

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

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

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

**Apologies:** Tricia Davies

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.35.p.m.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2016.**

These minutes were approved. Father Vincent reported that an adult altar server was now available to act as MC at the Saturday evening Masses, but no adult volunteer had yet come forward to assist Charles Taylor at the Sunday morning Masses.

### **Forthcoming events.**

Father Vincent's induction as Parish Priest – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June:

Plans which had been made for this event and the reception at the school were discussed.

Diocesan study day on the 'Alpha' course – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July:

A discussion took place on the desirability or otherwise of holding an Alpha course; many of those present reported upon their own experiences of such courses. It was agreed that an item would be placed in the weekly newsletter informing parishioners of the diocesan study day in July.

Diocesan pilgrimage to Glastonbury – Sunday 10th July:

Elizabeth Hitchens volunteered to look into the possibility hiring a coach to take parishioners to this event, perhaps sharing with Chippenham. It was agreed that an item would go in the weekly newsletter advertising the event and inviting parishioners to sign on a list if they would be interested in going by coach.

Calne Heritage Week: church open day – Saturday 10th September:

As part of Calne Heritage Week the church will be open to visitors on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00.a.m. to 4.00.p.m. Elizabeth Hitchens has organised a rota of parishioners to be present at the church during the day to act as stewards.

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

It was agreed that a parish day pilgrimage to Downside Abbey would take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Anne Morgan-Jones reported on the proposed timetable as follows:

Arrival at Downside Abbey at 10.00.a.m.

Welcome and celebration of Mass followed by Confessions.

Mid-day Divine Office and picnic lunch.

Tour of the Abbey church.

Afternoon tea and departure at 3.00.p.m.

An item announcing the date of the pilgrimage will be included in the weekly newsletter. Once final arrangements have been confirmed, including the price to be charged for coach transport and afternoon tea, and the departure time, a further item will be included in the newsletter and a poster displayed. At this stage Father Vincent will speak at Masses about the importance of this parish pilgrimage and tickets will be sold. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to celebrate Morning Prayer from the Divine Office on the coach. Details of this pilgrimage will be shared with Saint Mary's Parish Chippenham.

Father Vincent expressed the hope that very many parishioners will take part in this pilgrimage; if necessary a second coach will be booked.

It was agreed later in the meeting that a further meeting to confirm final arrangements for the day will be held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30.p.m.

### **Review of the Parish ‘Covenant with the Poor’.**

The commitments set out in the Parish ‘Covenant with the Poor’ made in 1999 were discussed. It was agreed that the practice of having a particular ‘Parish Project’ for a charitable cause each year should be reinstated. This will take place at the start of Advent this year and individuals will be given the opportunity, at a parish meeting, to advocate specific charities for the parish to adopt.

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

Elizabeth Hitchens reported that there had not been a meeting of the Calne Partnership of Churches since the last meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council.

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

Ian MacCallum reported as follows: two Masses were held in May to celebrate First Holy Communion. A newly established youth choir has been formed. Kitty’s Café continues to serve lunches once a month. The Marian Prayer Group meets on the first Saturday each month. The parish is attending the second anniversary celebrations of the Divine Retreat Centre at their Centre at Ramsgate. Chippenham Churches Together is organising a Family Fun Day at John Coles Park on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> June which will include a joint service.

### **Other matters.**

Elizabeth Hitchens reported that a Town Civic Service will be held at Saint Mary’s Parish Church on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate the Queen’s birthday.

A discussion was held on how best to ensure that the elderly, lonely and housebound are being visited. Christine Meyer reported that she would be meeting with the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who take Communion to housebound parishioners.

Anne Morgan-Jones requested that consideration be given to the style, format and content of the weekly newsletter; perhaps to include the names of individuals due to undertake various ministries. The constraints on space for contents within the present newsletter were noted. Paul Blake reported that the preparation and publication of the weekly newsletter was about to return to being undertaken ‘in-house’ at the Presbytery.

It was reported that the recently established Bible Study Group had been well attended for the first two meetings.

Christine Martin reported that she hoped to be in position to start a parish Prayer Group from September.

Father Vincent reported that he will request that the Bishop attend the parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2017.

The possibility of organising some sort of adult formation course later in the year was discussed briefly. Christine Martin spoke highly of the Life in the Spirit Course ‘The Gift’.

### **Next meeting:**

The next meeting was planned for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at 7.30.p.m. in the church hall, specifically to discuss the parish pilgrimage to Downside Abbey.

The next substantive meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.30.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00.p.m. with a prayer.