

**MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2024, 7:00 pm in Parish Centre**

Present:

Deacon Des Bill, Will Daunt (Chair), Terry Graham, Fr Joseph Jacob, Susan O'Halloran, Claire Reed, Fr Godric Timney

Minutes Secretary: Brian Farrimond

1. **Opening Prayer:** Terry.
2. **Apologies:** Elaine Corrin, Caroline Grieco, Deacon Peter Mawtus, Aidan McFall, Irene Slack, Paul Spencer.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the PPC meeting on 15 July 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. **Membership and Chair (Standing item)**

**4.1 Terms of office**

Appendix 1 contains a list of the current members of the PPC and their terms of office. It was noted that a number of members were approaching the end of their terms and it was agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting.

**4.2 Chairs and Dates of meetings**

<b>Provisional Date of meeting</b>	<b>Chair</b>
22 Jan 2024	Paul
18 Mar 2024	Irene
20 May 2024	Susan
15 July 2024	Claire
16 Sep 2024 (prep for APM)	Will
18 Nov 2024	Terry

The future of the chair was discussed briefly. It was agreed that this year's solution of the rota of members acting as chair for one meeting each has worked well. It was agreed that members consider putting themselves forward to be chair for a two year period. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

5. **Safeguarding Update (Standing item)**

Terry reported that most of the current checks on parish volunteers have now been carried out. She is happy with the progress.

## **Reviewing actions from last meeting**

### **6.1 Multi-cultural event**

This is pending. St Bede's, who have been invited to contribute has only just returned to school.

### **6.2 St Bede's Year 7 Service**

This is pending.

### **6.3 Confirmation Celebration**

The parish has paid in the past. Jacinta is to be asked how she would like it to be arranged.

### **6.4 St Bede's to contribute to parish bulletin**

This is pending.

### **6.5 Moving sandstone blocks in the church grounds**

It was agreed that an approach be made to parishioners. Failing that an appeal would be put in the bulletin.

### **6.6 Fossil fuel letter**

A response has been received from Douai. See Appendix 3 below. No response yet from the archdiocese.

### **6.7 St Elizabeth PPC**

The parishioners at St Elizabeth's want to have their own PPC. It was agreed that they should be invited to send a representative to our meetings.

### **6.8 Joint parish bulletin**

This has been established.

### **6.9 New Mass times**

These have been arranged. St Elizabeth's vigil Mass has ceased and Sunday morning Mass is at 9 am.

### **6.10 St Anne's and St Elizabeth's parish offices**

Collaboration between the two offices is being established.

### **6.11 Creation Time**

This is pending.

### **6.12 Pope Francis' letter**

This is on the agenda. See below.

### **6.13 Local pilgrimage destinations**

This is pending.

### **6.14 Novena Mass**

This was done.

### **6.15 Roof repairs**

This is pending.

### **6.16 Finance committee report**

The finance committee has not met since the last PPC meeting.

### **6.17 Warning about misuse of the parish centre car park in the bulletin**

This has been done.

## **6. Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) will take place on Sunday 6 October 2024 after the 10:30 am Mass. The agenda was discussed. The following outline was agreed. It will be supported by bullet points on Powerpoint slides:

### The PPC

Explanation of what the PPC is and what it does and an invitation to parishioners to contact Fr Godric if interested in joining.

### Safeguarding

This will be in the form of a written report.

### Actions on issues raised at the last meeting

A printed summary will be provided.

### Youth work updates

A printed summary will be provided.

### Financial Report & Parish Centre future

This will be presented by Steve Jones, who will invite questions on these issues.

### Parish collaboration with St Bede's School

Jacinta will be invited to introduce herself.

### Family of parishes

Fr Godric will invite questions on the relationship with St Elizabeth's.

### Synod

Joan Bill will be invited to report on this.

### Future parish events

Parishioners will be asked what they would like to see happening.

## **7. Letter from Pope Francis to parish priests**

A discussion took place on the Pope's recent letter to parish priests. It was agreed that it was very positive and encouraging. Sue asked that a Guardian article on the road from agnosticism towards faith be attached to these minutes. See Appendix 2.

**8. AOB**

**9.1 Finance Committee**

The committee has not met since the last PPC meeting.

**9.2 Defibrillator**

It was agreed that the presence of the defibrillator in the sacristy needs to be publicised more. Refresher training was also agreed to be essential.

Terry pointed out very useful Red Cross first aid videos. It was agreed that they should be advertised to the parish.

