

Minutes

St Mary's Project Rutherford Meeting for Volunteers 7.30pm. Wednesday, 3rd May 2023 at St. Leonard's Hall, St Mary's Church, Broomfield, Chelmsford.

Present: Ian Mercer, Karen Paxton, Ros Mercer, Trudy Stevens, Malcolm Taylor, Val Pattenden, Alun Powell, Jill Readings (from 7.50), Jim Tibbott, Margaret Pinkerton, Dawn Butcher, Christine Bailey.

Apologies: Neil Wiffen, Carolyn Tibbott, Sheila Hasler, David Marcus.

1. **Welcome** from Trudy Stevens;

2. Updates

Tower & Spire

The circulated report was taken as read.

External Works

The roofers have commenced work this week. The new completion date is 19th June. Work on the Lych-gate would commence in September to avoid the wedding season and would take about 6 weeks, with that entrance being out of action for the duration.

Arrangements for the "Topping out" ceremony when the weathervane will be put in place on Friday 19th May, 11.30am for 12.00, were discussed. Rev Diana to be invited in addition.

Internal Works

TS has had a meeting with the bell ringers. The cupboard has been moved. JT suggested that the specification for the plasterwork repairs and repainting awaits the quinquennial inspection by the architect. Quotes would then be sought, and carpet and a mobile table put in place with 2 chairs that had already been identified. Coat hooks to be provided for the bell ringers.

A temporary exhibit about the work undertaken and a booklet chronicling the development of the project were discussed.

Funding

The response to the list of questions posed by HLF in reply to our grant increase application is being worked on.

Exhibition

Further works to fulfil the conditions in the faculty and to provide extra cupboard space and a sales table, as outlined in the plan that had been circulated, were agreed. JT has some thin board suitable for the top of the corner screens. Holes would need to be drilled as it will be over the heating pipes. JT & JR to liaise re spare paint for touching-up.

Church Sitters

CT suggests having a Thank You lunch for church sitters including the additional people who had volunteered to join the team (Malcolm Noble & JR). This would be

an opportunity to convey information about the exhibition to everyone. As milk is not routinely available in the church fridge, sitters could be reminded that they need to bring milk to be able to offer refreshments to visitors.

Information and materials

Activities Team

JR had contacted CVHS inviting the head of art to view the exhibition; it was agreed she will give her a copy of the Rutherford booklet. The dates of all invitations need to be noted for our evaluation record; there had been no response as yet. VP has reviewed the primary school curriculum to match areas for which church activities could be offered. She will send an invitation to Broomfield Primary School. Schools were thought to be particularly busy at this time with staff shortages and unrest so identifying events to meet their curriculum is proving challenging.

The Church Trail was complete and copies are available in the folder at the back of the church, together with other activity sheets. When the Beavers and Cubs visited it was noted that they preferred to talk to people at strategic places in the church rather than complete worksheets. The I-Spy Trees In the Churchyard sheet produced by RM would be added.

Other ideas for engaging children and families will be considered.

Talks

The Churchyard Trees talk and tour proved very successful. It was acknowledged that the *People & Stone* talks were adult focussed. Children and families might be better engaged with activities after school on a weekday. A programme of *P&S* talks for the rest of the year is in place with more topics identified for next year. Meetings held in the church hall for two historical groups AGMs have been arranged for a donation. The requirements for talks about the project and refreshments were discussed. CB offered to help on 17th June and KP & TS on 8th July. RM would liaise with NW to identify exactly what the focus of the talks needs to be; then we can identify who will present them.

Stalls at Village Events

Village Fair 7th May – TS circulated a rota for presence at the church stall. RM had amended the display boards and would put them on poles. TS would provide a gazebo and extra tables. Children's activities were available from the folder in church. Bookmarks and booklets would be taken for sale (RM).

Broomfield Primary School Fete 24th June; we have been invited to hold a stall at this event but it clashes with the next *P&S* talk so many of the team are occupied with that. DB stressed how important it is for the church to have a presence here, liaising with families. VP volunteered to organise a stall with CB and others. RM would provide the display boards. Little Lambs would also be there. **Help at this event would be appreciated; please contact Valerie.**

Church May Fayre 20th May – RM & IM will oversee the Rutherford exhibition in the church. There will be an Eco-Church stall.

Website

The new church website was launched at the APCM on 12th March. RM & TS have written pages about the Rutherford project. Andrew Knott has offered to take over from CT as webmaster. IM has offered to do the Rutherford section. CT is to organise training and passwords.

Publications

The Rosemary Rutherford booklet in the People & Stone series was printed for the exhibition launch on 25th March. Sales have been good. Naomi wishes to purchase 20 copies. Copies will be given to the churches to be visited on the coach trip and some taken to sell on the coach. (RM).

Postcards of the east window and the fresco have been ordered from the Diocesan Print Unit and should be received soon.

An itinerary leaflet for the coach trip organised for 5th May, visiting churches in Essex featuring Rutherford windows, has been printed by RM. Chris Parkinson has produced a gazetteer of the stained glass windows at the churches to be visited.

Other Issues

Church opening rota – this was working well and increasingly people outside the church were visiting; 60 people were recorded as visiting in the last quarter.

Blue Plaque – it was suggested that a form of words be sent to Naomi for the family's approval. NW would provide an update from Chelmsford City Council.