

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Draft minutes of a meeting held on 11th November 2021

Present: Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, Tony Matthews, Helen Murphy, Brigid Rodgers, (Chair).
Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: Kathleen Joyce, Rob Pickford, Teresa Quinn.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.00.p.m.

Minutes of meeting held on 2nd September 2021:

These minutes were approved. Since this meeting Brigid Rodgers had spoken with Jane Murphy who confirmed that arrangements for music at Sunday Masses were in hand. Father Vincent had contacted those who arrange the flowers and Christine Martin had sourced a projector for the parish.

Minutes of meeting with Louise Brown, the Headteacher of Saint Edmund's School held on 6th October 2021.

These minutes were approved. Since this meeting Brigid Rodgers had contacted Sharon Pearce regarding items about the school attending Masses being placed in the newsletter. Tricia Davies had not heard from the school regarding attending FOSE meetings; Brigid Rodgers said that she would contact the Headteacher about this, however later in the meeting Tricia Davies undertook to contact the school herself. Brigid Rodgers understood that the school would soon be updating the notice board in the church porch, and Paul Blake reported that those who compose the Prayer of the Faithful were being asked to include an intercession once a month for the school community.

Steps to re-build and re-energise the parish:

A meeting for readers will take place on Saturday 15th January 2022 at Saint Edmund's School, to be led by Father Michael Fountaine, parish priest of Chippenham and Corsham; the meeting will be open to all parishioners. (It was noted that there is a shortage of readers at the Saturday evening Mass and Father Vincent reported that with only 21-25 persons attending each week the Bishop had suggested that it be discontinued.)

No details had been received regarding a future meeting for newcomers; Brigid Rodgers undertook to contact Teresa Quinn about this.

It was reported that Gabrielle Pickford will commence children's Liturgy of the Word for Advent starting on Sunday 28th November.

Christine Martin had received the DVD and book for the CaFE course on Celtic Spirituality; it was agreed that this course should take place during Lent 2022.

An open parish meeting will be held directly after the end of the Sunday morning Mass on the First Sunday of Advent, 28th November, to choose a charitable Parish Project for 2022. Paul Blake will ask Sharon Pearce to place an item in the newsletter about this.

It was agreed that a parish shared lunch should be postponed until the Spring.

Father Vincent confirmed that the Sign of Peace without physical contact can be reintroduced at Masses.

Elizabeth Hitchens suggested some sort of joint activity with the parishioners of Saint Anthony's, Melksham. It was agreed that this could take place in the Summer when the presbytery garden could be used.

Parish participation in the Synod: “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission”:

A wide-ranging discussion took place on the Synod, its purpose, and the arrangements for participation at a parish and diocesan level. Further guidance from the diocese is expected to be forthcoming. Since the period for local consultation has been extended from April 2022 to August 2022 it was decided to place this item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Update on data protection issues:

With a view to ascertaining future training needs, especially with respect to safeguarding, the diocese was collecting information from all parishes regarding the names of volunteers and volunteer roles. Those parishioners who use personal computers to process personal data relating to parishioners were reminded of the need to comply with diocesan policies, and Paul Blake undertook to ask Sharon Pearce to update the relevant parish list.

Discussion on the Parish Pastoral Council’s work, membership, purpose, and operation:

Brigid Rodgers referred to the formation of the Parish Pastoral Council and its membership. A discussion took place as to whether there were aspects of the parish’s pastoral activity which are not represented within the current membership of the Parish Pastoral Council, and perhaps should be. It was noted that there was a shortage of catechists within the parish at present, particularly for future Confirmation preparation programmes. A suggestion was made that perhaps the members of the Parish Pastoral Council could take part in a day of recollection when, away from the parish, a more detailed discussion could take place regarding how the Parish Pastoral Council fulfils its three-fold purpose as set out in its Terms of Reference and the diocesan ‘Called to be a People of Hope’ document.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches:

Elizabeth Hitchens undertook to establish whether the Partnership of Churches Advent ‘Zoom’ service is going ahead, and if it is, to place an item regarding this in the parish newsletter.

Any other business:

Teresa Quinn had written asking about the arrangements for Masses at Christmas and suggesting that if the Christmas Eve ‘Family Mass’ were not to take place a Crib Service in the week before Christmas be held. Father Vincent indicated that the Christmas Eve ‘Family Mass’ with the placing of crib figures will take place as usual at 5.00.p.m. but asked that the music for this Mass be changed this year as the same carols and hymns have been used for several years. There would also be a Christmas Eve Night Mass at 10.00.p.m. and a Christmas Morning Mass at 11.00.a.m. Since Christmas Day falls on a Saturday there would be no Saturday evening Mass and a Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 26th December at 11.00.a.m. It was agreed that since numbers attending these Masses may be greater than usual two Stewards should be at each Mass to ensure adequate ventilation, encourage some social distancing, and to marshal the Communion processions. Paul Blake undertook to contact Teresa Quinn about these matters.

It was reported that three families will be taking part in the Baptism preparation course. Paul Blake was asked to contact Frances and Neil Towers about next year’s First Communion preparation programme. Tricia Davies requested that Father Vincent unlock the church prior to the Saturday evening Mass since it was difficult to access the keys in the dark.

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th January 2022 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting ended at 8.30.p.m. with a closing prayer.