

**2024 Lenten Project AGM & Charities Nomination Meeting**  
**Wednesday 23rd October 2024 at 7.45pm**

**LENT DATES 2024:**     **Ash Wednesday: 5th March 2025**  
                                  **Easter Sunday: 20th April 2025**

**1. Opening Prayer**

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

**2. Circulation of the Attendance List**

Elspeth Casey, Fr Michael, Winnie Groves, George Hoskins, Allan Cook, Marie-Helene Cook, Rosamma Thomas, Joe Sebastian, Antoinette Sebastian, Phil Townsend and Joe Kibirango

**3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Rosemary McDermott and Mary C Taylor.

**4. Minutes of the 2023 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 2024 Lenten Project**

The Parish has been very generous again in supporting the Lenten Project which made a total of £14,335. Previous year was £11,533 so this is an amazing £2,800 more than last year. Again, given the cost of living crisis this is truly amazing. Well done to everyone who took part.

This means that each of the 5 charities will receive £2,900.

We still managed 13 separate events and activities as follows:

- Joe & Antoinette did a Sri Lankan Night which made a fantastic £1,325.
- Thank you to the Tolworth Trekkers led by Fr Michael and Elspeth who again did a challenging sponsored walk to support the Lenten Project. The walk raised £3,554 on the Just Giving site and a further £405 in envelopes through the door. That's £3,959 in total. Fantastic. More importantly, over 20 people took part in the walk with many saying they were looking forwards to next year's walk. It would be great if we can keep the momentum going.
- Also, mainly raised through our JustGiving page was £745 raised by Rose who did artworks for the Lenten Project and asked parishioners to sponsor her. Well done to little Rose for a great effort and for raising so much.
- People did return boxes which amounted to over £2,369. Very few boxes were returned from the 270 boxes distributed but we get a significant return on investment for it. £209 was spent on boxes and we still have a full box left.
- The Southern Indian Night put on by the Syro Malabar Community made £2,371.
- Noah's Ark pre-school raised £98.

- OLI School raised £61. It's been a downward trajectory from 2021 when the school raised £1,356.50. Joe has suggested that he engages with the school to encourage them in their Lenten Project Fundraising efforts. It was noted that, in addition to direct Fundraising, the school contributes via a Mufti Day, which requests donation of toys for the Table Top Sale. It is hoped that (subject to OLI School agreement) these toys would be sold after school, rather than just being kept for the Table Top Sale.
- The Table Top sale made £878. Thank you again Elspeth.
- The collection for Maundy Thursday reached £387.
- Thank you to Helen Orlando for her sales event (jewellery) which raised £295. Well done Helen.
- We did a Jumble Sale again which raised £309. Thank you Elspeth and all the helpers.
- Finally, the African night which was incredibly well attended and raised a fantastic £1,745. Thanks to Winnie for organising.

Thanks also to Elspeth for being Treasurer and the massive effort she puts into everything she does for the Lenten Project and Parish.

It was also noted that the Lenten Project has been going for the last 53 years and has generated nearly £500,000 in donations to the poor. This is a tremendous achievement.

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 confirmed that NatWest Bank had been requested to make the £2,900 donations to the Cameroon, Indian, Sri Lankan and Ugandan based charities. We are currently waiting for Justgiving to send us the balancing amount of £1,581.04 from the OLI Fundraising site. Fr Michael agreed that the outstanding amount would be transferred from the Parish Bank Account to the Lenten Project Bank Account so that we could pay the donation to the remaining Nigerian Charity. The amount would be reimbursed once receipt was made by Justgiving. (Subsequent to the meeting Elspeth contacted the Finance team at the Diocese for help with Justgiving, as the balance may have been transferred to a Diocese Bank Account).

## **7. Committee Posts and Work Sharing**

Joe Kibirango was elected as Chair of the Lenten Project for 2024. Elspeth Casey agreed to continue as Treasurer.

Proper display units to be bought, with all charities displayed properly.

Banners will be put up and later taken down as usual, although they will have to be located at a different place in the Church due to the new audio equipment. Phil will discuss with Fr Michael.

Throughout the period of Lent, it was recognised that parishioners need to be reminded about the meaning of Lent and why they need to donate to the poor.

Publicity was considered key in order to encourage more involvement by Parishioners. Regular updates in Parish Newsletter.

It was proposed that during Lent, each Charity is allotted a weekend when, after each Mass they gave a presentation to Parishioners re the Charity and the good that it did / does. If a representative of the Charity was not available, the presentation should be by the Parishioner who nominated the Charity.

Following on from donations been made to the Charities, they should be requested to provide feedback on progress / the impact that the donation had.

Boxes will be distributed and collected at all Masses for two consecutive weekends before Ash Wednesday.

It was suggested that announcements re the return of the Boxes were made at Masses for the 2 or 3 weeks after Easter.

## 8. 2025 Calendar of Events

Dates not discussed at the AGM and are to be agreed.