**9.3 Harvest Festival donation box**

Terry and Fr Godric to coordinate with Claire at St Anne's School.

**9. Next meeting**

9.1 Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7 pm in the Parish Centre lounge.

9.2 Opening and closing prayers: Brian to arrange.

**10. Closing prayer: Fr Joseph**

## ACTION POINTS – 16 September 2024

1	PPC members' terms of office and chair of the PPC to be added to agenda for November's meeting	Brian
2	Funding for parish hosting of a confirmation celebration to be explored with Jacinta at St Bede's.	Aidan/Will
3	Parishioners be approached regarding moving sandstone blocks.	Sue, Irene, Fr Godric
4	St Elizabeth's representative to be invited to St Anne's PPC meetings.	Fr Godric
5	Arrange joint creation time activities	Sue, Mary, Claire and Irene
6	Identify local pilgrimage destinations	Sue and Mary Ormsby
7	Consider re-opening of the roof appeal	Fr Godric, Aidan
8	Finance committee report	Aidan
9	Annual Parish Meeting – preparation and presentation	Will, Fr Godric, Terry
10	Defibrillator signage and training discussion with Steve Jones	Will/ all
11	Red Cross first aid videos to be advertised.	Terry
12	Harvest festival donation box and contact with Claire at St Anne's School	Terry, Fr Godric

## Appendix 1: PPC Membership

Surname	Forename	First meeting	Term of office	End of office
Bill	Deacon Des	03-Dec-19	Clergy	
Corrin	Elaine	03-Dec-19	5 years	03-Dec-24
Daunt	Will	03-Dec-19	5 years	03-Dec-24
Graham	Terry	03-Dec-19	5 years	03-Dec-24
Grieco	Caroline	20-Jun-22	3 years	20-Jun-25
Jacob	Fr Joseph	15-Jul-24	Clergy	
Mawtus	Deacon Peter	03-Dec-19	Clergy	
McFall	Aidan	22-Jan-24	4 years	22-Jan-28
O'Connor	Pat	20-Jun-22	3 years	20-Jun-25
O'Halloran	Susan	03-Dec-19	5 years	03-Dec-24
Reed	Claire	03-Dec-19	5 years	03-Dec-24
Slack	Irene	03-Dec-19	5 years	03-Dec-24
Spencer	Paul	05-Sep-22	3 years	05-Sep-25
Timney	Fr Godric	03-Dec-19	Clergy	
<i>Farrimond</i>	<i>Brian</i>	03-Dec-19	5 years	03-Dec-24

Note: The clergy are permanent members of the PPC.

## Appendix 2: Guardian Article

# I'm an agnostic. But, like Nick Cave, I hunger for meaning

- The Guardian
- 16 Sep 2024
- John Harris



ILLUSTRATION: MATT KENYON

There is a tension in 21st-century life that may come close to defining how millions of us now live. Whenever we want to commune with other people, we need only reach for an object the size of a Twix and there they all are: scores of acquaintances and a veritable galaxy of complete strangers, offering insights and opinions on a huge range of subjects. But our online lives too often revolve around a mixture of anger, silliness and superficiality.

Where do we go and who can we find to meaningfully share our thoughts about life's inescapable fundamentals: love, loss, death, fear, bereavement, regret? To properly do so might require real-world company, which can be an equally big ask. Think about all this, and you will sooner or later collide with something that predates the internet: the long and steady secularisation of life in the west and the vast social holes it has left. Once, for all their in-built hypocrisies – and worse – churches at least offered somewhere to ritualistically consider all of life's most elemental aspects. Now, beyond communities with high levels of Christian observance, they are largely either empty or woefully underattended.

Which brings me to the singer-songwriter Nick Cave, who has just released a new album, *Wild God*. In November, he will be playing to huge audiences in a run of British arenas: a relatively new experience for him and his collaborators, which reflects deep changes in his life and his music. In 2015, he suffered the loss of his 15-year-old son Arthur; seven years later, another son, Jethro, died. And in the midst of an unimaginable level of grief, Cave has not only poured his thoughts and feelings into his art, but repeatedly spoken about the profound personal changes caused by outwardly senseless bereavement, as well as reflecting deeply on other people's

experiences. As a result, his audience has ballooned: as he turns 67, he is probably at the alltime pinnacle of his success.

Wild God is a fantastically moving, life-affirming record. But there is even more to Cave's bond with his public than music and lyrics. Since 2018, he has overseen the Red Hand Files website, where he answers inquiries on a huge range of subjects.

