

# **Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

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**Present:** Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, Christine Meyer, Anne Morgan-Jones, Rob Pickford, Teresa Quinn, (Chair) and Ian MacCallum, (representative from the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham).  
Paul Blake (Clerk).

**Apologies:** John Cooke

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

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2016.**

There were no matters arising from these minutes. It was reported that the various liturgies over Holy Week and Easter went well and thanks were offered to Elizabeth Hitchens for arranging for the banners of the Stations of the Cross to be displayed in the town.

### **Induction of Parish Priest.**

The induction of Father Vincent as Parish Priest will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at a Mass at 7.00.p.m. Father Vincent reported that this will take place by Father Michael Queenan the new Dean, and that the induction is seen as a deanery rather than a diocesan occasion. A reception will be held after the Mass at the school. Teresa Quinn offered to liaise with the school and Anne Morgan-Jones offered to organise a list for the catering and the production of the Mass booklet. Father Vincent reported that he had chosen hymns and would welcome the involvement and participation of the school.

### **Parish event for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.**

It was agreed that a parish day pilgrimage to one of the diocesan 'Doors of Mercy', either at Downside Abbey or Prinknash Abbey, should be planned for a Saturday in July or September. Ian MacCallum indicated that the Parish of Saint Mary's Chippenham would wish to join with this if possible. Anne Morgan-Jones volunteered to try to secure a date with either venue and to find someone within the parish to organise this event.

Looking to the future Father Vincent said that he would like to see some sort of parish pilgrimage every two years, perhaps over a week and to an international place of pilgrimage. He requested that someone with the necessary organisational skills take responsibility for organising this.

### **The report from the Pastoral Council to Father Vincent based upon the 14 areas in 'Called to be a People of Hope'.**

In the Parish Handover Document prepared by the Pastoral Council for Father Vincent some areas were identified where it was felt that the parish could do more. These were discussed in turn as follows:

- The prayer life of the parish:  
Father Vincent expressed a strong desire that there should be a Prayer Group in the parish. It was noted that such a group had existed in the past. After discussion Christine Martin agreed to consider the organisation of such a group.
- Ecumenism:  
It was agreed that some concerns previously expressed by the Pastoral Council over the lack of ecumenical co-operation within the town have now largely been allayed. Father Vincent reported that the Ministers within the town are planning to meet regularly.
- Youth ministry:  
It was reported that nothing specific within this area had been in place for the last year. Ian MacCallum spoke of the monthly 'Youth Mass' celebrated at Chippenham. Discussion took place over the difference between trying to provide activities for the youth of the parish and the full integration of young people in the life of the parish and the giving of opportunities to exercise ministry within the parish. Teresa Quinn invited all members to reflect on this, and to encourage younger parishioners to become active members of the parish through involvement in its various ministries.

- Acting justly:  
All agreed that the parish 'New Covenant with the Poor' needs to be revisited. Father Vincent stressed the importance of this aspect of the life of the Church and the desirability of having a specific 'Parish Project'. He made reference to the 'Borderlands Charity' in Bristol offering support for refugees and asylum seekers. It was agreed that the review of the 'New Covenant with the Poor' should take place at the next meeting of the Pastoral Council with a view to adopting a particular 'Parish Project' at the start of Advent.
- Interfaith dialogue:  
It was agreed that there are limited opportunities within the local area at the present time.

### **Recruitment of a Sacristan and an additional MC for servers.**

To date no new Sacristan has been found. An adult volunteer has come forward to assist with Altar Serving at the Saturday evening Masses. There is a need to recruit another volunteer to assist with Altar Serving at the Sunday morning Masses.

### **Items from Calne Partnership of Churches.**

Elizabeth Hitchens reported on some of the future planned activities of the Calne Partnership of Churches as follows:

Sunday 15th May Pentecost Sunday. Evensong with the Bishop of Salisbury at Saint Mary's Parish Church at 4.00.p.m.

Saturday 3rd December. Annual town Christmas lantern parade with a Nativity event for the Guinness Book of Records.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 4.00.p.m. Ecumenical Taizé Prayer Service at Saint Edmund's Church.

### **Items from Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham.**

Ian MacCallum reported that the Easter Masses at Saint Mary's Chippenham were very well supported. On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May a visiting speaker will be at Saint Mary's as part of the Marian Prayer Group. Details will be provided later to be published in the newsletter. A planning application has been submitted to improve access to the church.

### **Other matters.**

- Parish Census. Census forms will be available from this weekend. After this the Welcomers are asked to invite parishioners to complete forms. A supply of census forms will be kept available in the porch for new parishioners.
- Parish Pastoral Council membership. There are spaces for some new members of the Parish Pastoral Council. It was noted that it would be good to have some greater representation of the youth of the parish and representation by those who lead charitable fund raising.
- Safeguarding for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. It was reported that the national and diocesan safeguarding offices are requiring all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to undertake recruitment and Disclosure and Barring Service safeguarding checks. Paul Blake as the Parish Safeguarding Representative will organise these checks over the forthcoming months.
- New hangings for the lectern. Anne Morgan-Jones reported that new hangings are to be made for the lectern stand and sought financial help from parish funds to finance materials. Father Vincent agreed to this request.
- Confirmations in 2017. It is hoped that Confirmations will be celebrated in the parish in the autumn of 2017. Father Vincent will try to secure a date with the Bishop.
- Plant Sale. Teresa Quinn agreed to organise a plant sale to support parish funds.
- Barn Dance. Rob Pickford gave details of a parish Barn Dance to be held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June and requested help from a committee to plan this. It was reported that at the last meeting of the Finance Committee Chris Drury had volunteered to co-ordinate parish social and fund raising activities.

### **Next meeting:**

The next meeting was planned for Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 7.30.p.m. in the church hall. The meeting closed at 9.15.p.m. with a prayer.