

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2011

Present: Father David, Clive Alabaster, John Cooke, Tricia Davies, Anne Marie Goddard, Christine Martin, Anne Morgan-Jones, Jane Murphy, Teresa Quinn, Emily Starosolsky, Maria Wykes.
Paul Blake (Clerk).
Two other parishioners were also present, along with two representatives from the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham.

Apologies: Cari Depla.

The meeting opened with a prayer and a welcome to the two representatives from Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2011 were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising from the meeting held on 3rd October 2010.

With respect to links with Saint Mary's Parish Chippenham, it was noted that newsletters are now exchanged. The two representatives from Saint Mary's thanked Saint Edmund's for the welcome received at two special Masses. Saint Mary's will be extending a welcome to Saint Edmund's parishioners to a special Mass in April for Canon Millett's jubilee. Anne Morgan-Jones and Elizabeth Hitchens are planning to attend the next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council at Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham.

Father David explained that the Trowbridge deanery will be organising a series of Lent talks, and because of this and the Saint Mary's Chippenham Holy Week mission and the Calne Partnership of Churches Lent meetings, Lent talks will not be taking place at Saint Edmund's this year.

There have been no developments in relation to proving a rota of stewards for car parking. It was felt that the parking situation was now slightly better and no rota was required. Special arrangements will be made to provide car parking stewards for special occasions.

Teresa Quinn and Marie Sawyer had sorted out the books in the porch for children attending Mass. Bags for soft toys were available and Teresa Quinn would organise the soft toys so that these bags would be available for use. A note will be placed in the newsletter once these are ready. Discussion took place regarding support for parents with young children during Mass. The members of the Parish Pastoral Council were asked to be available to support such families by either sitting with them, and/or providing bags and books etc.

Recommissioning of Readers and Eucharistic Ministers would take place at Mass on Pentecost Sunday. It is hoped that a day of recollection for these ministers will be organised, perhaps at Saint Mary's School in Calne, on a Saturday in Lent.

Father David explained that it had been difficult to arrange for a deacon from the diocese to speak about vocations to the diaconate. It was suggested that an ex parishioner who is now a deacon could be invited to speak. Teresa Quinn and Jane Murphy agreed to try to arrange this.

It was reported that Teresa Quinn and Cari Depla had been working on the production of a leaflet for newcomers. It was agreed that the leaflet should contain ideas from both these Parish Pastoral Council members with basic information on the outside of the leaflet, and further information including details of reception of the sacraments, inside the leaflet.

Diocesan document “Parishes in Communion for Mission” – area meeting with Bishop Declan in February.

It was agreed that some five or six members of the Parish Pastoral Council would attend the area meeting with Bishop Declan at Saint Peter’s Parish, West Swindon on 8th February 2011 from 7.00.p.m. to 8.30.p.m. At this meeting parishes would be reporting on how the document was being implemented.

Father David notified the meeting that at the visitation of the Bishop on 26th – 27th November 2011 Bishop Declan wished to meet with the Parish Pastoral Council. Father David felt that it would be better if he, as Parish Priest, was not present at this meeting. It was agreed that the Council should meet prior to this meeting with the Bishop.

Celebration of marriage – special liturgy.

The diocese was holding a special event on 19th February but the Council agreed with Father David’s suggestion that the Sunday morning Mass on 1st May 2011 should include a special celebration of the vocation of marriage. Those celebrating special wedding anniversaries this year could be invited to play a special part in this liturgy. A parish buffet lunch could be organised at Marden House after the morning Mass. Anne Morgan-Jones agreed to organise the catering and Jane Murphy agreed to help organise the special liturgy.

Children’s sermons.

Father David explained that the Sunday morning Mass on 30th January 2011 would be organised to meet the needs of young children. Special readings would be used and the sermon focused on children. If successful this arrangement could perhaps be used three or four times each year.

National Youth Congress, March 2011, London, and World Youth Day, August 2011, Madrid.

Maria Wykes explained that the work of the parish youth team needed to become more structured than it is at present. It was agreed that a group of six or seven individuals from this youth team, perhaps with some of the parish youth, could attend the National Youth Congress in London in March 2011. The cost of attendance would be met by the parish.

It was agreed that rather than the parish providing some financial support for a young person to attend the World Youth Day in August 2011 in Madrid, it would be more appropriate to use these funds to support local parish youth work.

Other matters.

Mrs. Darts reported that the Fairtrade Fortnight takes place at the beginning of March and that attempts are being made to get Calne to become a Fairtrade town.

Tricia Davies reported that Calne Partnership of Churches is proposing to change the joint activities on Good Friday. Attendance at the procession of witness has declined and this year it will be replaced by a joint service at The John Bentley School on the morning of Good Friday. Volunteers are required to help with the distribution of leaflets and Easter eggs to houses within the town's Northern development on Palm Sunday.

Anne Morgan-Jones asked about the availability of confessions at times other than just prior to the Saturday evening Mass. Father David will include in the newsletter the fact that confession is also available 'upon request'. A penitential service will be organised for Lent this year.

Anne Morgan-Jones made the suggestion that a booklet or leaflet could perhaps be made available for funerals. It was agreed that nothing should be provided prior to the introduction of the new Missal later this year.

Teresa Quinn asked about the notice boards in the porch, pointing out that they were often untidy and confusing. Father David indicated that there are meant to be separate sections, for example for the school, parish notices, diocesan notices and general notices.

Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Sunday 10th April 2011 at 11.30.a.m.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 13.00.