

**Draft minutes of the meeting of the Parish Pastoral Councils of
Saint Anthony of Padua, Melksham and Saint Edmund, Calne
held on Thursday 26th January 2023
at Saint Edmund's Church Hall, Calne.**

Present: Father Vincent Curtis.
From Saint Edmund's: Brigid Rodgers, (Chair), Tricia Davies, Christine Martin,
Helen Murphy, Teresa Quinn, Paul Blake (Clerk).
From Saint Anthony's: Linda Cassidy, Anne Doyle, Gervase O'Donohoe, Sharon
Pearce.

Apologies received from: Elizabeth Hitchens, Kathleen Joyce, Tony Matthews. (Saint
Edmund's).
Mary Rooney, Gay Harris, Susan Whyte. (Saint Anthony's).

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

Brigid Rodgers welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Parish responses to diocesan and wider initiatives, including the Synod.

Father Vincent read from a document prepared by a group of diocesan priests aged under 65 who have drafted initial plans to reduce the number of deaneries to nine. Under these plans Saint Edmund's Parish and Saint Anthony's Parish would be moved from the Trowbridge deanery to the Bath deanery. Although there is a ten-year planning period to implement any agreed proposals, Bishop Declan is eager that plans move quickly. Wider consultation with other clergy and the laity is expected shortly, although the format of this is not yet known.

Members expressed concern that it will be more difficult to attend deanery events to be held in Bath. The present Trowbridge deanery comprises parishes in market towns; moving some parishes to Bath deanery could see the needs and priorities of such parishes being compromised by being in a deanery with city parishes.

Both parishes had organised discussions and meetings related to the Synod and sent responses to the diocese. The diocesan response document, the national synthesis document, and the continental stage document have been published. Christine Martin offered to prepare a résumé of the continental stage document to circulate to members. Further documentation is expected in the summer prior to the first stage of the Synod in October.

Discussion on possible ways of joint working between the two parishes.

It was agreed that parish responses to the diocesan deanery re-organisation plan and the next Synod document could be done jointly between the two parishes.

Both parishes were considering plans for Lent courses and these would be publicised in both parishes and open to all.

The organist at Saint Anthony's Parish has retired and the parish has no instrumental musicians at present. Brigid Rodgers volunteered to make contact with one of Saint Edmund's musicians to see if any support to Saint Anthony's from Saint Edmund's instrumental musicians, even on an occasional basis, be organised.

A suggestion was made that at some stage in the future the two Parish Pastoral Councils could perhaps discuss and consider how to move from 'maintenance' to 'mission', shifting the focus of meetings from 'business' to consideration of the pastoral activity and mission of the parishes.

Visit of the RISE theatre company to Saint Edmund's on 15th March 2023.

The RISE Theatre Company will perform their new play 'Faithful Companions', the story of Marie Madeleine d'Houët, foundress of Catholic sisters 'Faithful Companions of Jesus' at Saint Edmund's Church on 15th March 2023 at 7.00.p.m. Tickets will be priced at £10. The event will be publicised at Saint Anthony's and Christine Martin will speak at Mass at Saint Anthony's on Sunday 5th February 2023. The event is also being publicised through Calne Partnership of Churches.

It was recommended that any funds raised over and above the company's attendance fee should be donated to the RISE Theatre Company.

Possible coordination or identification of common interests which could be reflected in the newsletters.

Common interests and activities are often published in the newsletters of both parishes and Sharon Pearce is always willing to include items from either parish. It was noted, however, that since the Covid pandemic many social and fund raising activities had been curtailed and that levels of attendance at Mass had declined at both parishes.

Items from Father Vincent:

Father Vincent reported that the company 'Traidcraft' was going into administration.

Dates of next meeting:

The next joint meeting will be held at Saint Anthony's Church Hall on Thursday 15th June 2023 at 7.00.p.m

The meeting closed with a prayer at 8.10.p.m.