

## **LAUDATO SI' MEETING, MARCH 23, 2022 SMSJ SCHOOL**

### **People Present**

Anne Peplow (note taker), Malcolm Peplow, Liz Cullen, Anthony Brown, Katrina Harkin (Laudato Si Leader SMSJ), Betty Collison, Grace Fellows, Phil Ryan, and Bob Turner Laudato Si Centre/ CAFOD  
Apologies Mark Wiggins , Kay Curphey

### **Items 1/2/3.**

**How are we going to use the plots on the Church side of the fence?**

**Working with the school on their side of the fence.**

**Safeguarding issues.**

We had a general discussion about our first three items. Anthony said that he would like to strengthen the bond between the school (SMSJ) and the Parish. This could be achieved by the work in the Parish Garden complimenting the work the school was undertaking on its land.

Katrina said that due to the pandemic the School Garden had become overgrown and unsafe so that the garden was no longer a safe environment for the children. The school's priority was to improve the paths and access to the garden as well as removing items that were unsafe for the children. She said that there were already several soft fruit bushes and trees in the School Garden and therefore these might not be a priority for the Parish Garden. Katrina said that SMSJ's were organising several funding schemes such as an Easter Raffle to pay for a skip. She said that one of the parents who was a carpenter had agreed to give his time and skill for free, but wood, and other materials would be needed to help improve the paths and to build any structures which were needed. Katrina said that any assistance the Laudato Si Group or our Parishioners were able to give to the School Garden project would be welcome. Katrina said that the School's Science Lead thought that as there were enough beds in the School Garden for each class to have its own bed, this would be their preferred option.

Anne said that she had spoken to John Spencer who has been asked to clear out the unwanted items in the Church crypt. John and Anne had discussed using a couple of the pews that were in the Crypt for seating in the Parish Garden. Malcolm said that these would need to be stripped, treated and recoated for external use. Anne has asked John whether, as the Parish Garden plans are yet to be finalised, the Laudato Si Group could have first refusal on a couple of pews to ensure that any pews that were not needed in the Garden could be sold to raise funds for the Church. Anne said that John had mentioned that if any of the statues in the crypt were to be used (in either the Parish Garden or SMSJ's Garden) they would need to be protected from the elements as they were not weatherproof. Katrina said that the School also had some small pews that they used in the School Garden from time to time.

Bob said that it might be possible to utilise the eco-bricks stored in the crypt in the building of a suitable shelter for a statue and he handed round photographs of structures he had assisted other schools in erecting using this technique. Bob said

that the cost of 1 day's assistance (which could be divided into 2 x half days) would be approx. £200 but this would include materials and the incorporation of the eco- bricks.

Phil asked if such structures could be placed on the School Garden site. Katrina said that due to safeguarding issues, access to the School Garden must remain tightly controlled and as such, a structure in the School Garden would not be always freely accessible to our Parishioners. There were various suggestions about whether each Garden could incorporate a prayer/ peace garden or perhaps that the Laudato Si, i.e. a mirroring effect which again compliment both garden projects but no final decision has been made as yet.

It was agreed that in the meantime a rota would be arranged so that more volunteers could be encouraged to help with the current Garden tidy up. It was agreed that as none of us were looking for a pristine Parish Garden and given the Group's Live Simply values we should renew and recycle as much material and plants as we could. Therefore, we should continue to ask our Parishioners to provide plants and seeds from their own gardens rather than buying new items from garden centres. Grace said that Jo Stuttard had offered plants from her allotment which was very kind of her. No final decision on the building of a structure/ structures was made as this would be subject to funding and placement.

Agreed Rota timetable Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Meet in the Parish Garden at 10.30 on each occasion.

#### **4. The Tesco Community Grant and further funding issues**

Katrina said that they had thought about seeking funding via a Tesco Community Grant, however the school had not yet decided to go down this route. Anthony and Anne said that they had investigated these grants. Obtaining a grant of up to £1,500 would take up to 18 months and there was no guarantee of success as there was a lot of competition. The three best applications are voted on by Tesco Shoppers and as there was a big Tesco store in town this might be possible. Any application would need to appeal to a wide proportion of the local community and as the Live Simply/Laudato Si Group had been running for over 2 years it would be eligible to apply.

Anne said that she had also seen a link on Facebook for the Waddington Duck Race where stalls were free to local community groups. See the link below for more details:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rvcss/permalink/696649061488744/>.

A volunteer is needed to draft an application for Tesco funding if we decide to make an application.

#### **5. Communication**

It was agreed that it would be useful to set up a What's App Group so that we could communicate more easily.

Grace is to speak to Catherine Preston to see about involving the Little Church in Eco-brick and other similar construction projects.

## **6. The Swift Project**

The group is very keen to attract wildlife into the Gardens. Anthony will approach Jo Howson to get further advice on how he was able to attract Swifts to his garden so that we can replicate the project in our Gardens.

## **7. AOB**

Bob Turner gave a presentation on the Big Plastic Count which is an Eco project which aims to get School children engaged in reducing plastic waste. The Project runs weekly from 16 March to 22 May 2022. The children are encouraged to monitor their household plastic waste for a week. Katrina will run this past the school to gauge its interest. Bob suggested that Green Theory could be approached to see if Justine would be willing to provide a discount to the children taking part in the project. Both Grace and Anne said that they would be willing to speak to her about this if the project goes ahead. See <https://thebigplasticcount.com> for more details.

Next Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April 3.30 at SMSJ's School enter via the Main Entrance.