**St. Columba Community Group**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting held on Wednesday 1st November 2023**

**In the church hall at 8:15pm.**

**Attending**: Father Julian, Deacon Philip, Gill & Phillip Tomei, Nickalin & Jerald Jeyarajah, Eileen Bowden, Debbie Martin, Andrea Lightman, Ken & Tina Lee, Sita Egole, Clare Morgado, Angela Mthunzi, Deirdre Turner, Beatrice Hansen-Sudsbury, Athul & Darly Thomas, Fiona Stas, Margaret & Gerry Gallen, Manfred Schröder, Irene Gonsaluez, Claudia Braganza, Desirée Ansell, Pat McFarlane & Dani Gonek.

**Apologies:**  None received

Father opened the meeting with a prayer following the All Saints Mass in church; we had refreshments and then started to discuss going forward of our new Community Group.

1. Suggestions came from the floor of a Quiz night with a Fish ‘n’ Chip Supper, Theatre/Cinema trips, Book Club, Bingo/Beetle Drive, Horse Racing, Card games, an International Evening of sharing food, Lenten Talks, a Passover Meal and Bible studies.
	1. Recommendations of parishioners running these activities:-

**Quiz Night with Fish ‘n’ Chip supper** – Sita Egole and Clare Morgado

**Theatre & Cinema** – Gill Tomei

**Bingo/Beetle Drive** – Gill Tomei

**Card games** – Ken Lee

**Book Club** – Sita Egole

**Lenten Talk** – Deacon Philip and Father Julian

**Passover Meal** – Beatrice Hansen-Sudsbury

**International Evening** – bringing your desired dish from your country to share – Gill Tomei, Debbie Martin, Nickalin Jeyarajah, Clare Morgado & Eileen Bowden – see further information later.

* 1. A suggestion of attending the David Lean Cinema in Croydon to see ‘The Miracle Club’ was put forward by Gill and 12 people signed up. We are going on Thursday 23/11/23 at 2:30pm. The film is a sell-out, mainly with St. Columba’s parishioners!
	2. The International Evening date was thought to be held after Christmas as an easier date in the calendar – Saturday 27th January 2024 at 7pm, after the 6pm Mass. We will advertise this during the Christmas period and after in the church newsletter so that folk can save the date and come along and meet one another. Meeting with the organisers above will happen soon after Christmas in preparation for the event.
	3. The Passover Meal could be held on Maundy Thursday after Mass – Beatrice to organise with others.
	4. As there is nothing to be organised for Christmas, it was suggested that after the (children’s) Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve – 24/12/23 at 6:00pm we could have mulled wine and mince pies – also it will be advertised that the children should come dressed as a character from the Nativity. Carols follow in the church at 8:30pm but our parishioners will have departed by that time, say 7-8pm in the church hall for the refreshments. Gill will organise with other volunteers.
1. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday afternoon, 15th November at 2pm-4pm in the church hall. We will see who attends and discuss the above and note what choices and requirements will be needed.
2. Café St. Columba will be running the annual Christmas Lunch for 50 Parishioners and friends on Wednesday 13th December at 12/12:30pm – Gill taking names at present.
3. We are currently looking for a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary for this group. After the meeting Gill saw Paul Nattrass who was the original Treasurer for the Social Committee. He was happy to remain as Treasurer and said there was currently £300 in the bank account. So the roles of Chairman (Fr said it should be parishioners taking up the roles not clergy) and Secretary are now available to keep everything in order. These roles should be for a minimum of 2 years.
4. The 100 Club was mentioned which was a fundraiser through the church for Ahotokorum – the leprosy village in Ghana which St. Columba’s support. This is drawn quarterly and needs to be promoted for our new parishioners’ knowledge.
5. Father mentioned that the Bible Study group had an attendance of 9 parishioners so far. They would be held during the day as folk preferred not to be out in the dark at night.

The meeting ended around 9:15/20pm and Father Julian thanked all who attended.