

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council
Draft minutes of a meeting held on 18th January 2024

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

Apologies: Father Vincent, Kathleen Joyce.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.00.p.m., followed by a scripture reading from The First Book of Samuel.

Minutes of meeting held on 26th October 2023

These minutes were approved.

There were no matters arising from these minutes.

Update on Sacramental preparation programmes

Baptisms: There is no preparation programme for Baptisms taking place at present. It is not known if any recent Baptisms had taken place following the last preparation programme.

First Communion: The preparation programme for First Communion started last Sunday with five children taking part.

Confirmations: No volunteers had come forward either to act as catechists or as helpers with a preparation programme for Confirmations. It was agreed that this would be discussed with the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Anthony's, Melksham at the next joint meeting in April. If, following this, still no catechists were forthcoming it was suggested that Father Vincent be asked to call a special meeting with any interested parishioners to decide a way forward.

Links with Saint Edmund's School

Brigid Rodgers had sent several emails to the Deputy Head at the school regarding the desirability of holding a further joint meeting with the Parish Pastoral Council, but no replies had been received. It is still not known what had happened to the proceeds from the cake sale held at the school in July for the Parish Project. It was agreed that Brigid Rodgers should email once again.

Discussion on an area from 'Called to be People of Hope': Whole Parish Formation and Adult Education

Christine Martin led a discussion on this area, noting that the diocesan document 'Called to be a People of Hope' suggested "the making of a yearly plan for education in the faith for everyone in the parish." Past parish activities and courses in connection with adult formation were referenced, but it was noted that many parishioners who organised and contributed to these had moved on and no new replacements had been found. The video resource 'The Chosen' was spoken of, and it was agreed that some sessions using this material may be suitable in the future. A plan for sustained adult formation opportunities within the parish might be appropriate for the Year of Jubilee in 2025 and a future meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council should be devoted to consideration of this. It was noted that increased numbers of parishioners are choosing to attend weekend Masses, and this was considered a blessing.

Letter received by the Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council

The Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council had received a letter from the widow and son of a late parishioner regarding a legacy in his Will to the parish. They had expressed a wish that part of this legacy be used to commission and install two small stained-glass windows in the two low small window openings in the back wall of the church. The Parish Pastoral Council supported this proposal and Brigid Rodgers offered to contact the widow to communicate this and ask that Father Vincent and Paul Blake, (as a representative of the Parish Pastoral Council), be included in any discussions regarding the commissioning and design of the windows.

Items from Calne Partnership of Churches

The Annual General Meeting of the Calne Partnership of Churches took place on 11th January 2024. 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 an ecumenical Good Friday Walk of Witness will be able to take place this year.

Any other business

There are no plans for a Lent Course or Lent Groups to take place at Saint Edmund's this year.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place on Thursday 2nd May 2024 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall.

Christine Martin will prepare the scripture reading.

The next section of the 'Called to be People of Hope' diocesan booklet is 'Clergy Formation'; it is hoped that Father Vincent will be willing to lead the discussion on this area at the next meeting.

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