Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council
Draft minutes of a meeting held on 27th February 2025

Present: Tricia Davies, Elizabeth Hitchens, Kathleen Joyce, Christine Martin, Helen Murphy, Cecilia Parsons, Jo Walsh, Brigid Rodgers, (Chair),
Paul Blake (Clerk). Louise Tavener (Acting Headteacher of Saint Edmund's School).

Apologies: Father Vincent

The meeting opened with a prayer and a scripture reading from Saint John's Gospel at 7.00.p.m.

Brigid Rodgers, as the Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes of meeting held on 21st November 2024
These minutes were approved.

Matters arising
Brigid Rodgers will place an item in the newsletter reminding parishioners of the parish email circulation list.
The new stained-glass windows have been installed. Paul Blake will speak to Father Vincent regarding a possible future blessing of these windows.
No new volunteers have been recruited to act as sacristans.

Sacramental preparation updates
Baptisms: One family is taking part in a preparation course which has just started.
First Communions: Preparation has started; it is not known how many children are taking part.

Parish Project
The chosen Parish Project is to establish a Hardship Fund. The way in which this will operate has yet to be determined but there will probably be a 'light touch' approach. The diocese has given approval for it to be set up. Brigid Rodgers will speak with Father Vincent regarding the establishment of a small group to discuss this further.
Lent Lunches will take place on Fridays in Lent in the church hall. Cecilia Parsons will put up a list in the church porch for volunteers to organise this each Friday. Brigid Rodgers will ask Father Vincent to announce the Lent Lunches at Masses next weekend.
Jo Walsh suggested other fund-raising activities for the Parish Project including restarting the 100 club, a Christmas raffle, and expanding the parish Summer barbeque. She spoke of the desirability of knowing the amount raised after each event. She was willing to establish a small group of parishioners to co-ordinate fund-raising events and will publish a note in the newsletter asking for volunteers to join this group. Helen Murphy undertook to speak to FOSE (The Friends of Saint Edmund's School) about the possibility of joint social and fund-raising events between the parish and the school.

Links with Saint Edmund's School
Louise Tavener reported that the school will update the notice board in the church hall with a display on the present Jubilee Year. The cards to celebrate Baptisms have yet to be made, but the leaflets about the school have been published but they have not yet been received by the parish. Help is requested with the school gardening club.
Louise Tavener reported that the Headteacher would not be returning to the school and that the school has had a turbulent time with falling numbers of pupils on roll, several staff leaving and a recent OFSTED inspection. She indicated that significant changes would need to take place as the school is in a vulnerable position, and she hoped for positive support from the parish.

Discussion on an area from 'Called to be People of Hope': Youth
Paul Blake introduced a discussion on this area. He referenced recent research on why many young Catholics do not regularly attend a worshiping community and mentioned the Synod on Young People held in 2018 and the Vatican 'Directory for Catechesis' published in 2020. The Church is moving away from traditional methods of youth ministry and encouraging the accompanying of the young in their journey of faith. In the discussion which followed mention was made of the importance of building personal relationships, giving faithful witness and recognising the role of the Holy Spirit.

Updates from the Calne Partnership of Churches
Elizabeth Hitchens gave details of forthcoming ecumenical joint services, the next being held at the Methodist Church on 27th April 2025 at 6.00.p.m. She reported that the Zion Baptist Chapel may be taken over by the Christian bookshop and that renovation works are planned at Saint Mary's Parish Church. A 'Walk of Witness' will take place on Good Friday at 12 noon. Calne Methodist Church is running a five-week Lent Study Course beginning on 13th March 2025.

Any other business
Elizabeth Hitchens will make enquires regarding a coach to the Chrism Mass at Clifton Cathedral.
It was noted that with many more families with young children attending Mass there is need for more of the children's 'Look' Mass sheets. Brigid Rodgers undertook to contact the parish administrator about this.

Date of next meeting
The next joint meeting with the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Anthony's, Melksham will be on Thursday 3rd April 2025 at 7.00.p.m. at Saint Anthony's church hall.
The next meeting of Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council will be on Thursday 5th June 2025 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall. Christine Martin will lead the discussion on the next area of 'Called to be a People of Hope': Family Life, and Kathleen Joyce will prepare the scripture reading.

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