As he puts it, the original idea has grown into "a strange exercise in communal vulnerability and transparency", which entails reading "100 letters a day". Because he is a kaleidoscopic, complex figure, some of his replies highlight views that are not to some people's tastes, as evidenced by his hostility to cultural boycotts of Israel, or his antipathy to so-called cancel culture. Most of what he posts combines his curious, questioning instincts with a deep humanity: recent editions have covered loneliness, parenthood and suicide. When he plays live, all of this is in the air – it seems to give everything even more meaning.

The same is true of Faith, Hope and Carnage, the bestseller published in 2022 and made up of dialogues with the Observer writer Sean O'Hagan. It looks ahead to Cave's tentative return to the Anglicanism he was brought up with, and – among many other subjects – is full of insights about what happens when life fills up with grief and hurt. One of his key beliefs is that when we experience loss, we become more human: these things are universal, and therein lies the key to surviving them. "This will happen to everybody at some point – a deconstruction of the known self," he says. "It may not necessarily be a death, but there will be some kind of devastation."

He goes on: "But in time they put themselves together piece by piece ... and the thing is, when they do that, they often find that they are a different person, a changed, more complete, more realised, more clearly drawn person." The book is full of passages like that. I don't think I have ever read anything like it, which is a tribute to Cave and O'Hagan's achievement – but also an illustration of what is missing from most of our culture.

Some of us seem to be belatedly trying to fill the gap. I see that impulse in people's renewed yearning for nature, the ritualistic pleasures of summer festivals, and the popularity of meditation and mindfulness. It is telling that the militant atheism that peaked 20 years ago with the publication of such books as Richard Dawkins's *The God Delusion* and Christopher Hitchens's *God Is Not Great* now seems passé. No one should ignore darker developments that run alongside all this – not least the culture warriors whose interest in a Christian revival is part of their loathing of Islam. But there is a very different story about other people's quiet quests for meaning and transcendence, and the enduring presence in our culture of essentially Christian thinking. The historian Tom Holland – who, like Cave, has returned to the Christianity he was brought up with – says that in the way millions of us interpret world events there is something unspoken: the fact that "at the heart of western culture is the image of someone being tortured to death by the greatest empire on the face of the Earth". Many modern rituals and gatherings, he says, look like a "tepid echo" of old church festivities.

I am a devout agnostic. But as I get older, there are experiences and aspects of living that often open the way to a sense of the ineffable and mystical, and the need for



something that may help me make sense of an increasingly chaotic world, and life's ruptures and crises that seem to arrive with alarming regularity.

Most Sundays, I go walking with my two kids, which is a reliable emotional pick-me-up. More often than not, we stray into one of the village churches that tend to pepper our routes. It happened again last week, when we spent 15 silent minutes in a disused chapel near the Somerset village of Holcombe, and I thought about an entry in the Red Hand Files that Cave posted in response to a fan's bafflement that he has found at least some solace in Christianity.

"To my considerable surprise, I have found some of my truths in that wholly fallible, often disappointing, deeply weird and thoroughly human institution of the Church," he wrote. "At times, this is as bewildering to me as it may be to you." Here, I think, lies the faint outline of a journey that more people may sooner or later take, and something I can just about imagine: slowly increasing numbers of people being pulled away from their screens, towards something much more human and nourishing. Those pews, in other words, may not stay vacant for ever.

### Appendix 3: Letter from Douai Abbey regarding fossil fuels



Susan O'Halloran  
23 Westhaven Crescent  
Aughton, L39 5BN

20 September 2024

Dear Ms O'Halloran,

Thank you for your letter to Abbot Paul Gunter of 25 March this year regarding the Douai Abbey Parishes Trust (DAPT) policy with regard to environmentally ethical investment.

Abbot Paul has asked me, as Economus of DAPT, to write to you as he has been often away of late. Please forgive the delay in my reply, which is in large part due to my own commitments abroad and my move back to the monastery from the mission at Scarisbrick.

DAPT and some of its member parishes, including St Anne's at Ormskirk, have an investment portfolio with Greenbank, formerly Rathbones. As its name suggests, Greenbank is committed to an investment strategy that promotes and supports environmental sustainability.

You can find more about Greenbank's investment strategy approach at its website, in particular <https://www.greenbankinvestments.com/how-we-invest> and <https://www.greenbankinvestments.com/investment-approach>.

With every best wish,

Fr Hugh Somerville Knapman OSB  
Economus

pp. Abbot Paul Gunter OSB

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