

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th August 2010

Present: Father David, John Cooke, Tricia Davies, Cari Depla, Anne Marie Goddard, Christine Martin, Anne Morgan-Jones, Jane Murphy, Teresa Quinn, Emily Starosolsky, Maria Wykes, Paul Blake (Clerk).
Six other parishioners were also present.

Apologies: Clive Alabaster.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2010 were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising from the meeting held on 4th July 2010.

The Mass on the eve of the Papal visit will be at 7.30.p.m. on Wednesday 15th September 2010. Parishioners from Chippenham and Wootton Bassett will be invited along with the Ministers of the other churches in Calne.

There have been no responses to the advertisement in the 'Town Crier' magazine or to the items in the newsletter and it may be that there will be no candidates for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, (RCIA) this year. In the future it may be appropriate to hold the RCIA meetings after the Liturgy of the Word at the Sunday morning Mass. This would avoid the need for weekday evening meetings.

Youth ministry.

Maria Wykes reported that a group of eight parishioners had been formed to support youth ministry. They will meet for a day of planning at Saint Mary's School on Saturday 25th September 2010.

Hospitality ministry.

John Cooke led a discussion on hospitality ministry explaining that it went further than handing out hymn books and newsletters before Mass. Areas considered included helping with car parking, identifying and greeting newcomers, inviting latecomers into the church and helping them find seating, greeting people after Mass, since there is often insufficient time before Mass, and inviting newcomers to the hall for refreshments. The desirability of welcomers being identified in some way and having specific seats by the entrance doors was also discussed.

The following points were agreed:

- There should be two welcomers at each Mass and their role should be distinct from that of handing out hymn books and newsletters.
- Consideration should be given to some sort of badge to identify welcomers.
- Welcomers should sit in reserved seats just inside the main entrance doors so that they can invite latecomers into church, open the doors at the end of Mass, and invite newcomers to the hall for refreshments after Sunday morning Mass.
- Before December there should be a meeting for all welcomers where their role, and that of hospitality ministry in general, can be discussed.
- A sheet, or leaflet, for newcomers should be produced with details of Mass times, children's liturgy, and the school. It should include a tear-off form to be completed with contact details to be returned to Father David. Teresa Quinn volunteered to produce this leaflet .

The discussion widened to consideration of parking at church and the particular difficulties on Sunday mornings. It was agreed that this issue would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Father David suggested that as well as a meeting for those involved in hospitality ministry it would be good to consider meetings for readers and Eucharistic ministers.

Links with Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham.

Father David explained at Saint Edmund's may well accept responsibility for Kingston House at Derry Hill where at least two parishioners are resident. Anne Morgan-Jones will organise Eucharistic ministers to visit. In discussion it was noted that main role of Eucharistic ministers, or more properly 'Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist', is to take communion to the sick or housebound. Father David stated that he would like more Eucharistic ministers to be involved in this aspect of their role, but they would need to comply with diocesan safeguarding procedures.

In relation to possible future working with Chippenham Parish it was agreed that four or five parishioners from both Calne and Chippenham Parishes should meet together to discuss this further. Particular areas for this group to consider would be:

- the drawing up of a plan of what arrangements should be in place with respect to Mass times if there was only one priest available to serve both parishes,
- sacramental preparation and celebration, particularly for Confirmation,
- joint working with respect to RCIA, youth ministry, and shared transport to diocesan events.

Anne Moran-Jones, John Cooke, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin and Anne Marie Goddard agreed to form the group representing Saint Edmund's.

Deanery Pastoral Council.

Father David explained at the future of the Deanery Pastoral Council was uncertain and that parish representation would continue as present, on an 'ad hoc' basis.

Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Sunday 3rd October 2010 at 11.30.a.m.

Items to be discussed will include:

- liturgy in general,
- parking, particularly on Sunday mornings,
- any support and assistance which can be given to families with young children attending Mass when one parent is unable to be present.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 12.35.