

2023 Lenten Project AGM & Charities Nomination Meeting

Sunday 15th October 2023 at 7.00pm

LENT DATES 2024: **Ash Wednesday: 14th February 2024**
 Easter Sunday: 31st March 2024

1. Opening Prayer

Fr Ignatius opened the meeting with a prayer reflecting on the purpose of the Lenten Project.

2. Circulation of the Attendance List

There were 12 parishioners present as well as Fr Ignatius.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Monica Tett

4. Minutes of the 2022 Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes were agreed by those present to be an accurate record and there were no Matters Arising that were not already Agenda items.

5. Update from Chair on 2023 Lenten Project

The Parish has been very generous again in supporting the Lenten Project which made a total of £11,533. Again, given the cost of living crisis this is truly amazing. Well done to everyone who took part. Previous year was £14,854.

This means that each charity will receive £2,800.

We still managed 12 separate events and activities.

- Joe & Antoinette did a Sri Lankan Night which made a fantastic £1,351.
- Thank you to the Tolworth Trekkers led by Fr Ignatius and Elspeth again did a challenging sponsored walk to support the Lenten Project. This, combined with the money raised by Rose who did an art book and received lots of sponsorship – made £1618 on the Just Giving site. A further £360 came in envelopes too.
- People did return boxes which amounted to over £1544 with Giftaid. Very few boxes were returned from the 240 boxes distributed at a cost of £180 but we get a significant return on investment for it.
- The Southern Indian Night put on by the Syro Malabar Community made £2130.
- Noah's Ark pre-school raised £71.
- The UCM & KSC raised £407. Thank you.

- OLI School raised £143 – well done to staff and children.
- The Table Top sale made £1282. Thank you again Elspeth and for the donations from the Jackson family.
- The collection for Maundy Thursday reached £475.
- Finally, the African night which was incredibly well attended and raised a fantastic £1842. Thanks to Winnie for organising.

Thanks also to Elspeth for being Treasurer for the first year. Anyone I've missed – Thank you.

A Vote of Thanks was recorded to Phil for all his hard work as Chair of the Project.

6. Report from the Treasurer on 2023 Lenten Project

Elspeth circulated the breakdown of monies raised, which had previously been referred to in his Chair's Update. It was confirmed that 67 Lenten Project boxes were returned and it was suggested that announcements re the return of the Boxes were made at Masses for the 2 or 3 weeks after Easter. As Alan Jackson has sold his business, there may be fewer items for sale at the Table Top sale going forward.

6. Committee Posts and Work Sharing

Joe Kibrango and Phil Townsend were elected as co-Chairs of the Lenten Project for 2024. Elspeth Casey agreed to continue as Treasurer. Posters and boards advertising events to continue to be prepared by Marie-Helene Cook. Please contact her if you are planning an event and especially if you are preparing your own posters as this prevents duplication. There will be a separate display board in the Narthex.

- Banners will be put up and later taken down by Phil Townsend
- Noticeboard re Lenten Project to be bought.
- Boxes will be distributed and collected at all Masses by:
 - 6.30 pm Phil Townsend and family
 - 9.00 am George Hoskins and Mary Taylor
 - 11.00 am Winnie & AN Other
 - 6.00 pm Joe Kibrango

- 2024 Charity of Events

- No dates agreed yet
- Elspeth Casey agreed to organise a sponsored walk

7. Charity Nominations

There were 5 Nominations and, as all 5 Nominations were for very worthy causes, it was felt impossible to choose only 4. Therefore, on an exceptional basis, it was agreed to adopt all 5 charities as follows :

- ✓ **Cusmano Orphanage Centre, Uganda** – Renovation of the orphanage, supporting education and food provision.
- ✓ **Aidrikings Foundation, Cameroon** – Education, basic needs and support for parents of children with Down's Syndrome.
- ✓ **St Theresa's Hospital, Nigeria** – Refurbishment of the Outpatient Department, which is currently unsafe.
- ✓ **Divya Chhaya Society, India** – Hospital providing primary care to a destitute and malnourished population.
- ✓ **Miani Children's Home, Sri Lanka** – Orphanage, providing food and education to orphaned children.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- None

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A Meeting will be held in January 2024 to discuss events