

Notes of a meeting held in the parish hall – Tuesday 11th October 2022 'Heating in the Hall Project'

Present: Fr Robbie, Phyl Edees, Helen Fullelove, Denise Carter, John Carter, Jill Langley, Tim Langley, Margaret Boam, Grazyna Worthington, Paula Swanwick, David Swanwick

The meeting was convened to explore the potential for use of the parish hall during the winter months as a social 'warm' centre for community use, aimed at offering a warm, welcoming and safe environment for those who may be struggling with heating/food/living expenses.

Fr Robbie started the meeting with a prayer.

LP outlined his thoughts on what the project might look like:

- Use of the hall on a regular basis – once/twice a week
- Run by volunteers
- Open for the day and possibly early evening
- Providing refreshments
- Providing activities for those visiting
- Access to charging points for devices
- Liaising with other churches to avoid duplication but also for mutual support
- Reaching out to other agencies/charities/outlets for their support

Discussion then ensued with a range of ideas and constructive comments offered. The result of this discussion helped shape a plan to move forward. The key points are shown below:

- Fr Robbie is very happy to offer the hall for this project. There is public liability insurance in place, and he is happy to cover the cost of any electricity used, as well as heating and lighting.
- The project would attract different demographic groups so there is a need for identified sessions during the day e.g. 9 –11.30am adults; 12 – 2.30pm senior citizens; 3.00 – 5.30pm families.
- A monthly Saturday morning session was proposed for families, where a film could be shown using the media provision in the hall. Fr Robbie will research the relevant license. **Action**
- A paper was shared by MB with information from Churches Together that stated support for such a venture could be forthcoming from a local councillor – Sarah Halliwell. Fr Robbie will liaise with Sarah Halliwell to inform her of our proposed project and how it could dovetail with what other churches are planning. He will also liaise with the 'Churches Together' committee to explore collaboration and co-operation. **Action**
- It was proposed that we look at one day a week on a Monday to offer the hall as a warm space. This could tie in with parishioners baking/cooking over the weekend to provide appropriate foods – cakes/biscuits/soup etc for distribution on the Monday. An appeal would be made to the parish for volunteers to 'make and bake'.
- Tuesday was mooted as the alternative day.

- With the potential for 3 sessions during the day a list of volunteers would need to be drawn up so that at least 3 people were able to manage any one 2½ 'shift'. An appeal would be made to the parish for volunteers.
- The aim would be to keep any provision simple to start with, offering a warm hall with refreshments, company and conversation. Books, games and jigsaws would be available. Fr Robbie can provide a range of newspapers.
- It is envisaged that some using the hall may need further support. A request will be made to the parish to provide specific foodstuffs, sanitary and hygiene products, cleaning products and pet foods; in short useful items that some may not be able to afford. These would be available on a table for people to take as required. A list will be drawn up by LP based on suggestions at the meeting.

Action

- For further advice and support we can reach out to CAB, DDDC and also ask Paul Cruise, a parishioner and also the Town Mayor. LP will do this. **Action**
- The aim would be to start the project in December and run for the winter months with a specified end date.
- Other churches in the area are developing their own 'warm space' project so collaboration over provision would be useful. LP will liaise on a personal level with Stephen Monk and also approach St Giles' via Chris Coleman. **Action**
- Ideas were offered about promoting the project, but these will be firmed up at the next meeting.
- The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 1st November 2022 at 7pm** in the hall. All will be welcome. This meeting will aim to finalise planning and prepare for implementation.

Actions arising from the meeting.

Action	Who	When
Research acquisition of a license to show films in the hall.	Fr Robbie	1/11/2022
Liaise with Sarah Halliwell, local councillor to explore what support she can offer.	Fr Robbie	1/11/2022
Liaise with Churches Together group to consider how the churches can provide a network of support.	Fr Robbie	1/11/2022
Draw up a list of items for donation.	LP	1/11/2022
Contact CAB, DDDC and Paul Cruise to see what support may be available.	LP	1/11/2022
Liaise with Stephen Monk and Chris Coleman to develop more personal links with their parish communities.	LP	1/11/2022

Lance Philpott

14th October 2022

lancep@svp.org.uk