

MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 17 MARCH 2025, 7:00 pm in Parish Centre

Present:

Deacon Des Bill, Will Daunt, Caroline Grieco, Bernadette Halsall (St Elizabeth's rep), Fr Joseph Jacob, Bridget Mawtus, Deacon Peter Mawtus, Aidan McFall, Susan O'Halloran (Chair), Claire Reed, Irene Slack, Paul Spencer.

Minutes Secretary: Brian Farrimond

1. **Opening Prayer:** Paul led the opening prayer.

2. **Apologies:** Elaine Corrin, Pat O'Connor, Fr Godric Timney.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the PPC meeting on 20 January 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

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

4.1 Membership issues

Updates to end of terms in the membership table attached to the agenda were noted and agreed.

4.2 Chairs and Dates of meetings

Provisional dates for this year's meetings are given in the table below:

Provisional Date of meeting	Chair
20 Jan 2025	Paul
17 Mar 2025	Susan
19 May 2025	Irene
14 July 2025	Will
15 Sep 2025 (prep for APM)	
17 Nov 2025	Aidan

The chair for the September meeting will be confirmed once the format of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) has been agreed.

Aidan to consult with the chair of the Finance Committee on the format of the APM.

5. Safeguarding Update (Standing item)

Terry Graham, the parish Safeguarding Officer has submitted her regular report:

The updating of the checks on existing volunteers is complete apart from an administrative hitch with one. A number of new volunteers are to due be processed.

Terry

The report was accepted.

Des added that he understood that safeguarding was being changed again at a national level and, as a result, St Annes may revert to being placed under the Archdiocese for safeguarding.

6. Reviewing actions from last meeting

6.1 Recruiting new PPC members

Notice has been placed in bulletin. Paul is in discussion with a prospective member.

6.2 Adding PPC members to the PPC WhatsApp group

This has been done apart from one member.

6.3 Moving sandstone blocks

This has been done.

6.4 Parish pilgrimage to Holywell, North Wales

Des circulated information on the National Shrine of St Winefride in Holywell (<https://www.stwinefridesshrine.org/blank-1>). He will investigate further and report back.

6.5 Pilgrimages between St Annes and St Elizabeths churches

Arrangements are ongoing.

6.6 Reopening the roof appeal

Discussions are ongoing.

6.7 Defibrillator training

Peter reported that arrangements have been made with *First Aid and More* (<http://www.firstaidandmore.co.uk/>) to provide training.

This will take place Sat 12 April 2025 10:30am – 12:30pm.

Peter will advertise the course in the bulletin. It will be open to everybody.

6.8 Red Cross videos

It was agreed that this would be organised once defibrillator publicity and training were in place.

6.9 Presenting the financial report to the parish

Discussions are ongoing.

6.10 Upgrading PPC communications with the parish

See below in AOB, item 11.1.

6.11 Invitation to Abbot Paul to speak to the parish

Unfortunately Abbot Paul was not able to stay to speak to parishioners.

6.12 Chris Fallon talk on the history of the Archdiocese

This has been arranged for Wednesday 26 March 2025 at 7 pm in the Parish Centre.

6.13 Advertising Lent timetable in the Catholic Pictorial

We have insufficient time to meet the Pic's deadlines.

6.14 Votive candle alternatives

See below in AOB.

6.15 Improving Wi-Fi reception in parish centre

Work on improving the reception is ongoing.

7. Arrangements for Lent

Dates of talks by Fr Godric and Fr Joseph have not yet been arranged

8. Dates for Easter

Deacon Des and Bernie reported that the timings of the services will be the same as last year at St Anne's and St Elizabeth's,

Stations of the Cross will take place at 7 pm every Friday in Lent at St. Elizabeth's while building works continue.

9. Social Events in Summer

It was noted that the following social events have been arranged for summer:

- **Pentecost Mass** in June in St Bede's School followed by international celebrations in the parish centre.
- A **hospice fund raiser** hosted by the parish will take place on 5 July 2025
- A **Music Festival** will be arranged by the parish Music Group for some time in July/August
- A **pilgrimage to Douai Abbey** is being explored

10. AOB

10.1 PPC Communications

A discussion took place and it was agreed that:

- the best means of communication, with the greatest reach, are announcements at the end of the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses.
- agenda and minutes summaries should be placed in the bulletin at appropriate times.

It was agreed that:

- prior to a PPC meeting, when Fr Godric and the chair have agreed an agenda, they should produce a **brief summary of the agenda** to be placed in the parish bulletin inviting responses from parishioners
- subsequent to the meeting, on agreeing the minutes with the minutes secretary, the chair would produce a **summary of key points from the minutes** which are to be published in the parish bulletin, with the agreement of the parish priest

10.2 Votive candle alternatives

A discussion took place on alternatives to traditional votive candles. It was agreed that:

- the position of the insurance company should be ascertained
- if the insurance company is happy with our existing procedures for handling traditional candles then things should be left as they are

10.3 Contactless payments

Investigations continue on improving Wi-Fi connectivity in the Parish Centre.

10.4 Event on 26 April 2025

This was meant to include:

- tour of church and grounds,
- refreshments,
- other stalls - plants, gardening books,
- children's activities

The closure of the church on safety grounds forces a postponement of this event until further notice..

10.5 Pilgrimages

Pilgrimages were discussed above. At this point potential pilgrimages or Walks of Faith in collaboration with Ormskirk Parish Church and Emmanuel Methodist Church.

10.6 Films over summer

Sue proposed showing a video “Carthusian Monks” in the parish hall with the new projector. It was agreed that:

- licencing issues should be investigated
- the show should take place in autumn for the best light conditions

10.7 “Freshers Fair”

It was agreed that:

- a “Freshers Fair” type of event could be a useful way of showcasing parish activities, especially as new people attending Mass in our churches since closure of St Mary's in Aughton.
- it should take place in autumn when the students at Edge Hill University have started back

10.8 Free standing notice board

It was agreed that a free standing notice board would be very useful to keep parishioners informed at events in the parish centre.

11. Next meeting

11.1 Monday 19th May 2025 at 7 pm in the Parish Centre lounge.

11.2 Opening and closing prayers: Brian to arrange.

12. Closing prayer: Deacon Des

ACTION POINTS – 17 March 2025

1	Aidan to consult with the chair of the Finance Committee on the format of the APM.	Aidan
2	Deacon Des to investigate further a parish pilgrimage to Holywell, North Wales	Deacon Des
3	Pilgrimages to St Elizabeth's and St Anne's churches and graveyards.	Sue, Bernadette and Mary Ormsby
4	Liaise with the finance committee on reopening the roof appeal.	Will
5	Peter will advertise the defibrillator training course in the bulletin.	Peter
6	Red Cross first aid videos to be advertised once defibrillator training in place.	Peter, Bridget
7	Brian to make PPC communications, a standing item on the agenda,	Brian
8	Irene to advertise Chris Fallon talk on 26 March 2025 in neighbouring parishes.	Irene
9	Improving the Wi-Fi reception in the parish centre	Bridget, Paul
10	Walks of Faith in collaboration with Ormskirk Parish Church and Emmanuel Methodist Church	Irene