

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council
Draft minutes of a meeting held on 20th January 2022

Present: Father Vincent, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, Helen Murphy, Teresa Quinn, Brigid Rodgers, (Chair).
Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: Kathleen Joyce, Rob Pickford.

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

Minutes of meeting held on 11th November 2021.

These minutes were approved.

Matters arising:

The levels of attendance at Christmas Masses were low; it was suggested that they might have been higher if a booking system had been in place. Consideration as to whether a booking system should be in place for the Holy Week and Easter services will be given at the next meeting.

The children's Liturgy of the Word was offered at the Sunday morning Masses during Advent, but no children attended. Brigid Rodgers agreed to contact the school to see if an item could be placed in the school newsletter inviting families to Mass.

Report from the meeting with Readers held on 15th January 2022 and plans for the meetings with Welcomers to be held on 29th and 30th January 2022.

The meeting for readers took place on Saturday 15th January 2022 at Saint Edmund's School, led by Father Michael Fountaine, the parish priest of Chippenham and Corsham. The meeting was well received. A sheet detailing the main points made at the meeting will be prepared by Paul Blake with a view to it being shared with those readers who did not attend.

Meetings for welcomers will be held after Masses on Saturday 29th January 2022 and Sunday 30th January 2022. Some suggested main issues to be noted at these meetings included:

the importance of this ministry in offering a friendly welcome to all, which goes far beyond the handing out of Mass sheets, newsletters, or hymn books,

welcomers remaining in the porch for some time after the start of Mass to welcome those arriving late, welcomers knowing where specific items in the porch are kept, (children's books, Station of the Cross leaflets, parish census forms, Mass offering cards, gift aid envelopes, etc.)

welcomers being in the porch at the end of Mass to say farewell, and to ensure that both main doors are secured open.

Sacramental preparation: Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations.

A three-week Baptism preparation course for parents will start on Sunday 30th January 2022 at 10.15.a.m. in the church hall. Some 3 or 4 families are expected to take part and a new volunteer catechist will attend.

The preparation course for First Communions will start on Sunday 13th February at 10.15.a.m. in the church hall. Some 6 or 7 children and families are expected to take part. First Communions will be celebrated on Sunday 19th June 2022.

There are no plans for a preparation course for Confirmations at present since no eligible young people are attending Masses.

The Parish Project for 2022, The Harbour Project.

At the open parish meeting held on 28th November 2021 The Harbour Project was chosen as the parish charitable project for 2022. It was agreed that Lent Lunches will take place to support this project and Teresa Quinn volunteered to organise a parish raffle and to place an item in the newsletter about this. Brigid Rodgers agreed to contact Maria Wykes who proposed this charity to see if she has further ideas for fund raising.

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

Father Vincent reported that no volunteers had come forward to act as ‘parish facilitators’ for the envisaged listening process. He outlined the process being undertaken at Saint Anthony’s Parish, Melksham which is based on diocesan guidelines and the process being used at Saint John’s Parish, Bath. Christine Martin volunteered to attend the deanery meeting about the Synod being held on 5th February 2022 at Saint John’s Trowbridge, and to report back to the Parish Pastoral Council.

The CaFE course on Celtic Spirituality.

Christine Martin reported that this course will take place in the church hall on five Wednesdays in Lent, starting on 9th March 2022. Information will be placed in the newsletter and on the parish website and a speaker at the end of Masses will publicise the course.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches.

Elizabeth Hitchens reported on the last meeting of the Calne Partnership of Churches where the dates of forthcoming meetings were agreed, including one to be hosted by Saint Edmund’s on 16th July 2022. For the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Compline will be celebrated via Zoom on 21st January 2022. There is a new Chairperson in place and the Rev. Bob Kenway will be retiring in July 2022.

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17th March 2022 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall.

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