

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

May 10th 2021 at 8pm

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

Debbie Giddings - Observing

Apologies : Matthew Ives & Paul Kinman

Minutes were approved for the September 2020 meeting

Matters considered:

- **STOC Projects Priority List**

It was agreed that the list of projects in order proposed for action be forwarded to the finance Committee for budgeting and planning purposes.

- **Outdoor Mass 27th June 2021**

The outline of the plans for the open air mass on 27th June were endorsed. With the additional clarification that only one mass would be held on that Sunday. Volunteers through the newsletter would be sought to assist with set up on the day and that should the weather be poor the service would switch to the Church. A risk assessment would also be prepared. Plans would be finalised at the next council meeting.

- **Membership**

It was agreed that due to Covid the membership should not change in 2021. Only one existing member was due for re-election this year and he would be invited to remain. For 2021 the remaining vacancies would be filled by co-option, which is permitted in the constitution. Support was given to the proposition that the Council should look to what it wants to achieve in the coming year and seek to ensure that parishioners with the right skills, knowledge are encouraged to step forward and join the Council.

- **AGM**

As no AGM took place due to lockdown in 2020 it was felt that subject to the Governments guidelines at the time that the Council would seek to have a Parish Annual general meeting in July. Any suggestions to the structure of the report or meeting should be sent to the Chair by the end of May.

- **Mass at Buckhurst Hill & Chigwell**

The Council were reminded of the Diocesan plans that two Priests would in the long term serve the three parishes of – Our lady of Lourdes, St Anne Line and St Thomas'. This move being prompted by the decline in the number of Priests. Since lockdown in 2020 Mass has not taken place at either Chigwell or St James'.

Questions about Public Mass recommencing at Chigwell is one for the Sisters to address however it was acknowledged that the Chigwell location did serve the far end of the parish but recognition was still needed that the burden fell to the Friars to meet all the mass requirements for the whole Parish.

St James' mainly serves those who live in Buckhurst Hill, which is less than a 15-minute walk from St Thomas'. Approximately 50/60 people attended mass there prior to lockdown, but no information is available as to how many will return as numbers have declined generally for church attendance following the pandemic.

It was felt that before any decisions could be taken about the future of mass at St James' that representatives from that community should meet with the PP and a representative from the Council.

The matter was adjourned until the next meeting.

- **Diocesan environmental policy & Cafod live simply award**

Information was shared about the Diocesan plans for the launch of the environmental policy to be launched on 2/3rd October prior to the feast of St Francis. The context of this is the work that the bishops are doing to influence key meetings G7 & COP26 meetings which will be happening in the UK this year. A general discussion agreed there was much to consider and Fr Michael and Michelle agreed to look at options to be considered at the next meeting

One step that could be taken to support the Diocese environment Policy work as a Parish was to seek to gain the Cafod Live simply award. This will be looked at further at the next meeting.

- **A survey from this year's participants of the confirmation programme**

A highly informative and motivational survey from this year's confirmation candidate, parents and sponsors was shared. Any lessons learnt, comments or suggestions for future educational programme at STOC to consider should be raised with the PP or the Chair.

- **Any other business**

Wall adjoining car park to Trinity School

Concerns were raised by parishioners about the gap that has been left following the removal of trees in the car park grounds. It is believed that the boundary is the responsibility of Trinity and this would be raised with them in the first instance.

Becket Centre Redecoration/renovations

One aspect of the projects planning list included the redecoration/renovation of the Becket Centre following the heating project works. The Becket Centre Committee propose to address this in three phases, the first will be the upstairs rooms, hall and stairs, the second is the hallway downstairs leading to the church and finally the Henrietta Suite, which would not be until early next year. Estimates have been obtained for phase one which amounts to approximately £18,500 and the Flower Room, Corridor Carpets and Foyer will cost around £2000

In making the submission it was recognised that the Church funds are limited and have to be directed to many different needs but that the centre was seen as a key area for bringing parish activities and community together and should be maintained. It was agreed to submit the estimate to the finance Committee for their approval.

The next meeting will be held **on 14th June at 8pm**