

## School for Peace Support Group

### Minutes of meeting held

Wednesday 13th October 2022

**Present:** Michael Ellwood, Mary Ellwood, Alan Williams, Rona Baxter, Sydna Playford

**Apologies:** Jane Mawer

**The minutes of the last meeting** were approved and signed by Michael

### Matters Arising

- The amount collected after all Masses on 12<sup>th</sup> August was £429.85
- Sister Virginie will be visiting Europe in 2023

### Treasurer's report

Currently there is £18,240.34 across both banks, Co-op Current acc: £1,088.07; Deposit acc: £12,892.99; Santander current acc: £947.77; Deposit acc: £3,311.51

The following amounts have been sent electronically and in euros for the first time:

€100 to trial the new system, the remaining €13,550 is for sponsorship and €3,400 for the university fees and extras. The university money includes not just the fees for each young person, but also some extra to cover other expenses. Total sent = €16,950 (£15,500). Father Jo in Brussels was alerted to the fact that this money had been sent.

There is enough money to send for the toilets as the estimate has been received: **3748 dollars**. This summer, the following amounts have been raised:

The Garden Party at Joy's raised £1176 thanks to an extremely generous donation

The two stalls raised £280

The church collections: £429

Jam sales: £115

The Italian meal: £1097, thanks to the cooks donating the food

Total: £3097 = **3,500 dollars**

Although we must keep some money for the running of the school and sponsorship, we should be able to send the money needed for the toilet block. Eight toilets to be built including two for teachers. These are very simple (long drop) toilets and will be added to the existing ones. We will send £3,500 as soon as possible, and if any charities who support toilet twinning for example can be contacted, so much the better. We must ensure that the money is going to what the donor asks eg the nursery school, resources etc. There will be a follow-up meeting to ensure this is happening. Alan said that the insurance was due on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

### Sponsorship and donations

We have received more donations since the last meeting. As a result of the radio talk on 28<sup>th</sup> August, £100 was donated. Following on from the talks at church on 12<sup>th</sup> August, £1000 was received from the convent at Quidenham who would like the money to go sponsor a girl through university. Two amounts of £50 and two CAF cheques for £100 each have been received from various well-wishers. £81.57 has been received from Easyfundraising. A parishioner at St Benet's has cancelled her annual sponsorship for a pupil at the school and increased it to £25 a month in order to sponsor a girl at university.

## **News from Congo**

We told Sr Angéline that we had a meeting today and she sent us the following message:

The pupils and staff are well and we (the sisters) have had the annual retreat. The start of term was on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Most of the pupils arrived within the first two weeks of September and lessons are continuing normally. The secondary teachers' files have been submitted but we do not know the outcome yet. Issac Mutabe (the latest student to attend university - from January 2021) is studying Nursing and he needs 120 dollars for his fees, but perhaps next year he will need more (Mary to ask for clarification as his brother is paying some of the fees). I spoke with Sara Mutungu last week and she hopes to start university in January 2023 with our help (January is when the university term starts). We do not know yet how much her fees will be but I will contact her to find out. The teachers hope to carry out their training next week as the inspector who was due to come and deliver the training had a setback. The cupboards etc in the staffroom will be fitted soon. Last year the pupils in the business and management stream received a prize for their average of 79%. May God bless you for all you are doing for the education of our pupils at the St Benet's School for Peace. It's thanks to you that the school is increasingly becoming a benchmark for good practice in the area. May God protect you.

## **Recent events**

- The article Mary wrote for the Diocesan News has finally been published. It was previously only readable online.
- Stall in the parking area on Ravensmere raised £140 (the same sum as the Friday market!).
- The Italian evening was a great success and £1097 was raised including donations given on the evening. The cooks refused to take money for the food which was extremely generous and Howard sent them flowers.

## **Future Events**

- We made a decision at the meeting to postpone the Quiz evening on 12<sup>th</sup> November as a suitable venue cannot be found. Furthermore, there is also too much happening in Beccles that evening.
- We will go ahead with the AGM, however on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, if the library is able to accommodate us again. We will be able to show the footage and photos we have received this year and offer refreshments.
- We could do another stall at either the Friday market or the "Lights Switch-on" evening on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

The next meeting will be the AGM on  
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at Beccles Library**