SUGGESTED DESIGN FOR KNEELERS FOR GILLINGHAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

<u>Size</u> The conventional size for kneelers 6" high is 14" by 10" - rather larger than the old kneelers. I suggest we adopt those dimensions, and that the kneelers should have 'ears' for carrying, otherwise they are awkward to lift.

<u>Design</u> The proposed embroidery design is to be worked on 13 threads to the inch canvas,using Appleton's crewel wool, mainly in green with the addition of 'gold', grey and white, (see sample card for colours).
One uniform design for all the kneelers is suggested with a bold grey cross on top outlined in 'gold' enclosed in a decorative frame, with similar frames on the sides enclosing motifs.
On the front of each kneeler I suggest a design based on wild flowers (or alternatively corn, grasses, or the leaves and flowers of trees) - a different design on each kneeler, but in a restricted colour range - yellow,white, and green, making this quite a restrained element in the overall design.
There could be a choice of two styles for the sides of the kneelers:-(a) More elaborate with gold crosses and a more complicated 'frames' enclosing the motifs or (b) more restrained with no gold crosses, a smaller M motif and simpler 'frames'. The first option (a) would require a little more skill from the embroiderer.
<u>Stitches</u> Strong stitches with crossed threads are suggested for the rops of the kneelers where there will be heaviest wear and more tent stitch (petit point) in the side panels. The whole would be edged with plait stitch.
<u>Making up the kneelers</u> If we re-use the filling from the existing kneelers we shall also need some additional filling e.g. carpet felt, and calico or twill for covering the kneeler pad. We should be able to do the upholstery ourselves.

<u>Cost</u> The embroidery materials will cost about £20 per kneeler plus about £3 for upholstery materials. This is a rough estimate. We shall have a more accurate price once we have made one.

<u>Time</u> The 80 kneelers required will take 3 - 4 years to complete if we can recruit enough people to work on them.

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(a)   (b)