

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

**Minutes
Monday 4th September 2023**

Attendees : Peter Robson, Mike O'Sullivan, Matthew Ives, Paul Turpin, Bernard Hunter, Lorna Spears, Michelle Spears, Rob Fernandez, Sarah Dodd, Andrew Dodd, Debbie Giddings, Donna Patros, Fr Michael Copps, Fr Isidore Faloona.

Apologies for Absence: Kit Tranmer & Geraldine Mansbridge

Bernard chaired.

Fr Michael led us in a Lectio Divina using Matthew 15. This was a useful exercise, enabling us to reflect on both individual and communal responsibility.

Minutes

The minutes of the August meeting were approved.

Matters arising

- Re the boundary dispute, Matthew had drafted a letter but hadn't sent it as he needed first to consult Gerald Curran to see whether we should seek legal advice at this stage.

Parish Planning Conversation

We split into 3 groups to talk about 7 key areas in the life of the parish: -

- Young People
- Community
- Communication
- Liturgy
- Adult Christian Education
- Fabric
- The Local Community

We were encouraged to say which of the ideas that were raised needed to have immediate attention, and crucially whether in each case it should be the PPC that needs to implement it. There were of course many good ideas raised, but below are mentioned only those which were considered urgent and for the PPC to take action on.

- **Young People** – Suggest as soon as possible to the local Catholic schools that they set up a **Youth Council**. *(It is important that with this suggestion, as with any others in other areas, that it is an idea – we don't really know what others want. And for this reason, PPC members should make themselves available so that people can approach them with their ideas and needs.)*
- **Community** – The PC needs to encourage more social interaction. An example of this is that the PPC should approach the person responsible for the last Baptism course and arrange a social for the parents.
- **Communication** – The website should be updated. Rob said he would approach the person working on a school's website to see if he can do regular updating on ours. There was also a need for using social media, but it was not decided who should organise it.

Unfortunately we ran out of time for the small groups to report back in plenary – to be continued!

Young People's Wellbeing Funding

After receiving reports of the success of this venture during its first year of funding, we decided to fund the same level of activity for a further year from next January. The Finance committee is to be asked to make appropriate provision, bearing rising costs in mind.

There was some concern about the absence of a formal report from the schools, though informal reports had been made to the PPC and the schools had not been asked soon enough for a new one. Andrew to take this forward and ensure there are reports for this time next year.

Project Status Report

Bernard circulated a summary sheet outlining the progress of outstanding projects. He said he would update this ahead of each subsequent PPC meeting.

Timing and frequency of meetings

We decided to keep to Monday evenings but at an earlier time of 7.30pm, with a finish time no later than 9pm. We would start by meeting every 2nd Monday of the month, cancelling any month for which there was insufficient business.

Next PPC meeting

Monday, 9th October at 7.30pm.