

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council
Draft minutes of a meeting held on 21st July 2022

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

Apologies: Kathleen Joyce.

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

Minutes of meeting held on 26th May 2022.

These minutes were approved.

Matters arising from these minutes:

It is hoped that a day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion can be planned for September or October.

The appeal for readers and welcomers had not resulted in any new volunteers, although some parishioners who already undertake a voluntary role had come forward. Father Vincent was asked to place an item in the newsletter seeking any additional musicians.

The Finance Committee had considered card payment systems but decided against them since there were rental and commission costs involved. Tricia Davies was asked to go back to the Finance Committee about this matter and to suggest that in the autumn an appeal could be made for parishioners to donate via Direct Debit or increase present Direct Debits. At such an appeal additional volunteers could be called for to undertake various ministries in the parish or organise new activities, and a reminder given about the 'sign up' volunteer lists in the porch.

Update on the Parish Project.

Thanks were expressed to the Pickford family for organising the Barn Dance which was a great success and raised £892 for the Harbour Project. Victoria Nye is planning a concert in aid of the Harbour Project on 15th October 2022.

New catechists for the sacramental preparation programmes.

New catechists are needed for the First Communion and Confirmation preparation programmes. Father Vincent will find out about diocesan training.

Any matters arising from the diocesan and national Synod summary reports.

These reports were discussed; it was noted that the 'listening phase' was appreciated but there were some concerns about what the next steps might be. There was no immediate action needed to be taken within the parish.

Storage and furnishings in church hall now that a Parent and Toddler group has started meeting in the hall.

It was agreed that the storage area in the hall needs sorting and tidying. This could be undertaken jointly with members of the Finance Committee. Tricia Davies will liaise with Finance Committee members about this and see if funds are available for the provision of new folding tables. If such funds are available, then the owners of the present tables will be contacted about how to proceed with disposal.

Possible links with Saint Anthony's Parish, Melksham.

It was agreed that it would be desirable to contact the Parish Council of Saint Anthony's to see if future joint meetings should be arranged.

Possible future invitation to meet with the new Headteacher of Saint Edmund's School.

A new Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher have been appointed to take up their posts at Saint Edmund's School in September. The school Business Manager is retiring at the end of this term. It was suggested that the Parish Pastoral Council should invite the new Headteacher to a meeting in the autumn.

Tricia Davies reported that she had not had contact with FOSE, (Friends of Saint Edmund's School), since Easter.

Elizabeth Hitchens reported on the activities of the Calne Partnership of Churches 'Open the Book' initiative at Holy Trinity School, Saint Edmund's School, and Marden Vale School.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches.

A service of thanksgiving for The Rev. Bob Kenway had been held to mark his leaving the Parish Church. The Baptist Minister is also leaving Calne.

Any other business.

Father Vincent reported that Mass will be celebrated for grandparents and the elderly this coming Sunday. An architect is being sought to advise on alterations to the presbytery at Melksham.

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6th October 2022 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall.

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