

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council
Draft minutes of a meeting held on 1st December 2022

Present: Father Vincent, Kathleen Joyce, Christine Martin, Tony Matthews, Teresa Quinn, Rob Pickford, Brigid Rodgers, (Chair).
Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: Tricia Davies, Helen Murphy.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.00.p.m. lead by Father Vincent, followed by a scripture reading read by Kathleen Joyce.

Minutes of meeting held on 6th October 2022.

These minutes were approved.

Matters arising from these minutes:

Father Vincent had contacted Bishop Crispian Hollis to see if he would be willing to lead a day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. He was not available to undertake this but Father Michael Fountaine, the Parish Priest at Corsham and Chippenham, would be willing to lead such a day in the Spring.

It was not known if groups using the church hall had been advised of the parish 'General Emergency Evacuation Plan Including Fire'. This matter will be referred to the Finance Committee.

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the Sunday morning Masses started on the First Sunday of Advent.

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

To date £3,428.68 has been raised for the current Parish Project, 'The Harbour Project'. At the open parish meeting held on the First Sunday of Advent it was decided to support two charitable projects next year, with any funds raised shared equally. The two charities chosen were 'The Harbour Project' in Swindon supporting asylum seekers and refugees and 'Calne Welfare Charities' providing relief to those locally in need and supporting individuals' advancement in life.

Appeal for new volunteers and recruitment of new catechists.

Brigid Rodgers had spoken at a Saturday evening Mass and Elizabeth Hitchens was yet to speak at a Sunday morning Mass appealing for new volunteers. So far no one had signed up on the lists.

Two parishioners had volunteered to act as catechists for the First Communion preparation programme; it was noted that they would both need diocesan safeguarding clearances before taking up this role.

Links with Saint Anthony's Parish, Melksham.

A joint meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council with the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Anthony's will take place at Saint Edmund's on Thursday 26th January 2023 at 7.00.p.m. Possible areas for discussion will be ways of working together, shared activities in Lent, responses to Synod documents, and possible diocesan deanery re-organisation. Father Vincent explained that there is a possibility that the Bath and Trowbridge deaneries may be joined.

In connection with possible joint activities Christine Martin suggested that the Rise Theatre be invited to perform their new play 'Faithful Companions', the story of Marie Madeleine d'Houët, foundress of Catholic sisters 'Faithful Companions of Jesus'. It was agreed that this performance could take place in the church on Wednesday 15th March 2023.

Plans for the meeting with the Headteacher and Deputy head of Saint Edmund's School.

The meeting due to take place on Thursday 8th December 2022 had to be postponed. Suggested dates were now Thursday 9th February 2023 at 4.15.p.m. and Thursday 23rd February 2023 at 4.15.p.m. Brigid Rodgers will confirm a date with the Headteacher. Members spoke positively regarding the welcome they had received from the school, including invitations to visit. Consideration could be given as to how, as a parish, we could raise the profile of the school within the parish. A request was made that morning Mass on Holydays of Obligation be celebrated at Saint Edmund's rather than Saint Anthony's so that the school could attend. Father Vincent did not agree to this request.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches.

Details of Christmas services at various churches in Calne is now available. Suggested plans for a Good Friday Walk of Witness will be discussed at the Partnership Annual General Meeting in January.

Any other business.

Teresa Quinn reported that plans are being made for the family/children's Mass on Christmas Eve. An appeal will be made for children to take part in this Mass.

Following a recent incident at a Saturday evening Mass when youths gathered in the porch it was agreed that the door should remain open but that a covering be placed over the Tradecraft stall and that Welcomers try to remain vigilant.

It was noted that the 'Document for the Continental Stage' summarising responses from worldwide Bishops' Conferences had been published and that bishops have been asked to give the laity an opportunity to comment on this. It was also noted that the actual Synod will now take place in two sessions, one in October 2023 and one in October 2024. Paul Blake will circulate this document to members of the Parish Pastoral Council and a response could be discussed with members of the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Anthony's at the joint meeting in January.

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th March 2023 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall. Christine Martin will prepare the scripture reading.

The meeting ended at 8.25.p.m. with a closing prayer.