

**Minutes for Meeting of St Michael's Parish Pastoral Council,
Sonning Common held on Tuesday 12th October, 2021**

Present: FrM, Dcn BT, MOD, BW, SB, FG, KS, TM.

Apologies: ML

Opening Prayer FrM

Minutes from last meeting

The minutes were agreed.

Should there be any further easing of the COVID restrictions?

A discussion was had as to whether to continue sanitizing at the 9am Mass and it was decided to continue as numbers testing positive for Covid in the country is still high and FG noted that there are lots of colds and flu going around.

Track and trace is to remain in place as Gov.UK encourages places of worship to continue track and trace.

Seating – one parishioner asked if we can create more spaces for couples – it was decided that BT and KS to look at rearranging the spaces on the benches

Stewards –The rota finishes at the end of October so it was asked whether this was a good time to change over from stewards to welcomers

TM to follow up with Katy Withers re. reintroducing welcomers. Stewards at the 9am will double up as welcomers

The question was asked as to how to encourage parishioners to engage again with assisting at Mass. Coordinators at the 5.30pm and 9.00am Masses are already acting on this. Dcn B is following this up with TM for the 10.30am Mass.

November and Advent

Blessings of graves will take place at 2pm on the Sunday after 11th November - Sunday 14th

KS will look into getting Poppies from British legion to sell at Church and will check the Poppy wreath is ordered.

KS has done a new “dead list” which will be put out at the back of Church so that parishioners can remember their deceased family and friends – these can then be put in a basket on the altar.

FrM suggested the reintroduction of the service for the dead – Friday 26th was suggested as a possible date.

Christmas pudding making evening will be on 19th November and forms will be put out at the back of Church this weekend.

Christmas

FrM is hoping that the altar servers will be back in time for Christmas services. Joe Rush is making candle holders for the altar servers using t - lights rather than naked flames

FrM suggested someone needs to take charge of the altar servers – we need to find a volunteer

We should consider getting Mass cards for the altar servers and new albs

Family masses continue to be suspended – until the Bishops of England and Wales make an announcement - so there will probably not be a family Mass before Christmas

Discussion was had about the family Mass and Christmas Masses – is there any way we can celebrate an extra family Mass on Christmas Eve so that numbers can be distributed between the two Masses

FrM to discuss with school – It was proposed that two masses for families take place – the proposed times are 4pm and 5.30pm and then there would be the usual “Midnight Mass” at 8.00pm

Further Masses over the Christmas weekend would be at 10.30am on Christmas day and then 9.00am and 10.30am on Sunday 26th and at 10am on Monday 27th

It was agreed that the Advent Tree would be put up as usual with presents being donated to CIRDIC

Janice Halter will run the flower workshop on 18th December

She is also looking for volunteers to help arrange the flowers for Church on the 22nd December

Curry and quiz evening? When shall we have it? TM will ask the quiz master and liaise with KS re. a date and report back at the next meeting.

75th Anniversary of the Parish. 2022 is the 75 year anniversary of the foundation of St Michael’s parish –DcnBT asked the question “how do we reach out to the community and beyond?”

TM suggested the quiz being one of the events

Open days which have been done in the past were suggested – with Lent being a time that was proposed. A possible date suggested for the Open day was Sunday 27th February 2022 – to include a tour of Church and pancakes to coincide with pancake Tuesday on 1st March.

FrM suggested a Flower festival in Church? Perhaps during May or June to take advantage of the early summer flowers. FrM had the idea to ask the school if they would take on a flower festival

There is an initiative for the Queens jubilee that aims to Plant a tree and it was proposed that this could be a joint initiative to combine the Queen’s Jubilee and 75th Anniversary. FG to look into it

Culham court for parish outing – date in the Summer towards end of June. Queen’s jubilee 2nd and 3rd June so avoid this

A further idea for the 75th anniversary of St Michaels was a Celebration service on a Sunday when we would invite the local Christian communities.

Pastoral letter – we need to make a contribution to the discussion the

KS asked the question is there more that we can do for those who are bereaved or widowed? FrM said that the Medical practice maintains a bereavement group – KS asked if there were other ways we can help bereaved parishioners, food contributions, visits and remembering the anniversaries. This will be looked into by KS and MOD

Food – snack and chat – shall we reintroduce – yes

KS proposed working towards a paper free parish – to this end she has printed the Marian prayer and prayer to conclude the bidding prayers and laminated these so they can be used more than once and in conjunction with the Missals so that together with the online access to the newsletter there is less need to print out paper copies of the newsletter and Thought reducing the printing from 100 copies of each to only 20.

It was agreed that the newsletter should be sent to parents at St Martin's on a weekly basis so KS will contact Fiona with regards to sending out the newsletter

KS asked about the Parishes responses to emergencies – It was agreed that we can now respond quickly and efficiently to sudden emergencies via Dona donations to Cafod

The loud speakers in church – are the speakers loud enough? – Dcn Brian will try turning up the altar microphone – it was pointed out that it cannot be turned up too loud as this may create feedback.

The microphone on the lectern is more directional and therefore is consequently louder

Future meetings

November 16th 7pm

Closing prayer FrM.