

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2016

Present: Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, Christine Meyer, Lucie and Martin Grant, Teresa Quinn, (Chair), Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: John Cooke, and Noreen Berry, (representative from the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham).

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.30.p.m.

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2016.

These minutes were approved. There were no matters arising but Teresa Quinn commented upon the success of the celebrations on Saint Edmund's feast day.

Arrangements for Christmas Masses were confirmed. The 'family' Mass at 6.00.p.m. on Christmas Eve would follow the usual format, with the crib positioned to the side of the altar.

Teresa Quinn requested that a volunteer be found to decorate the Christmas tree.

Proposal to form a parish 'Parent and Toddler Group'.

Teresa Quinn welcomed Lucie and Martin Grant to the meeting. Lucie Grant had been invited to attend the meeting by Father Vincent to put forward her proposal to start a Parent and Toddler Group, meeting in the church hall. Lucie explained that she and other parents whose older children attended Saint Edmund's School went to various Parent and Toddler Groups and perhaps one such group could take place within the parish, meeting weekly in the church hall.

In discussions it was noted that providing that childcare was not involved, neither diocesan safeguarding checks nor Ofsted registration would be required. All present at the meeting supported the proposal and various practicalities were discussed.

It was agreed that Father Vincent would need to know who the 'named person' organising the group was and that a weekly register of attendees should be kept.

Lucie hoped to start the group in mid-February, with it perhaps meeting on Thursday mornings from 9.45.a.m. to 11.30.a.m. Lucie will arrange publicity and members present agreed to meet with Lucie if necessary to help tidy and prepare the hall. Father Vincent was happy for the disposal of books and DVDs at the rear of the hall to take place.

Sacramental preparation in 2017.

Reconciliation and First Communion:

It was understood that Mary Cooke would be willing to organise a similar programme to that held last year. A notice would be placed in the newsletter inviting parents to put forward children's names. It was agreed that First Communions would take place on Sunday, 21st May 2017.

Confirmation:

Father Vincent reported that 17 candidates had expressed a desire to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, 19th October 2017 at 7.00.p.m. Father Vincent would meet with John Cooke and Christine Martin in the new year to organise the programme of preparation.

Advent Service of Reconciliation.

Father Vincent reported that visiting priests would be available for such a service to be held on Friday, 16th December at 7.00.p.m. The format of this service, which would last for about one hour, was discussed.

Teresa Quinn volunteered to speak with Jane Murphy about providing music for the service.

Bible study/prayer programme from CaFE: ‘The Big Picture’.

Christine Martin provided written details of this adult faith formation course to start in the new year. The 13 week course would take place at Saint Edmund’s School on Monday evenings at 7.30.p.m. The course would start on Monday, 9th January 2017. Publicity would be arranged through the newsletter in December, someone speaking at the end of Masses and a printed flyer sheet.

A ‘core-group’ is needed to plan the sessions and additional volunteers are required to set up at the school and organise refreshments.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches.

Elizabeth Hitchens reported on events to mark Christian Unity Week in January to include:

- a shared lunch at the Methodist Church on Wednesday, 18th January,
- a prayer breakfast at the Baptist Church on Saturday, 21st January,
- a united service on Sunday, 22nd January at 4.00.p.m. at the Baptist Church,
- a prayer service at Saint Mary’s Parish Church on Tuesday, 24th January at 6.00.p.m.
- a prayer service at Saint Edmund’s Church on Wednesday, 25th January at 6.00.p.m.

Arrangements for the ‘live nativity’ at the Calne Christmas lights celebrations on Saturday, 3rd December were discussed.

Items from Saint Mary’s Parish, Chippenham.

Noreen Berry had provided a written report which included the following information:

Marriage guidance - Two other people will be stepping-in as Tessa and Ian MacCallum step-down due to Ian’s ill-health. It will be a new order of celebrating matrimony, the new programme will be “Marriage Care”, more details to follow of the programme in the New Year, which will probably be held four times a year in Swindon, and a welcome is also extended to anyone from Calne and Melksham parishes.

Confirmation - we have 5 groups preparing for Confirmation (22 youth and 2 adults).

First Communion- we have 6 groups (31 children in total).

Youth Choir - our Youth Choir will be singing along with our Folk Group at our Children’s Christmas Mass, for the first time this year.

Adult Catechesis - no courses for Advent or Lent are being planned - these were previously organised by Tessa and Ian MacCallum.

Visiting confessors for Christmas - we have 2 or 3 Priests visiting our church for hearing confessions this year.

Kitty’s Cafe - the main Kitty’s Cafe meets on 4th Wednesday of each month, whilst Kitty’s Cafe ‘Light’ meets on 2nd Wednesday of each month, where our Syrian friends are invited and Canon Millett sits alongside them for lunch. Kitty’s Cafe will, however, be meeting on the Friday rather than Wednesday in December.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would send a card to Ian MacCallum. Elizabeth Hitchens volunteered to organise this.

Other matters.

Christine Martin drew attention to the diocesan catechists’ course to be held at Trowbridge.

Paul Blake asked that consideration be given as to how transport could be arranged for parishioners to get to Mass on Sundays.

Tricia Davies drew attention to the Friends of Saint Edmund’s School Christmas Fayre to be held at the school on Friday, 2nd December.

Next meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Thursday, 9th February 2017, at 7.30.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45.p.m. with a prayer.