

Minutes of PCC meeting 8th January 2024

Present: Fr Michael, Deacon Brian, Marlana(chair), Mary, Sheelagh, Teresa

Apologies : Krissie

Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting:

- Sycamore course on prayer will be running for 6 weeks – 3 either side of half term. Sessions to be held at St Martin’s School.
- “A pocketful of Prayers” Fr Michael has been trying to find the copyright holder for 4 prayers from the current breviary without success. If no permission is obtained, he will go ahead without these.
- Xmas cake raffle raised over £400 for CIRDIC. Some of this was used to buy supplies of non-cooked foods for hospitality on New Year’s Eve when there would be no kitchen.
- CIRDIC are very grateful for all our efforts. Marlana was a guest at the Christmas dinner in the centre and spoke to some of the other attendees. Not all are homeless but all need support. Some have mental health issues as well as suffering from deprivation. The money raised by the parish was used for the purchase of the components of the Christmas dinner, presents and some other consumables e.g. sugar which the centre uses a considerable amount of. Marlana and Brian will offer thanks to the parish, who have responded to appeals very generously both in terms of monetary donations as well as clothes and towels. Marlana will put a message in the newsletter to show what exactly has been bought.
- More parishioners attended **Christmas** services 2023. Many thanks to those who provided the flowers and music. The early introduction of Christmas carols during advent was well received. The Christmas pudding evening formed a good start to the season.
- During **Lent** Henley are organising talks on prayer and parishioners are welcome. The Sycamore course on prayer (see above) will extend into Lent. Brian will organise a day of reflection on prayer during Lent (a Saturday). There will be a holy hour every Monday. There will be Stations of the Cross after Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays and a trial shortened version/5 wounds after weekend Masses. The charity which will be supported will be “Embrace the Middle East” and Tim Livesey will be approached to suggest a particular project.
- **Easter** services will follow the usual pattern with timings as last year. A card, similar to that produced for Christmas, will show the timings of the services and Lent activities. Brian has placed an announcement in the Sonning Common Village Magazine.
- The **Thoughtful Living Group** have been focusing on CIRDIC. As well as raising money, members have wrapped presents prior to delivery to CIRDIC and donated mince pies together with other parishioners. An ongoing effort to encourage recycling soft packaging, dental product packages and beauty items has been very successful. The Group has been making progress towards gaining the “Live Simply” award. The next meeting of this group on January 23rd will discuss future efforts towards helping the marginalised in society. A fund-raising raffle is planned for the first two weekends in February to support charities for people who are destitute.

- Future **social events** - a gaming afternoon has been organised by Marlene and Kevin on Sunday February 4th. A Quiz and Fish and Chips evening on 10th February is still to be finalised.

AOB

- Thanks to Yvonne who has organised the recruitment of helpers for the Children's Liturgy group at the 10.30 Mass. This has yet to start since there are few children attending.
- The dates of expiry of current DBS certificates need to be monitored within the parish as the Diocese does not issue reminders.
- Welcomers should be advised that children must not assist with the collection of money from parishioners although they can take the baskets up to the altar.
- Older children are very keen to read at Mass and Fr Michael suggested that they should do so on the 3rd Sunday in the month.
- Praying for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and the religious life is organised by the Deanery and St Michaels will be contributing to this effort.
- A young person has volunteered to attend the next meeting and will be invited along for an initial 30 minutes.

Future meetings will be on 21st February and 20th March.