

## **Minutes of PPC meeting for St Michael's RC church, Sonning Common held on Tuesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019.**

The meeting began with a prayer.

**Present:** Fr M, KS, TM, SB, and BW.

**Apologies:** ML, MO'D and Deacon B.

### **Matters Arising:**

1. Links to St Martin's school:

The secretary has been given the dates for all the Family masses at St Michael's and has been asked to include these in the school newsletter.

The headmistress said that there is already a prayer group for mothers operating within the school.

2. KW sent an email to all the readers about the silence before Mass initiative. She asked that the readers at the 10.30a.m Mass, (who appear to be the only ones who introduce the Mass each week), go to the pulpit 5 minutes before the beginning and initiate the silence. This is being done.

3. The What's App help group is slowing growing – there are now 10 members.

4. The Finance Committee is still considering the feasibility of an extension and needs to get some idea of cost implications.

5. The October devotions are working well- namely the regular recitation of Rosary after Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

6. The Macmillan coffee morning raised the sum of £708. Thanks to Marlena for all her work towards this good cause.

7. Discussion of Survive charity in agenda.

8. The Relief In Need charity was investigated and apparently our parish is not eligible as we are not in Peppard Parish.

9. Snack and Chat lunch date changes are still being investigated.

### **Agenda:**

#### **Review of St Michael's weekend:**

The general view was it was a partial success. The AGM went smoothly and everyone enjoyed the Italian Lunch. Father Miners talks were very informative and helpful. However, it was obvious that although the Friday and Saturday morning sessions were quite well attended the Saturday afternoon session was not. SF was of the opinion that there should have been more publicity for the talks, and they should not have been labeled a "discussion" but simply "talks". There was also a suggestion to just have the Saturday morning session. This committee decided that when planning for next year it would be appropriate to keep the Saturday morning session, but eliminate the afternoon one.

The Sunday lunch was a success with over 50 people attending and it was agreed that it should be held again, perhaps with a different international theme for the meal next year. Thanks to Fr M and KS for all their hard work.

**November Devotions:**

FrM has produced a sheet for individuals to list the names of deceased parishioners, family and friends. These can then be put in a special November remembrance envelope or just put straight into a box on the altar as we have traditionally done so in the past. There is no donation necessary, but if people wish to give something then they will not be discouraged.

The Blessing of the Graves is at 2.00.p.m. on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November and the Service for the Dead at St. Michael's will be at 4.00.p.m  
BT and Fr M will liaise with the other parishes.

**Advent and Christmas Services.**

The committee agreed that there will be Holy Hour at 7.00.p.m. on the following dates: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of December.

The Service of Reconciliation(Penitential Service) and Exposition will be on Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.00.p.m. Father Michael is to ask Father Miners to help.

Christmas Eve Masses will be at 5.00.p.m. with Midnight mass at 8.00.p.m.

Christmas Day mass is at 10.30.a.m.

Boxing Day Mass will be 10.00a.m.

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Mass will revert to the normal weekly timetable.

St Martin's Carol Service is to be held at church on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00.p.m.

Bishopswood School will hold its carol concert on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00.a.m.

The Christmas Flower Arranging workshop will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 9.30am - 12.00pm

The Christmas Pudding making evening will be on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30.p.m.

It was agreed that the parish will again support the charity Embrace The Middle East as its Advent charity - Tim will approach to help organize and provide appropriate materials.

Also we will place a large box at the back of the church for people to donate foodstuffs for the Readifood Bank as an extra offering.

The Christmas tree will be put up again this year - presents are all given to needy parishioners and also to the Drop-In centre.

**Service for Christian Unity**

It is St Michael's turn to host this annual service. It has been suggested for January 19<sup>th</sup> and BT and Father M will discuss and liaise with other parishes.

### **Maintenance of Church Premises**

KM and the maintenance team sent a report on work which has been done and is to be done in the near future. This is all to conform to new health and safety and to complete works highlighted in the quinquennial inspection which has been ongoing over the past two months – both of which are requirements from the diocesan office. In brief:

The Church and ground floor presbytery Carpets have been cleaned.

Emergency Fire Exits have been up-dated.

Hall kitchen door now has push bar emergency exit.

Thumb turn locks have been fitted to church back door and sacristy, meaning padlocks from gates can be removed for easy emergency exit.

Presbytery front door now has a safety chain and will soon have a camera/audio bell push.

PAT testing to be done on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

TB has produced a very comprehensive survey of the church property for which we thank him.

### **A.O.B.**

Father asked about the request, from a charity called Survive, to come and do an appeal one Sunday in 2020. We would need to know more about the charity as to how the finances are divided between admin costs and actual benefits. It is a Catholic charity exclusively pledged to providing transport to the missions. SB said she will ask someone who has experience with charity work and the committee will review the situation in the New Year.

### **Pangbourne Silver Band**

Father has been asked whether we want the band this year. We had decided at the last meeting that, as it was not very well supported last year, we would leave it this year. The suggestion is to have a short carol singing session after the 10.30.a.m. mass on December 8<sup>th</sup>. KS will put a questionnaire at the back of church asking parishioners whether they would stay/come for that - and we would offer cakes and drinks in the hall afterwards. TBA once we have the feed-back. Parishioners are welcome to come to the school concert however, this is a very well attended event so seating may be limited. The other option is to ask the other churches if they are having concerts and we could join theirs or join together with them.

BW mentioned that we should remind parishioners to park safely and sympathetically in Shiplake Bottom if the car park is full. She noticed the other Sunday that an emergency vehicle could not access the road due to many cars parked inappropriately. KS will mention this in the newsletter although we are not sure that we were the culprits at the time, as the church was not unduly full at that time.

Meeting closed with a prayer.

Next Meeting: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020