

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Draft minutes of a meeting held on 26th October 2023

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

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.00.p.m., followed by a scripture reading from the Gospel of John.

Minutes of meeting held on 3rd August 2023

These minutes were approved.

Matters arising from these minutes: it had not been possible to record the 'on-line' sessions of the diocesan course for catechists which took place in September; however a one-day course is planned for catechists on Saturday 28th October 2023 at Saint John's Parish, Trowbridge.

Update on Parish Project and plans for 2024

The 'Notes of Hope' concert was well supported and raised just under £1,200 for the two charities associated with the Parish Project. The Parish Pastoral Council records thanks to the parishioner who organised this excellent concert and the well-attended social event which followed.

It is not yet known what funds were raised for the Parish Project from the cake sale held at Saint Edmund's School on 20th July 2023.

An open parish meeting will be held in the church after the Sunday morning Mass on the First Sunday of Advent, 3rd December 2023, to choose a charity for the Parish Project in 2024. Paul Blake will see that an item is placed in the parish newsletter about this.

Update on Sacramental preparation programmes.

Baptisms: a course of preparation had taken place with three families. This course had been quite difficult to run due to the large numbers of children attending. The parish administrator will be asked to contact the school when the Baptisms take place so that the school can send cards to the families concerned.

First Communion: names for candidates will soon be collected and it is expected that the preparation course will start in January.

Confirmations: letters have been received from three people from the Melksham parish and six or seven from the Calne parish. A date for Confirmations to be celebrated in the autumn has been requested from Bishop's House. There is a need for catechists to run a preparation programme; the possibility of working with Saint Anthony's Parish, Melksham on this will be discussed at the next joint meeting to be held on 9th November 2023.

Links with Saint Edmund's School

Brigid Rodgers will contact the school to see if a further joint meeting with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher can be planned; a Thursday at 4.00.p.m. will be suggested.

The Year 3 class teacher has invited several parishioners to visit the school to speak with pupils on the afternoon of Thursday 2nd November 2023.

Discussion on an area from ‘Called to be people of Hope’: Collaborative Ministry

Members were invited to identify areas which were working well within the parish, areas we were not engaged with, and areas which could be improved. Areas which were working well were volunteers on the rotas for various ministries, the quality of the music at Masses, the children’s Liturgy of the Word and sacramental preparation. Areas with little engagement were adult formation and the lack of altar servers. An area which could be improved was the involvement of many new parishioners, particularly those from the Fijian community; here perhaps people could be invited to accept some ministry within the parish. Brigid Rodgers undertook to contact the music rota organiser to see if the Fijian music group could be invited to go onto the music rota.

Father Vincent and two parishioners attended the diocesan day on 7th October 2023 concerning the new deanery structure and establishment of pastoral areas. David Wells was the visiting speaker and small group sessions took place along with Mass. In an attempt to encourage more collaborative working pastoral area councils and a diocesan pastoral council may be established, although decisions have not yet been taken as to how and when this might happen.

Plans for the joint meeting with Saint Anthony’s Parish Pastoral Council to be held at Saint Edmund’s on 9th November 2023

Elizabeth Hitchens will provide the scripture reading and the following items will go on the agenda for this joint meeting: the availability of catechists for the preparation of Confirmation candidates, responses to the diocesan day held concerning the new pastoral areas, plans for two joint prayer services in Advent, and initial responses to the Synthesis Report on the first stage of the Synod due to be published on 28th October 2023, (Paul Blake will circulate this document when it is available).

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches

The joint service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held at Saint Edmund’s Church on Sunday 21st January 2024 at 6.00.p.m. It is hoped that our musicians will be able to support this service. The Annual General Meeting of the Calne Partnership of Churches takes place at Saint Mary’s on Thursday 11th January 2024.

Any other business

A deanery service of Reconciliation will be held at Saint John’s Parish, Trowbridge on Saturday 2nd December 2023 at 11.00.am.

Father Vincent has appointed four new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, three will be commissioned at Mass this coming Saturday evening, 28th October 2023, and one in the New Year. The evening with Father Matt Anscombe at Saint Anthony’s Parish on 3rd November 2023 replaces the healing service which had been previously planned. Father Vincent hoped that this event will be well supported.

The funeral for David Hemelryk will take place on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 12 noon.

It appears that several new families moving into Calne do not know where Saint Edmund’s Church is located. Enquiries will be made to ensure that the Calne Partnership of Churches folders with details of all churches and service times are being distributed and placed with Estate Agents.

Father Vincent confirmed that Holy Water may be placed in the Holy Water stoups at the church, the church cleaners will be reminded to clean these regularly.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Anthony’s Parish, Melksham to be held on Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7.00.p.m. in Saint Edmund’s Church Hall. Elizabeth Hitchens will prepare the scripture reading.

The next ordinary meeting of Saint Edmund’s Parish Pastoral Council will be on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall. Brigid Rodgers will prepare the scripture reading.

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