Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council
Draft minutes of a meeting held on 21st November 2024

Present: Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Christine Martin, Helen Murphy, Brigid Rodgers, (Chair).
Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: Kathleen Joyce, Rob Pickford.

The meeting opened with a prayer and a scripture reading from the Gospel of Luke at 7.00.p.m.

Brigid Rodgers, as the Chair, reported that Teresa Quinn had stood down from membership of the Parish Pastoral Council. Brigid Rodgers will write to Teresa Quinn to thank her for her years of service.

Minutes of meeting held on 8th August 2024
These minutes were approved.

Matters arising
Some parishioners have signed up to the parish email circulation list.
The Chair had written to the parishioner who communicated with the Parish Pastoral Council regarding the choice of charities for the Parish Project.

Updates
Sacramental preparation programmes: Baptisms: no programme of preparation is running at present.
First Communions: Names of candidates for First Holy Communion are being collected.
Confirmations: The celebration of this Sacrament had gone well. The Chair had written to the Headteacher thanking her for the use of the school for the reception.

Parish Project: A successful 'Notes of Hope' concert was held to raise funds for the Parish Project. The current total of funds raised is £1,346.50. An open parish meeting will be held after Mass on Sunday 1st December 2024 to choose a Parish Project for 2025.

Links with the school: It was not known how many parishioners volunteered to help at the school after various appeals. Helen Murphy had yet to be informed of any FOSE meetings or events. No copies of a school prospectus have yet been supplied for the church and no information has been received regarding cards for the newly baptised. Brigid Rodgers offered to follow this up with the Deputy Head at the school. Father Vincent reported that children from the school will be singing Christmas songs and carols in the church on Wednesday 18th December 2024 at 2.00.p.m.

Stained-glass windows: Father Vincent and Paul Blake had visited the stained-glass artist to see work in progress of the two new stained-glass windows commissioned in memory of a late parishioner. They will be installed in the two small windows at the rear of the church before Christmas. Paul Blake will place an item about these new windows in the parish newsletter.

Plans for Jubilee Year 2025
No definite plans for joint activities with Saint Anthony's Parish, Melksham were made. It was known that discussions are taking place in the Pastoral Area regarding a possible pilgrimage to Glastonbury and Downside. Further details are awaited. It was agreed that a weekly item will be placed in the parish newsletter from next year thanking parishioners who undertake various ministries in the parish. Paul Blake will organise this.

Discussion on an area from 'Called to be People of Hope': Vocation
Father Vincent spoke to this area explaining that all have a vocation. He spoke about training for the ordained ministry. In the diocese at present there are 42 secular priests and in time each Pastoral Area will have fewer priests which will have implications for the number of Masses at each parish church.

Recruitment of new volunteers for various Ministries at Mass
Additional volunteers are needed to act as sacristans and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Masses. Members were asked to consider suitable parishioners who may fulfil these Ministries.

Updates from the Calne Partnership of Churches
The next meeting takes place in January. Rob Pickford had volunteered to become a parish representative. Christmas leaflets detailing services at the various churches have been distributed. Elizabath Hitchens takes over the Chair of the Calne Partnership of Churches in January.

Any other business
Christine Martin informed the meeting that she was aware that a proposal would be put forward at the open parish meeting on 1st December 2024 to have the raising of funds to provide new flooring in the church hall as the Parish Project for 2025. Whilst supporting the idea of new flooring in the church hall she pointed out that the aim of an annual Parish Project was to support a charitable project for the needs of the poor. A wide-ranging discussion followed. It was agreed that the funding for new flooring could potentially come from other fund-raising events separate from any Parish Project. Brigid Rodgers indicated that she would attend the open parish meeting on 1st December 2024 to express the view of the Parish Pastoral Council that the Parish Project was established to raise funds for a charitable cause to meet the needs of the poor.

It was noted that there is a need for new members of the Parish Pastoral Council. Some names of parishioners were mentioned as possible members.

Various gifts which had been donated and left over from previous raffles will be placed on tables in the porch for people to take, requesting donations. Brigid Rodgers will organise this.

It was noted that sometimes families with young children arriving late for Sunday Mass miss the Children's Liturgy of the Word. Possible solutions would be the Welcomers informing these families that the Children's Liturgy of the Word is taking place in the church hall or the children not leaving the Mass to go to the church hall until after the Gloria.

Date of next meeting
The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on 27th February 2025 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall. Christine Martin will prepare a scripture reading for this meeting. The next area from 'Called to be People of Hope' is 'Youth'. Paul Blake will lead the discussion on this area.

The meeting ended at 8.35.p.m. with a closing prayer.