

**Minutes for Meeting of St Michael's Parish Pastoral Council,
Sonning Common held on Tuesday 11th January, 2022**

Present: FrM, Dcn BT, MOD, ML, KS, SB

Apologies: TM, BW,

Opening Prayer FrM

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Seating has been increased to allow for 50 people in church

No new albs have been ordered as yet as we wait for more stability in the Covid situation and within the school to allow new children to come forward.

Sustainability group – Mary and Cecilia are interested – however it was agreed that we need to find more members from within the community. Dcn Brian – says the PPC will encourage the group but it needs to be self-sustaining. KS will put something in the newsletter about the group.

Ks suggested putting together a weekly list of things we can do to save the world

Spiritual/environmental calendar which might cover the 40 days of lent

SB suggested using Lent as a springboard for the initiative

MOD suggested we had done other initiatives such as the £1 a day and so agreed that Lent is a good time to start an initiative.

Safeguarding

ML has not yet got an assistant and will decide whether to try again to speak with a lady who has volunteered.

Advent and Christmas

FrM thought it went well – we cancelled the 10.30am Mass as there were not many signed up for it– The 3 people who had booked in were happy to change to one of the other Christmas Masses and we had space for them. In addition, we had a few people who had not booked who turned up at the Masses, but we did not have to turn anyone away and were able to accommodate them on some extra seats

Fr Gigi supplied for Fr M and it was agreed that he is a good contact for when FrM would like to go on holiday.

The Advent tree was well supported and the presents were greatly appreciated.

Due to Covid concerns the Carol Service took place in school not at Church as had originally been planned.

The service of reconciliation was well attended – Fr M forgot to put the background music on – however no one commented. Fr Andrew & Canon Paul assisted and it was felt that the prompt sheets available to those who participated were very helpful.

Walking Together the Synodal Pathway

It is hoped to give as many opportunities as possible to engage with parishioners and allow them to open up about their experiences. It is planned to be in two Parts separated by two

weeks. Each will comprise two face to face sessions, socially distanced in the hall and one online via zoom. The sessions will start with a prayer and a short time for reflection and an explanation of what it is about. It gives those that would like to participate an opportunity to discuss and reflect on questions put together by the diocese – the diocese has modelled its question on guidelines on the diocesan vision which was put forward a year ago: 3 sections - Communion, Participation and Mission

Scribes will be invited to record a summary of each discussion to help facilitate the completing the final document for submission to the diocese.

Dcn Brian asked would it be better to send out the questions in advance – and the PPC members all agreed – it will therefore be sent out by email, with the newsletter and as hard copies. SB asked about the housebound who do not have access to electronic version of the questions and Dcn B said that visitors can ask the parishioner's they visit for their input based on these questions.

Dcn B asked that we pray for this initiative and the prayer for the initiative will be included in the newsletter/thought for the week.

A Deanery event for the Synodal pathway has been organized in March but no venue agreed yet.

MOD asked if you can come to part of the synodal meeting'

75th anniversary of St Michael's foundation

Dcn Brian has confirmed Culham court chapel for a parish outing. He has received an email from the estate and we need to agree a time and date. It will probably be a morning event.

Anniversary banners - most of the PPC liked the banners with the image of the wooden statue and Dcn B said a slightly different version of the St. Michael prayer would be used on the banners.

Sonning Common magazine – Dcn B put some info about the history of the Church into an article for the latest edition of the magazine. Further installments will follow. There was a discussion about the history of the land on which the Church is built

Canon Paul will be asked to say Mass during our Parish Weekend this year – as he is our episcopal vicar. Various suggestions were discussed for the format of the Parish weekend being the 75th anniversary year and when Canon Paul should celebrate the Mass. It was decided that we ask Canon Paul to say the 10.30am Sunday Mass and then have brunch afterwards. Fr Paul's own parish commitments will need to be considered.

A discussion was had as to how we involve St Martins. The school communicate to the parents by smart phone – how should we engage with parents from the school to communicate with them?

Week of prayer of Christian unity

This service for Christian Unity has been postponed because of covid – a consensus of all local ministers was that the event should be postponed perhaps until Pentecost. We will put something in the newsletter to encourage prayer for unity during the week.

The meeting after next will be close to Ash Wednesday 2nd March so Dcn B asked the members to reflect on Lent before meeting the February meeting.

Any other business.

ML will ask CB to join the meeting

MOD commented that she thought the parish had done well as a community to keep going without stopping during the pandemic.

We have continued as a parish – and the covid situation has demonstrated that parishes have built a resilience.

The date of the next meeting will be February 8th Tuesday 7pm in the Church

Fr M closed the meeting with a prayer.