

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

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

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**Present:** Father Vincent, John Cooke, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, Teresa Quinn, (Chair),  
Paul Blake (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Christine Meyer.

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

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017.**

These minutes were approved.

Teresa Quinn reported that the parish questionnaire response document, arising from Bishop Declan's Pastoral Letter, had been sent. To date no reply or acknowledgement had been received from the Bishop. It was reported that some 12 or 13 people had expressed an interest in a parish pilgrimage. Father Vincent hoped that final numbers would reach 30. The list will remain in place in the church porch.

### **Sacramental preparation.**

Reconciliation and First Communion:

The programme of preparation continues with 5 candidates. The Sacrament of Reconciliation had been celebrated for the first time; it was noted it was regrettable that the date had not been publicised more widely.

Confirmation:

The first meeting with the 18 candidates will be held on Friday, with a further meeting scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> April. Kim Parsons and Dawn Straker Cook had volunteered to help; both have the necessary diocesan safeguarding clearances. A residential weekend is planned for 30<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October. Christine Martin asked about Health and Safety Risk Assessments for the use of the church hall and Safeguarding Procedures for the residential visit. Paul Blake agreed to provide the necessary forms for Safeguarding and it was noted that Martin Hinnigan, the parish Health and Safety Representative, should be able to provide the necessary Health and Safety Risk Assessments for the use of the church hall.

The possibility of holding a special liturgy to enable the parish to pray for the candidates was discussed later in the meeting, perhaps near Pentecost. It was also suggested that a 'prayer card' could be produced to distribute to parishioners.

### **Parish updates.**

**CaFE programme: 'The Big Picture'.**

Christine Martin reported upon this adult faith formation course taking place at Saint Edmund's School on Monday evenings at 7.30.p.m. The course had been well received and had been successful. It was agreed that it might be desirable to seek some form of evaluation from those who have attended.

### **The Parish Project.**

Teresa Quinn reported that the parish charity project for the year 'Embrace the Middle East' had raised just over £ 800 to date. Those attending the Friday 'Lent Lunches' had been generous in their donations.

### **Youth Lent Reflections.**

This diocesan event is to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in the evening at the church. Invitation cards had been printed and were being distributed to young people. It was agreed that Christine Martin would contact the diocesan youth service to see if any preparations need to be made for this event.

### **Plans for Holy Week and Easter.**

Father Vincent reported that the Easter Vigil would start at 8.30.p.m. and that Stations of the Cross would be held on Good Friday morning. Teresa Quinn agreed to draw up the rota of readers, ministers etc. Father Vincent would seek to secure altar servers and organise the necessary training.

### **Access for the disabled.**

It was noted that it may be necessary to allocate more designated car parking spaces to enable ease of access for disabled parishioners attending Mass. Various options were discussed and it was agreed that this matter should be referred to the Finance Committee and Martin Hinnigan the parish Health and Safety Representative.

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

Elizabeth Hitchens reported that Rosemary Addington had agreed to act as an additional parish representative to attend the Calne Partnership of Churches meetings. The Stations of the Cross banners will be displayed at various locations within the town during Holy Week and the Good Friday procession will start from Saint Edmund's Church and end at Calne Methodist Church. A 'Songs of Praise' event will take place on The Green on the afternoon of Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and an ecumenical walk will take place in August.

### **Links with Saint Mary's Parish, Chippenham.**

An email had been received from Noreen Berry, a representative from Saint Mary's Parish in Chippenham indicating that in the light of the Bishops' consultation on the future of the diocese and parish links it would no longer be appropriate for her to attend meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council at Saint Edmund's.

### **Other matters.**

Elizabeth Hitchens informed the meeting that the Marlborough Passion Play being held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in the afternoon.

Teresa Quinn noted that there is still a need for additional Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at the Saturday evening Masses. Father Vincent reported that he had approached several parishioners, but with little success to date. He agreed to approach others about undertaking this ministry.

### **Next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7.30.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40.p.m. with a prayer.