish Priest would manage. It was suggested that the contract does not necessarily have to be one of employment but could be a contract for services which does not bring the added employer on-costs. It was also recognised that for particular occasions i.e. weddings/funerals families may wish to choose their own organist. If this were to happen there would need to be protocols in place to ensure they have the relevant skills and experience.

It was agreed that the Finance Committee permission be sought to the arrangements for the funding of an organist at St Thomas'.

Huts

Kit referred to the paper which had been circulated and sought Council's approval for the replacement of the 2/3 huts as outlined. Reference was made to the original plans which included a portacabin with the potential for a youth club. However, as planning permission for this was not received the proposal was now to replace the badly damaged huts for the Scouts and Guides.

It was agreed to seek funding from the Finance Committee to replace the huts.

Church Porch

A paper was submitted which outlined plans to make changes and decorate the porch/shop area. There were concerns about the proposals for the internal doors and the project team were asked to review this in light of the discussion about fire exits and the use that the area in the church on the back left is made of by families attending Sunday services. It was however agreed to seek the Finance Committee's approval to fund the resolving of the damp issue in the shop before it reopens and to replace the external doors.

Mass at Buckhurst Hill

Mass at St James's has not taken place since the first Covid lock down. A hire fee is paid for this site. Representatives from the community who usually worshiped at that centre on a Sunday met with Kit and Quentin today. It was a very useful and

pragmatic meeting. Recognising that this was a close knit community ways were discussed of how that could be maintained through the St Thomas' site.

Reference was made to the Diocese partnership plan and Steven Webb recent advice that mass centres should be closed down.

The outcome of the meeting with the representatives was that they were going to look at ways of keeping the community together and that we would review how this could be achieved at St Thomas' in November before a final decision is taken by the PPC.

AGM

It was agreed that the draft minutes of the AGM be published on the website.

Candles

Concern was raised about how lighted candles are not placed in holders on our lady's altar. This was noted.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 18th October at 8pm