TENTATIVE DATE	ACTIVITY	VOLUNTEER
19th Jan 2025	Lenten Projects Meeting	Joe Kibirango
22nd Feb 2025	Distribution of LP Boxes	18:30: Townsends
23rd Feb 2025	Distribution of LP Boxes	09.00: George Hoskins 11.00: Winnie Groves 18.00: Joe Kibirango
1st Mar 2025	Distribution of LP Boxes	18:30: Townsends
2nd Mar 2025	Distribution of LP Boxes	09.00: George Hoskins 11.00: Winnie Groves 18.00: Joe Kibirango
Ash Wednesday (5th March 2025)		
To be confirmed	H Orlando Sales Event	Helen Orlando
To be confirmed	Sponsored Walk	Elsbeth Casey
To be confirmed	Table-Top Sale	Elsbeth Casey
To be confirmed	OLI Primary School LP Fundraising	To be confirmed
To be confirmed	Noah's Ark Pre-school LP Fundraising	To be confirmed
17th April 2025	Maundy Thursday Collection	George Hoskins
Easter Sunday (20th April 2025)		
26th April 2025	Southern Indian Night	Syro Malabar Community
3rd / 4th May 2025	Collection of LP Boxes	George Hoskins
Early May Bank Holiday (5th May 2025)		
10th May 2025	Sri Lankan Evening	Joe and Antoinette
10th / 11th May 2025	Collection of LP Boxes	George Hoskins
To be confirmed	Jumble Sale	Elsbeth Casey
Spring Bank Holiday (26th May 2025) & Half Term (to Fri 30th May 2025)		
7th June 2025	Afro-Caribbean Night	Winnie Groves

TENTATIVE DATE	ACTIVITY	VOLUNTEER
First Holy Communion (14 <sup>th</sup> June 2025)		
OLI Summer Fayre (Saturday 5th July 2025)		
School Summer Holiday Starts (Friday 18th July 2025)		
Early Sept 2025	Charities Nomination announcements	Joe Kibirango
Early Oct 2025	Publish list of eligible charities	Joe Kibirango
19th Oct 2025	Lenten Project AGM 2025	Joe Kibirango

## 9. Charity Nominations

There were 4 Nominations and it was agreed to adopt them all as follows :

- **Divya Chhaya Society, India** – Hospital providing primary care to a destitute and malnourished population.
- **Obinofia Community Primary School, Nigeria** – Renovation of a primary school.
- **Vathiry Sacred Heart College, Karaveddy, Sri Lanka** – Resources for school for 388 children from very poor backgrounds.
- **Mapeera Bakateyamba Home run by the Good Samaritan Sisters, Uganda** – Caring for 75 elderly including disabled and incapacitated.

It was proposed that nomination forms are completed well in advance of the AGM, and are distributed at least a week or more in advance of the AGM to afford time for reflection on which charities parishioners are happy to support.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed that George Hoskins would represent the Lenten Project Committee in the Offertory Procession for Fr Michael's Induction Mass.

## 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A Meeting will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to discuss events.

## 12. ATTACHMENTS

OLI Lenten Project Cash Flow Statement 2024

## Our Lady Immaculate Lenten Project 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Maunday Thursday	387.50	475.82	327.66	445.24
OLI Primary School	61.85	143.88	564.41	1,356.50
Noah's Ark Pre school	98.00	71.00	152.00	
H Orlando Sales Event	295.00			
Syro Malabar Community	2,371.00	2,130.00	3,625.00	794.00
Sri Lanken Evening	1,325.00	1,351.00	2,704.00	1,547.00
Just Giving (including gift aid) Rose Art	745.00			
Just Giving (including gift aid) Walk	3,554.04	1,618.76	1,588.43	3,163.75
Sponsored Walk (envelopes)	405.00	360.00	145.00	405.20
Gift Aid (tbc)		234.09	318.52	569.97
Table Top Sale	878.13	1,282.56	1,068.15	-
4th Tolworth Beavers & Cubs	-	-	51.00	
Individual donations	-	-	41.79	625.25
LP Quiz	-	-	35.00	
UCM	-	407.50	110.10	
Jumble Sale	309.60	282.10		270.25
LP Boxes	2,369.62	1,544.34	2,128.66	1,953.61
African Evening	1,745.00	1,842.26	1,994.95	3,360.00
LP Boxes	- 209.72	- 209.72		
	<u>14,335.02</u>	<u>11,533.59</u>	<u>14,854.67</u>	<u>14,490.77</u>

## Cash Flow Statement

Balance brought forward 515.23

### Receipts from LP 2024

Lenten Project 14,335.02

### Payments

Cusmano Orphanage Centre, Uganda

Aidrikings Foundation, Cameroon

St Theresa's Hospital, Nigeria

Divva Chhava Society, India

Miani Children's Home, Sri Lanka

**Balance**

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