

**Minutes for St Michael's Church Sonning Common held
on Monday 23rd September, 2019**

Present: FrM, KS, ML, BW, MOD, DB, TM Apologies: SB,
Opening prayer – Fr Michael

Minutes of previous meeting accepted

Matters arising:

Links to St Martin's school

It was decided after a short discussion that Father Michael and Deacon Brian would speak with the new Headteacher Mrs Kirwan to discuss closer links between the school and the parish with a view to setting up a Mother's Prayer group at the school.

Silence in Church - The measures taken following previous discussions have had some impact however it was felt that something more could be done to encourage silence before Mass begins. With this in mind it was decided that Deacon Brian or Father Michael will ask people to respect a period of silence 5 minutes before the start of the 9.00 am and 5.30pm Masses – DB will also contact Katie Withers so that Readers at the 10.30am Masses on Sunday can be asked to do the same at this Mass. FrM remarked that it is important to leave room for individual spirituality before and after the Mass.

Parish Whats app group

A what's app group has now been set up so that messages can be sent out simply and quickly asking for help prior to parish events. KS put a notice in the newsletter asking for volunteers to sign up with limited results – there are currently 7 members in the Whats app group. It was asked that perhaps that this could be promoted at the AGM to try to boost membership.

Feasibility study for Church extension - a short discussion was had about extending the Church to create a meeting room (with access from the Church as well as from outside)

KS had not yet contacted Architect Your Home and it was decided that BT would follow up with TB. A parishioner requested a decent toilet and wash basin as part of any development. The refurbishment of the existing toilet and flower room should be considered.

MOD asked if something could be done to the Church windows – such as replacing the glass to make them more decorative or to allow more light into Church. This will be considered as part of any development/refurbishment .

St Michaels Weekend and AGM - Fr Michael Miners will give 3 talks one on Friday evening and the other 2 on the Saturday. These have been widely publicised in the newsletter and on the back of the Thought for the Week.

There are 14 people signed up for the Fish and Chip Supper – numbers are down on last year when 21 people came to the supper and the year before when over 40 people came.

FrM has started the preparations for the Parish Lunch - an Italian family lunch which is taking place instead of the shared lunch. A raffle will be organised to take place at the lunch.

64 people have now signed up for the lunch– it was decided that the parish would charge £5 per person to cover the cost of the lunch.

It was agreed that Fr Miners will be invited as a guest to the lunch.

The AGM will take the form of a pair of brief reports from TB and BT and it was decided to do this at the start of the event at 11.30am – before lunch

KS has produced a parish annual review booklet which was printed and has been available at the last 2 Sundays – it has been well received. One parishioner had commented that such a booklet had impressed her on her first visit to St Michael's.

There was a discussion about starting a parish Facebook Page to advertise events etc.- the problem it was determined is finding someone to take responsibility for it.

There was also a discussion about putting more info on the website – BT said he would look into this.

October Devotions – It was agreed that the Rosary will be said on Tuesdays and Thursdays after the midday Mass.

November Devotions – The Blessings of Graves at Kidmore End Cemetery it was agreed would take place on Sunday 10th, November 2.00pm. A service for the Dead particularly for those bereaved during the year will also take place on Sunday 10th November at St Michael's at 4pm – the timing was chosen to allow people to get to the service in day light. BT agreed to organise the format and to write something for the newsletter.

Renewal of Marriage Vows Service – after a brief discussion it was decided that this would be discussed at a later meeting and a date found nearer to Easter for the service.

AOB

Games Afternoon – due to personal commitments MOD asked if it would be acceptable to schedule this for after Christmas – perhaps just before Lent. It was agreed.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – MOD is organizing a Macmillan's Coffee Morning for Sunday 6th October from 11.15 am – 1.30pm and asked if this could be advertised amongst family and friends and an invitation sent out to the other Churches in the area. KS agreed that she would send an email to the local Churches and an email to the school.

Survive – this charity sent some information which it was agreed would be discussed at the next meeting.

Relief in Need – this local charity sent some information asking if the Parish wanted to recommend anyone to receive the funds – BT and FrM to follow up.

Snack and Chat lunch – KS asked if we might look into the date of this as there is a lot going on in the area on the third week of the month – so it was decided that KS would look into finding a different monthly timing with a view to start January 2020.

Foreign Coin and note Collection – this has been discussed at previous meetings and KS said that she will take care of the organization – with a view to starting in October.

Advent Service/Social – it was felt that some sort of service or social would be good to have in place of the Silver Band concert – an evening/afternoon of carols with some mincepies and cake was proposed and it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

The meeting was closed with a prayer

Next meetings: 22/10/19 at 7.30pm and 18/11/19 at 7.30pm in the presbytery