

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Pastoral Councils of
Saint Anthony of Padua, Melksham and Saint Edmund, Calne
held on Thursday 17th October 2019
at Saint Edmund's Church Hall, Calne.**

Present: Father Vincent Curtis,
From Saint Edmund's: Tricia Davies, Kathleen Joyce, Christine Martin, Helen
Murphy, Teresa Quinn, Derek Quinn, Paul Blake (Clerk).
From Saint Anthony's: Anne Doyle, Gay Harris, Mary Harris, Sharon Pearce.

Apologies received from: Elizabeth Hitchens, Tony Matthews, Rob Pickford, (Saint Edmund's),
Henie Dixon, Gervase O'Donohoe, Mary Rooney, Susan Whyte, (Saint
Anthony's)

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

Christine Martin took the Chair for the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Minutes of meeting held on 3rd April 2019

The minutes of the joint meeting held on 3rd April 2019 were approved. There were no matters arising.

Future plans for the Trowbridge Deanery.

The reply from the Deanery Clergy to the letter sent from Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council was discussed. Members expressed disappointment and concern with the tone and content of the reply. Father Vincent reported that he had been told that nominations for membership of the 'Wisdom Group' from each parish should be made by mid-December with a view to the group first meeting in January, and that the group itself was part of a 'process'.

Many members contributed to the discussion and the following points were made: that wider issues such as schools and care homes need to be considered and the plans not restricted to times of Masses, that it was essential that a 'final report' was published, that there are signs of a breakdown of trust between the laity and clergy, that the reply received was "ridiculous" and "insulting", that 'Terms of Reference' for the group will be needed before parishioners can be in a position to volunteer to serve on the group, and that the positivity expressed at the June Deanery meeting with David Wells seems to have diminished.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Dean on behalf of both Parish Pastoral Councils requesting a meeting with the Dean and Father Tom Finnegan to go through the responses of the Deanery Clergy in detail. The meeting to be held at Saint Anthony's, Melksham at 2.00.p.m. on either Tuesday 12th November, Friday 15th November, Tuesday 19th November or Thursday 21st November.

Discussion on possible shared events in Advent:

It was agreed that joint shared prayer/reflection services would be held in Advent as follows:

Sunday 8th December at 3.00.p.m. at Saint Edmund's, Calne.

Sunday 15th December at 3.00.p.m. at Saint Anthony's, Melksham.

Each service would last approximately one hour and be followed by refreshments.

Review of the joint working of the two Parish Pastoral Councils over the past year and recommendations regarding future working:

Those present all agreed that the joint working over the past year had been successful, and Father Vincent reported that things were working well in both parishes and that he was receiving good help from parishioners in both Calne and Melksham.

It was noted that having attended the 'Mothers' Prayers' meeting at Saint Anthony's, parishioners from Saint Edmund's had established a similar group at Calne.

Initial concerns expressed a year ago about changes to Sunday Mass times had largely been alleviated, although difficulties remained for some parishioners.

It was agreed that the lessons which have been learnt over the past year with the joint working of the two parishes with one priest could usefully be shared with any 'Wisdom Group'. The importance of good clear communication from the outset of any changes was noted.

Items from Father Vincent:

Father Vincent reported that good attendance was expected at the Diocesan Study Day for the 'Year of Communion' on Saturday 19th October and that it was important that each parish was represented at the Diocesan Evening Prayer on Friday 22nd November at the Cathedral.

Any other business:

Tricia Davies reported on a successful Parish Pilgrimage from Saint Edmund's to Santiago de Compostela last year and gave details of a pilgrimage to Kraków which is being organised for four nights next year, (21st to 25th September 2020), with daytime flights to and from Bristol. Details of this pilgrimage, open to parishioners from both Saint Edmund's and Saint Anthony's, will be advertised in November.

Dates of future joint meetings:

Joint meetings will be held as follows:

Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7.30.p.m. at Saint Anthony's, Melksham,

Thursday 15th October 2020 at 7.30.p.m. at Saint Edmund's, Calne.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 8.35.p.m.