

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council
Draft minutes of a meeting held on 26th May 2022

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

Apologies: Tricia Davies.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.45.p.m.

Minutes of meeting held on 17th March 2022.

These minutes were approved.

Matters arising:

Thanks were offered to Christine Martin for organising the Lent course.

The Lenten Challenge envelopes in aid of the Parish Project have been collected.

Members were pleased with the re-ordering of the church porch area.

An event is to be held at Clifton Cathedral on 22nd June 2022 to distribute the diocesan Synod report.

All dioceses in England and Wales, except Clifton, have already published their Synod reports, and the first draft of the national report is being published on 1st June 2022.

Sacramental preparation: Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations.

Several Baptisms have either taken place or are booked to take place. A further preparation course is planned. Christine Martin will place an item in the newsletter asking if any other families wish to join this next preparation course.

Children had celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and First Communions will be celebrated on Sunday 19th June 2022. Frances Towers had indicated that she wishes to stand down as the organiser of future programmes of preparation. A new catechist will need to be sought.

An enquiry had been made to Father Vincent regarding Confirmations. It may be that if there are sufficient candidates next year Confirmations could take place jointly with Melksham parish.

Possible meeting of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion taking Communion to the sick and housebound.

Father Michael Fountaine, parish priest of Chippenham and Corsham, had indicated that he will contact Father Vincent with a possible date for a renewal and refresher meeting for the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. It was noted that the list in the sacristy needs updating, and Kathleen Joyce agreed to action this.

Notes for Welcomers.

A draft note was circulated. With some minor amendments this was agreed and will be distributed to Welcomers and placed on the church porch notice board. A list of those willing to take the offertory collection at Saturday evening Masses should be drawn up.

A request was made for a card reader for cashless donations to be made available in the porch. This will be referred to the Finance Committee.

Parish Barn Dance.

This will take place at Upper Farm, Cherhill on Friday 1st July 2022 from 7.00.p.m.to 10.30.p.m.

Implications of the Bishops of England and Wales invitation to return to Sunday Mass from Pentecost.

It was agreed that no further action is required.

Music for Christmas and Easter services.

Father Vincent expressed concern that no musicians were available for the Christmas Eve family Mass, Holy Thursday, or Good Friday. It was agreed that Father Vincent should place an item in the newsletter asking if any other musicians are available to help with parish liturgies.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches.

A town event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is planned at the Parish Church on Sunday 5th June 2022.

Any other business

Teresa Quinn expressed a wish to relinquish responsibility for compiling the church rotas. Brigid Rodgers agreed to take on this responsibility. A list will be placed in the church porch for additional parishioners to volunteer for various ministries.

It was noted that both the Headteacher and Assistant headteacher of Saint Edmund's Primary School were leaving their posts at the end of the current academic year, and that interviews to appoint a new Headteacher and Deputy headteacher had been held earlier in the current week. Concern was expressed that the Governors of the school had not informed the wider parish community of these developments nor placed recruitment advertisements in the church newsletter to attract suitable candidates. Many members expressed disquiet that Father Vincent, as the Parish Priest, had not been invited to attend the Headship interviews.

Following a request, Father Vincent agreed to return to distributing Holy Communion in the traditional manner, saying 'The Body of Christ' to each Communicant.

In future any Mass intentions will be posted in the newsletter.

Specific Mass offering envelopes are not available, except in the month of November, but Mass offering cards are available in the porch.

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21st July 2022 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall. Elizabeth Hitchens will organise the Scripture reading for this meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.40.p.m. with a closing prayer.