

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2010

Present: Father David, John Cooke, Tricia Davies, Cari Depla, Anne Marie Goddard, Christine Martin, Anne Morgan-Jones, Jane Murphy, Maria Wykes, Paul Blake (Clerk).
Elizabeth Hitchens was also present.

Apologies: Clive Alabaster, Teresa Quinn, Emily Starosolsky.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th August 2010 were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising from the meeting held on 15th August 2010.

The meeting for those involved hospitality ministry had taken place and the new system was introduced this weekend. Those present expressed satisfaction with the new system of welcoming. Teresa Quinn had sent a message to the meeting stating that the leaflet for newcomers with details of Mass times, children's liturgy, and the school, should soon be available.

Maria Wykes reported that those involved in youth ministry in the parish had met for a day of planning. An audit of youth involvement within the parish had been carried out. An action plan based on social events, voluntary work, and liturgical worship will be drawn up. Richard Smith and Luke Willett will meet with younger parishioners to draft this action plan. Those involved in the parish youth ministry will comply with diocesan safeguarding checks and guidelines. Father David thanked this group for their work and stressed the importance of following diocesan safeguarding procedures.

To further links with Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham the following actions were proposed and accepted:

- Anne Morgan-Jones and Elizabeth Hitchens will attend the next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Mary's Chippenham and two representatives from Chippenham will be invited to the next meeting of Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council.
- Newsletters from each parish should be displayed on the notice boards of each parish.
- The youth groups of each parish could consider meeting together, with the respective parish youth leaders meeting first to consider this.
- Parishioners from Saint Mary's Chippenham should be invited to an evening Mass on Tuesday 16th November 2010, the Feast of Saint Edmund. Jane Murphy will plan the liturgy and refreshments will be made available in the hall after the Mass.

Father David reported on discussions held at the diocesan study day on Pastoral Councils. As a result of this it was agreed that the diocesan Deacons' Council should be invited to suggest a deacon and his wife to speak at Masses one weekend on the subject of vocations to the permanent diaconate.

Car parking at Sunday Mass

The issue of parking at Sunday morning Mass was discussed and the need for safe considerate parking and access to the front doors of the church, particularly in the case of emergency.

The possibility of extending the car parking width up to the hedge line in the front lawn would be discussed by the Finance Committee but extra tarmac would not be provided. It was noted that no permanent extension to the car park could be considered until long terms plans for the presbytery and adjoining land had been made.

Car parking stewards or marshals were considered, and it was noted that they would have to arrive early enough to organise the parking. Possible yellow box hatching from the entrance ramp to the pavement was also discussed.

It was agreed that an item should be included in the newsletter asking for volunteers to act as car parking stewards for Sunday mornings. A rota could then be drawn up. Car parking stewards would need to arrive before 9.30. a.m. and help ensure that cars were parked at the rear of the car park in the first instance, that cars were parked sensibly, and that the route from the front doors of the church to the pavement was not blocked. Car parking stewards would either need to remain on duty for a time after the start of Mass to assist latecomers with parking, or use cones to mark out non-parking areas.

Assistance for parents at Mass with young children.

Discussion took place about how best to assist parents at Mass with young children, particularly any support which could be given to families with young children attending Mass when one parent is unable to be present.

The following suggestions were made:

- the possibility of asking older teenagers to help parents with young children,
- the provision of bags with soft toys,
- the suggestions sent into the meeting by Emily Starosolsky that ‘welcomers’ could indicate to parents the children’s books in the porch and the dates of children’s liturgies,
- although not wishing to exclude anyone, if young children became extremely noisy or distressed they should be taken to the porch.

It was agreed that a series of items should be placed in the newsletter ensuring parents of young children of their welcome to Saint Edmund’s and outlining strategies based on the suggestions given above. Fearnley Martin will be asked to prepare these notes for the newsletters.

Other items.

An Advent Carol Service will be held again this year.

The proposed day for readers and Eucharistic ministers will be cancelled. A practical session for readers will be held after a Sunday Mass before Christmas, and a similar session held for Eucharistic ministers. A parish retreat or day of recollection for ministers will be planned, perhaps with an overnight stay.

Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Sunday 23rd January 2011 at 11.30.a.m.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 12.50.