

Minutes of the 2018 Lenten Project AGM and Charities Nomination Meeting

Sunday 25th November 2018

1. **Opening Prayer**

The meeting opened with Prayers led by Fr Ignatius.

2. **Circulation of Attendee list**

Twelve parishioners were present along with Fr Ignatius and Fr Joseph.

3. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mary C Taylor

4. **Minutes of the 2017 Meeting and Matters Arising**

The Minutes were agreed as correct and there were no Matters arising that were not an Agenda item.

5. **Report from the Chairman on the 2018 Lenten Project**

Once again, the Parish has been very generous in supporting the Lenten Project, raising a total of £13,583.00 (£13,431.00 last year). There were 20 separate events and activities held involving hundreds of people. The **Sponsored Walk**, led by Elspeth Casey, from OLI around part of the London Loop along the Thames and back, some 56 miles in 48 hours. An incredible achievement which raised over £1000. A special thanks to the **Youth SVP** who did a Car Wash and a Cake Sale under the leadership of Helen Emmett. The **Lenten Boxes** made a large contribution to the Project raising £3000 with the additional **Gift Aid**. This continues to be a very valuable way of everyone being involved. The **Grand Raffle Draw** was again sponsored by Greenfields Estate Agents to the tune of £500, thanks to the efforts of Elspeth. The Raffle raised £963.00. The UCM Bring and Buy Sale raised £132 and a **Krispy Kreme Sale** brought in another £138. Elspeth organised the ever-popular **Table Top Sale** which raised £1026. The **11am Choir** donated over £1000 from the monies they had been given for Weddings etc. The **Sri Lankan Night** organised by Antoinette & Joe Sebastian raised £2280.00. Noah's Ark raised £156 and **OLI School** over £750. The **Southern Indian Night** organised by Jommy. Rosamma & Michael raised £1525. Sandra Batty raised £140 from her popular **Bedding Plant Sale**. The **Justice & Peace Group** held a Big Breakfast raising £105. The **Maundy Thursday collection** amounted to £280.

Thanks were due to all those who hand out and collect boxes and do the cash counts; Marie-Helene & Allan Cook for the display boards; Monica Tett for the Admin; Jonathan Lobb for being Treasurer and all those who help behind the scenes in any way.

Apologies to anyone I've left off the list!

A vote of thanks to Phil for his work as Chairman.

6. **Treasurers Report**

A Financial Statement was circulated (a copy is available on the Website). It was reported that all monies have now been distributed. Thanks, had been received from some of the Charities involved. Some questions were asked regarding the Statement which were answered by Jonathan.

7. **Committee Posts and Work Sharing**

- There were no prior Nominations for the posts of Chairman, Treasurer and Administrator and all three current postholders agreed to stand again. They were elected unanimously.
- Posters advertising events will be prepared as before by Marie-Helene Cook. All those holding an event are asked to contact her in advance so that posters can be prepared and in order to avoid duplication.
- Boxes will be distributed and collected at all Masses by:
 - 6.30pm Phil Townsend & family
 - 9am George Hoskins, Elspeth Casey & Winnie Groves
 - 11am Antoinette & Joe Sebastian
 - 6pm Jonathan Lobb
- All events planned should be arranged directly with the Presbytery Office (tolworth@rcaos.org.uk or 020 8399 9550) so that entries can be made in the Parish Diary and avoid double booking.
- To date we have been notified of the following:
 - Sat/Sun 23/24th March 2019 Table Top Sale
 - Krispy Kreme Donut Sale date to be arranged
 - Quiz Night TBA
 - Sponsored Walk and Cycle Ride TBA
 - Sri Lankan Evening TBA after Lent
 - J&P Breakfast & Plants TBA

There are plenty of dates available if anyone would like to hold an event to help the Project in any way. St Patricks Night (17th March) is free should anyone like to arrange a get together with plenty of Craic.

8. Charity Nominations

There were 4 Nominations and all those proposing them spoke about the various projects. It was unanimously decided to adopt all 4 for the coming Lenten Project.

Full details are available on the Website, but a Summary has been produced as follows:

INDIA In the Diocese of Nellore 90% of the Catholics are Dallits (an oppressed class of the Caste system). They are very poor agricultural labourers whose wages are meagre. The Church runs orphanages, schools, centres for both physically and mentally handicapped children and three leprosy centres. None of the parishes is self-sufficient. The Priests do not get stipends and the collections is only enough to provide Hosts and electricity for Mass. The money raised would be used to provide urgent repairs to 2 chapels covering 4 villages, installing windows and flooring.

SRI LANKA St Joseph's Boys Hostel was last supported in 2016 and provided help with the living costa of these poor boys who are educated in the larger St Henry's College. The Hostel also acquired a Cow to provide fresh milk for the boys at little or no cost and they wish to increase the number and start a vegetable garden to provide an income to reduce the costs of housing and educating the 89 boys for 10 months of the year.

UGANDA St Kizito Primary School in Buwoola, Uganda has 176 children and has urgent need of money to install proper flooring in the school which has no windows or floor. The dust blows in constantly and exposes the children to jiggers, a parasitic flea which enters the body through the feet and causes irritation, infection and even loss of limbs. The children have improvised a solution by spreading cow dung which they bring to school each Friday to cover the floor. The Parish Priest is asking for funds to plaster the walls, provide shutters for the widows and lay proper flooring.

NIGERIA The Daughters of Divine Love provide services to vulnerable pregnant teenage mothers and their babies. Teen pregnancy poses a lot of challenges in many urban and sub-urban areas in Nigeria. Faced with harsh economic conditions most young teens are forced to the street to fend for themselves. Without families they are generally exposed to many influences, mainly negative, impacting on their moral and spiritual upbringing. Without proper Sex Education many end up with unwanted pregnancies. Without support many abort their babies out of fear of rejection by their families or fear of stigmatisation by their communities and churches. Most of these abortions are carried out by “quacks” and damage the health of the mother regarding future pregnancies. It has been known that some have been provided with accommodation under the pretence of looking after them and when the child is born, especially if it is a boy, they are duped into handing it over for a pittance. These children are then sold on for a vast profit. Some girls end up staying and becoming “breeders”. The Sisters Pro-Life Project is designed to meet the needs of these vulnerable teens. They provide a future for the teen mums and their babies by housing, feeding, educating and helping them to reintegrate with their families and local community/churches.

9. A.O.B

Fr Ignatius asked us all to consider what the Spiritual context was regarding the Lenten Project. Several people gave a personal view. We were all asked to keep it at the forefront of all our activities.

10. Date of next Meeting

It was agreed to hold a Meeting next June in order to consider the Distribution of all monies received by then. The date will be arranged in due course.

11. The meeting closed with Prayers at 8.45pm