

## **Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council**

### **Draft minutes of a meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

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

**Apologies:** There were no apologies.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.00.p.m., followed by a scripture reading of Psalm 121.

#### **Minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

These minutes were approved.

There were no matters arising from these minutes.

#### **Update on Sacramental preparation programmes**

**Baptisms:** There is one enquiry at present. When others come forward another preparation course will take place.

**First Communion:** First Communion will be celebrated at the Sunday morning Mass on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024. It was pleasing that some candidates were volunteering as altar servers.

**Confirmations:** Confirmations will be celebrated on the evening of Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024.

Christine Martin has met with Father Vincent and kindly agreed to co-ordinate the preparation programme; she has asked another parishioner to work with her in running this preparation programme.

#### **Links with Saint Edmund's School**

Brigid Rodgers reported that she had not received any replies to the various emails she had sent to the school. Tricia Davies reported that she had not been contacted by the Friends of Saint Edmund's School, (FOSE). The Chair asked what else the parish could do to re-establish links with the school, and it was noted that it was regrettable that there had been no response to overtures from the Parish Pastoral Council. Father Vincent reported that individual classes attend Mass at the church and the whole school is coming to Mass at the church on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Brigid Rodgers agreed to contact the parishioner who is the Chair of the Local Governing Committee, (Governing Body), of the school to discuss this lack of response and what action can be taken to re-establish links between the school and the wider parish community. A request will also be made to use the school premises for a reception following the Confirmations on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024.

A letter which had been received from the pupils in Willow Class (Year 3), was shared with the Parish Pastoral Council. Members felt it was 'very heartening' and 'delightful' to receive this letter and Brigid Rodgers volunteered to reply to the class on behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council.

#### **Discussion on an area from 'Called to be People of Hope': Clergy Formation and Adult Education**

Father Vincent led a discussion on this area. He detailed the content of the initial six-year formation he had received at Oscott Seminary. He is obliged to attend a retreat each year and an annual safeguarding course. In addition ongoing formation opportunities are available, for example he recently attended a course on the New Lectionary which is being introduced on the First Sunday of Advent. Various adult formation courses for parishioners are organised by the Diocese but these are often either held in Bristol or 'on-line'.

### **Update on legacy and two new stained-glass windows**

The widow of a late parishioner had expressed a wish that part of a legacy in his Will to the parish 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 widow had met with Father Vincent, Paul Blake (as a representative of the Parish Pastoral Council), Albert Pace (as a representative of the Parish Finance Committee), and Peter Berry a local stained-glass artist. It was agreed that Peter Berry would prepare preliminary designs. A further meeting will take place once these preliminary designs are available.

Any remaining monies from this legacy will go into the general parish funds. Elizabeth Hitchens requested that a carpet be provided for the church hall and Katherine Joyce requested that works take place to improve the church hall, including repairing the ceiling in the kitchen area and replacing the kitchen units. Tricia Davies was asked to report back to the Finance Committee.

Rob Pickford suggested that the hall could be made more welcoming by setting out tables and chairs for refreshments after the Sunday morning Mass.

### **Items from Calne Partnership of Churches**

Elizabeth Hitchen reported that a successful joint service had been held at the Calne Methodist Church on the previous Sunday and that new Methodist and Baptist Ministers were in post. Regular meetings of the local Clergy and Ministers, (the Fraternal), were about to recommence.

### **Any other business**

A retiring collection will take place this coming weekend for the retirement of Bishop Declan.

### **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall.

Kathleen Joyce will prepare the scripture reading.

The next section of the 'Called to be People of Hope' diocesan booklet is 'Ecumenism'; Elizabeth Hitchens was asked to lead the discussion on this area at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.00.p.m. with a closing prayer.