

## **Minutes of PPC Meeting 11/6/24**

Present : PF, Fr M, SB, MO'D, ML, DBT, KS

### **Pocketful of Prayers**

FrM has been contacted by the Alive Publishing with questions about copyright, so it looks like it is progressing

### **DBS**

ML has had one reply back and will remind people in the Children's Liturgy Group to check the expiry dates of their DBS and fill in the necessary paperwork if required.

### **Introduction to the Bible Talks**

Fr M has started the talks and they are going well

### **First Communion and Confirmations**

The children have completed their preparation and will receive their First Communion at the First Communion Mass on Sunday 16th June. A discussion was had as to why there were fewer children than previous years receiving their First Communion. It was felt that the reduced numbers are as a consequence of high house prices, meaning there are fewer families (including Catholics) as they are not able to afford the house prices to buy or rent in this area.

The Confirmation Mass is all in hand and will be celebrated by Mng N who has a grandson being confirmed. There will be 11 children and 2 adults receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Youth Mass** is now regularly taking place on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month. There was a good involvement from the children. It was noted that there is no Youth Mass in June due to the First Communion and Confirmation Masses.

### **The Footpath up to the Hall**

The footpath is very narrow, uneven and there is a deep trench on one side following the building work at the house next door. FrM and KS delivered a letter by hand to the Sonning Common Parish Council. However, KS was advised that this was a Highways issue and needs to be directed to the South Oxfordshire County council. KS and MOD will liaise and repeat FrM's letter and send to the county council together with photographs highlighting the issue.

### **Membership of the PPC**

MOD will contact WR who is keen to join the PPC. Their emails have been crossing and WR cannot make Tuesdays - so MOD will make contact.

### **The Future of the Parish**

Following the first meeting with the Dean on 4th June it was agreed that it would be worthwhile looking into the logistics and costs of what the future of the parish will look like. KS is to contact NS re. the financial implications and FrM will contact the resident priest in Burford to ask his experiences. It was agreed that further discussion with the relevant people will be necessary and a separate meeting may be arranged in addition to the scheduled meetings of the PPC. This item will also be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

### **The PPC Constitution**

This has not been found in the parish files so MOD has produced a proposal constitution based on her research and has asked all members of the PPC to review it and report back at the next meeting so that it can put on the agenda, discussed and be ratified for the AGM in September.

It was suggested that when recruiting new members that a period of no more than three years is asked of new recruits to try to encourage people to join the PPC.

### **Thoughtful Living Group.**

The Live Simply Award assessment took place on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The group members were assessed remotely by two CAFOD volunteer assessors. They will write a report and send it to CAFOD. The assessors were very positive and said they were impressed with the work the group had achieved in the two years it has been active. The assessors made very encouraging comments and it is anticipated that the group will have met the requirements for the award and will be presented with a certificate and hopefully a plaque.

ML thanked all members of the group for their hard work and MOD for producing a video which was presented to the assessors together with pictures evidencing the work the group has done and which is now displayed at the back of Church.

The May plant Sale raised £765.15

Looking forward, the group aims to try to engage and involve the youth and the wider community more and coordinate with local groups such as EcoSoc and the refugee group. There is an ongoing collection for SmartWorks - a charity that provides smart clothes for women who need clothes to wear for interviews.

The Thames Blitz will take place again in September and it is hoped that a group from the parish will take part again helping to clean the area of riverbank between Sonning and Shiplake.

### **Social and Fundraising Events**

An international Mass and social event in the Hall afterward will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

Safari Supper is on 6<sup>th</sup> July. KS will do desserts here at St Michaels. KS won't be around to co-ordinate the event. Deacon Brian has put a request in the Parish WhatsApp for the help with setting up and clearing afterwards. Representatives from other churches will help with the sales of raffle tickets. MOD will sell raffle tickets in our parish hall and draw the prizes

### **Engagement with the youth of the Parish and wider Community**

ML highlighted that the Season of Creation starts in September and goes on until St Francis' Feast Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> October.

It was proposed that we could have a Children's Mass/Family Mass on 6<sup>th</sup> October with the theme Care for Creation. It was agreed that this would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

### **The Parish Weekend**

Fr D has agreed to give talks over the weekend and there will be a cheese and wine event following the talks on the Friday evening like last year.

There will be the AGM and shared lunch on the Sunday as usual and there will be a craft and produce sale again, following on from last year's successful sale.

### **AOB.**

The dates for the Masses for the Anointing of the sick and for couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary have been agreed as the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October respectively.

It was agreed that there would be coffee and cakes after 10.30 Mass on 21<sup>st</sup> July to celebrate Deacon Brian's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

A parishioner has offered to host a social event for approximately 20 parishioners at his home which includes a 60's museum in his garden. ML agreed to liaise to make this happen.

DBT asked if we should try to have a push for the children's liturgy and encourage families to take their children up to the hall for the Children's liturgy. FrM agreed to speak with E at school re. promoting the 10.30am Mass at school.

PF asked if it possible that someone take responsibility for ringing the bell during Mass when there are no altar servers – FrM said he would put the bell at the back of Church with the wine and altar breads and make it the responsibility of the welcomers to find someone to ring the bell at the appropriate time.

Next meeting dates: 15<sup>th</sup> July and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August

Closing Prayer Fr M