

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Draft minutes of a meeting held on 6th October 2022

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

Apologies: Tony Matthews.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.00.p.m. lead by Father Vincent followed by a scripture reading from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians read by Elizabeth Hitchens.

Minutes of meeting held on 21st July 2022.

These minutes were approved subject to the redaction of the names of individual parishioners who are not members of the Parish Pastoral Council from the publicly available published minutes.

Matters arising from these minutes:

Father Vincent will contact Bishop Crispian Hollis to see if he would be willing to lead a day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Matters arising from the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 1st September 2022.

It was noted that the Finance Committee had decided against the installation and the use of card machines for donations, on the grounds of costs.

The parish 'General Emergency Evacuation Plan Including Fire' was discussed. It was noted that members of the Parish Pastoral Council should assist the less able in the event of the need to evacuate the church. It was recommended that this plan should be brought to the attention of groups that use the church hall.

New folding tables for the church hall have been ordered.

Several members of the Parish Pastoral Council expressed concerns regarding the proposal to install posts and chain across the car park to stop unauthorised parking of cars. Some practical implications were also discussed. Father Vincent stated that he had heard the views expressed and would now not go ahead with the proposal.

Appeal for volunteers.

A further appeal for new volunteers for various ministries will be made in November with Brigid Rodgers and Elizabeth Hitchens speaking at Masses. A list for volunteers to sign will be placed in the porch.

Update on the Parish Project and plans for choosing a project for 2023.

Tickets are now sold out for the concert in aid of the Harbour Project on 15th October 2022. An open parish meeting will be held after Mass on 27th November 2022, the First Sunday of Advent, to choose a Parish Project for 2023. Paul Blake will arrange for an item to be published in the newsletter regarding this meeting.

Recruitment of new catechists.

New catechists are needed for the First Communion and Confirmation preparation programmes. Information had been received from the diocese regarding training for new catechists. Christine Martin agreed to place an item in the newsletter seeking volunteers.

Links with Saint Anthony's Parish, Melksham.

Father Vincent will speak with members of the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Anthony's, Melksham to see if they are willing to restart joint meetings, with a view to holding a joint meeting of the two Parish Pastoral Councils in January 2023.

Plans for a possible meeting with the new Headteacher of Saint Edmund's School.

Brigid Rodgers will contact the new Headteacher of Saint Edmund's Primary School to invite her to a meeting with the Parish Pastoral Council.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches.

Elizabeth Hitchens reported that there was little joint activity organised by the Calne Partnership of Churches, but the next meeting was to be held on 12th October 2022. Reference was made to the proposal from the Parish Pastoral Council made at the meeting held on 17th March 2022 that the Good Friday Walk of Witness should and could be reinstated in 2023, walking through the town to meet up with the Cherhill Good Friday procession.

Any other business.

Father Vincent reminded members of the diocesan meeting 'Synod – Continuing the Journey' to be held at Saint John's, Trowbridge on 15th October 2022.

Teresa Quinn reminded members that Saint Edmund's Parish is registered as a 'Fairtrade Church' and refreshments served in the church hall should be Fairtrade products. Brigid Rodgers was asked to contact parishioners on the 'Refreshments after Sunday Mass' rota to remind them to use Fairtrade products.

Tricia Davies reported that FOSE, (Friends of Saint Edmund's School), were having difficulty in attracting new volunteers.

Christine Martin asked about the possible re-starting of the Children's Liturgy of the Word. It was suggested that this might recommence from the First Sunday of Advent. It was recommended that someone should speak at Masses beforehand to explain what was involved with Children's Liturgy of the Word so that families with young children could be invited to attend.

Thanks were recorded to those parishioners who organised and ran the parish barbecue.

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1st December 2022 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall. Kathleen Joyce to prepare the scripture reading.

The meeting ended at 8.20.p.m. with a closing prayer.