

**Minutes of Parishioners of St Peter's Bearsted & The Good Shepherd
Harrietsham held in St Peter's Church Bearsted on Sunday 25th November 2018**

Present.

Fr Geoffrey, PP, Deacon Cyril, and 17 parishioners representing both ends of the parish. The meeting was preceded by Benediction and Litany of the Sacred Heart at 3pm in St Peter's Church Bearsted. Fr Geoffrey welcomed all to the meeting and passed around copies of the minutes of the parish meeting held on 26th November 2017 and talked us through them. He explained that the reason for the meeting was to discuss the following:

1 Change of Mass time on Sundays at St Peter's to 11am.

1.1 Fr Geoffrey said that the age profile of priests within the deanery and the need to be able cover sick or indisposed priests was the reason for the proposed change.

Deacon Cyril further explained that the aim is to cover the deanery as best we can with the number of priests we have now. Maidstone Parish has only 2 priests at present and should have 3. They may receive another priest in January.

St Francis' Maidstone also celebrates Mass in Preston Hall on Sundays and currently celebrates Mass in Maidstone Prison on Thursday but this is being changed to Sunday.

As a parish we cannot always rely on the Friars at Aylesford to supply a priest as they also supply other parishes when required to do so if they have a priest available.

1.2 If we take no action now and lose a priest, we may not have a Mass.

1.3 Some of those present expressed the view that the proposed change to 11am might impact on Mass attendance, e.g. those on coffee rota duty do not get away until 12noon now and the proposed change would mean getting away at 12.30pm, and people may be unwilling to carry on.

1.4 The proposed change may also mean people will go elsewhere, resulting in a reduced income for the parish from lack of Mass Offerings.

1.5 Others present thought that the change was not significant and should not have an adverse effect on Mass attendance.

1.6 It was noted that as a parish we are very lucky to have 3 weekend Masses between Harrietsham and Bearsted.

2 Hosting Syro-Malabar Rite Mass at St Peter's on a Monthly Basis.

St Francis' parish Maidstone hosts Syro-Malabar Rite Masses in Maidstone every 2nd Saturday in the month at 3pm with an attendance of about 400 people. They also use the hall at St Francis for a social gathering on these days.

There was no objection to St Peter's Bearsted hosting a Syro-Malabar Mass and the attendees using St Peter's parish hall, if available.

3 Adoremus.

Patrick Harrison, a St Peter's parishioner, explained that the archdiocese wants to

encourage parishes within the archdiocese to participate in Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament within each parish.

Patrick said several parishes in the Kent part of the archdiocese are currently taking part among them following:

St Francis' Maidstone have 150 volunteers to cover a period from 7am to 10pm every Friday and at other times besides.

Tenterden – once a week.

Dartford – 1 day of adoration on Fridays. Half day adoration on another day and 24-hour adoration once a month.

Hythe – pray the Rosary during adoration.

It required a minimum of 4 people per hour, you pick the same hour each time and cover that or find a replacement.

There is flexibility as to format, for example, it is feasible to:

- pray for priests and vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
- Have silent adoration.
- Pray the Rosary with scripture readings.

If a parish is interested, it must have a representative from another parish to give an introductory talk.

Fr Geoff thanked Patrick for the above information and suggested it may be possible to have adoration after 10.00 Mass on Friday mornings and a number of people expressed an interest.

Fr Geoff will send off the form and await hearing further.

4 Nominations of Local Charities for Donation of 10% of St Peter's Annual Income.

- Small charity in Bearsted for bereaved children - Jenny Lovelock has details.
- Hi-Kent – provide care for deaf people and those with diminished hearing.
- Blackthorn Trust - provides specialist help with mental and learning disabilities.
- Heart of Kent Hospice.
- Porchlight – Helps homeless and those who have no one to turn to.

In addition, the Holy Ghost Fathers have an Annual Mission Appeal in our parish. Survive-Miva was also nominated for future consideration. This Charity provides vehicles for developing countries. E.g. bikes for catechists; scooters, ambulances; jeeps for missionary work.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

5 Close of Meeting and Blessing.

Fr Geoff closed the meeting and gave all a blessing.