

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Pastoral Councils of
Saint Anthony of Padua, Melksham and Saint Edmund, Calne
held on Thursday 8th November 2018
at Saint Edmund's Church Hall, Calne.**

Present: Father Vincent Curtis,
From Saint Edmund's: Elizabeth Hitchens, Tricia Davies, Kathleen Joyce,
Christine Martin, Anne Morgan-Jones, Teresa Quinn, (Chair), Paul Blake (Clerk).
From Saint Anthony's: Anne Doyle, Gay Harris, Mary Harris, Sharon Pearce,
Mary Rooney, Susan Whyte.

Apologies received from: Helen Murphy, (Saint Edmund's), Henie Dixon, Gervase O'Donohoe,
(Saint Anthony's)

The meeting opened with a scripture reading and a prayer at 7.35.p.m.

Teresa Quinn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of meeting held on 21st June 2018:

The minutes of the joint meeting held on 21st June 2018 were read and approved.

Items from Father Vincent:

Father Vincent checked that representatives from both parishes would be able to attend the two diocesan events planned to launch the 'Year of Prayer': the study day on Saturday 10th November 2018 at St Brendan's College, Brislington, and the celebration of Evening Prayer on Tuesday 27th November at 7.00.p.m. at Clifton Cathedral.

Father Vincent reported that he had attended a sick call to a nursing home in Melksham, and that on Remembrance Sunday he would need to leave Melksham promptly to avoid road closures.

The blessing of graves would take place on the afternoon of Sunday 11th November at Calne.

Times of Christmas Masses were announced and it was agreed that notice of the changed Mass times at Saint Edmund's would need to be well publicised.

Father Vincent reported on an announcement made by Bishop Declan at the Council of Priests meeting held on the previous day. The number of diocesan priests under the age of 75 in 2021 is expected to be in the region of 42 – 46. Each deanery is being asked to come up with a plan; there will be 4 diocesan priests under the age of 75 allocated to the Trowbridge deanery. This topic will be discussed at the next deanery meeting to be held at Frome on Tuesday 13th November 2018.

A general, wide ranging and lengthy discussion followed with contributions from very many members. Some members spoke of possible links between individual parishes and others of the need to look at the role of parishes and deaneries themselves. It was noted that the Bishop's announcement did not seem to accord with the timetable announced in the diocesan document 'A Future Full of Hope'.

There was general concern expressed that there might be a lack of involvement by lay people in drafting a 'deanery plan'. The members present requested that Father Vincent communicate this concern to the clergy at the forthcoming deanery meeting, with the request that there should be involvement by lay people in any deanery planning and response to the Bishop. Father Vincent agreed to bring this to the attention of the deanery clergy.

Discussion on possible shared events:

It was agreed to hold two joint prayer events in Advent to mark the start of the diocesan 'Year of Prayer': at Saint Edmund's on Sunday 9th December 2018 from 3.00.p.m. to 4.00.p.m., and at Saint Anthony's on Sunday 16th December 2018 from 3.00.p.m. to 4.00.p.m. Anne Morgan-Jones and Elizabeth Hitchens agreed to plan the event at Saint Edmund's.

Any other business:

Mary Rooney reported that a parishioner from Saint Edmund's is seeking some form of sacramental preparation prior to the baptism of a child which is due to take place abroad in January. Saint Anthony's parish uses the 'With You Always' scheme of preparation and four parishioners from Saint Edmund's are currently undertaking diocesan training in connection with preparation for baptism. It was agreed that the parishioner who requested the sacramental preparation would be invited to Saturday evening Masses at Saint Edmund's and then to refreshments and meetings in the church hall for three sessions, (possibly 8th, 15th and 22nd December). These meetings would be attended by two parishioners from Saint Anthony's who have used the preparation programme, and two parishioners from Saint Edmund's who are currently undertaking the training.

Date of next joint meeting:

The next joint meeting of the two Parish Pastoral Councils will be held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019 at 7.30.p.m. at Saint Anthony's at Melksham.

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