

MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2026, 7:00 pm in Parish Centre

Present:

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

Observer: Pam Holcroft

Minutes Secretary: Brian Farrimond

1. **Opening Prayer:** Peter led the opening prayer. Paul welcomed Pam to the meeting.

2. **Apologies:** Deacon Des Bill, Pat O'Connor, Keith Stopforth.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the PPC meeting on 17 November 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

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

4.1 Membership issues

After observing at the last meeting Keith has agreed to join the PPC. Pam has come along to this meeting to observe while she considers joining.

Fr Godric will discuss the recruitment on younger members of the PPC with the chaplain at St Bede's. Bridget and Fr Godric will take this forward.

Pat has agreed to an extension of her term of office to June 2026.

4.2 PPC Communications

At the previous meeting Bridget reported that she had reported to the parish on PPC activities after Sunday Masses. Other members taking the role of chair are welcome to follow suit. It was agreed Bridget and Paul would produce a combined synopsis of this meeting and the previous PPC for the Parish Bulletin.

4.3 Chairs and Dates of meetings

New provisional dates agreed at the last meeting. Aidan agreed to chair the July meeting. The schedule is now:

Provisional Date of meeting	Chair
19 Jan 2026	Paul
16 Mar 2026	Susan
18 May 2026	Keith
13 July 2026	Aidan
14 Sep 2026	Claire
16 Nov 2026	Bridget

5. Safeguarding Update (Standing item)

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

I have no safeguarding issues to report.

Terry

The report was accepted.

At the last meeting Fr Godric agreed to raise the issue of safeguarding oversight with the Archbishop and Abbot Paul as soon as possible. He will be discussing the lack of capacity to provide full oversight at the Abbey in the near future.

6. Reviewing actions from last meeting

6.1 Schedule of 2026 PPC meetings

See item 4.3 above.

6.2 Terms of office of PPC members

The PPC membership table in the PPC agenda has been updated.

6.3 Recruiting younger members to the PPC

See item 4.1 above.

6.4 Electronic archive of PPC meeting agendas and minutes

This is ongoing.

6.5 Safeguarding oversight

See item 5 above.

6.6 Parish pilgrimage to Holywell, North Wales

Deacon Des consultation with Fr Godric to find a suitable date is ongoing.

6.7 Celebrating parish volunteers

Discussions on a suitable date are ongoing. This will be considered at the Parish Leadership Group.

6.8 Proposed cancer support group

Bridget reported that Christ Church have set up a cancer support group in collaboration with Macmillan Cancer Support. It was agreed that our parish should provide publicity for that group and that a group at St Annes was no longer needed.

6.9 – 6.13

These items are to be added to the agenda of the next meeting. See the Action Points 6 – 10 below.

7. Parish fund raising

Aidan reported that discussions are ongoing within the Finance Committee regarding funding, particularly with respect to the roof fund. The chair of the finance committee will report to the parish at the weekend Masses on 24, 25 January 2026. (See Appendix 1 for list of suggestions from a parishioner. To be discussed at next PPC meeting).

8. Walks of Faith

Irene reported that the current proposal was to organise a sequence of pilgrimages based on visits to local churches. It was agreed that this was a good idea. Irene will take this forward and discuss it with Keith Stopforth as he may be interested working with her to support such a series of walks.

9. Parish Outreach

A working group is being set up to take this forward. See Action Point 8 below.

10. Watching *The Chosen* TV series

It was agreed to have a short run of weekly sessions during Lent. Each session would consist of screening one episode followed by a discussion. It was understood that there are no copyright issues.

11. Films in parish centre

It was agreed to consider this again after the experience of screening *The Chosen*.

12. Parish Mission working group

See Action Point 8 below.

13. AOB

13.1 Bereavement Support Group

The parish used to have a bereavement support group, but it closed some time ago. A discussion took place on reviving it. It was noted that it needed someone with expertise to lead it.

A similar discussion took place regarding a **dementia carer support group**. Again, someone with expertise would be needed to lead it. (See Appendix 2 for list of support groups for discussion at next PPC.)

13.2 Celebrating Lent

Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings are being arranged at both St Annes and St Elizabeths. No proposals for talks have been made yet. Fr Godric may approach Bishop Rawsthorne. Episodes from The Chosen TV series will form part of the celebration of Lent (see item 8 above).

13.3 Edge Hill University

It was noted that a group of Edge Hill teaching students will visit the church in February.

It was noted that Edge Hill Christian Union will be hosting an event for local churches to make themselves known to students.

13.4 Parish Facebook and Instagram

Bridget reported that the Facebook page is attracting up to 900 visits, especially on Tuesdays when items within the church building are shown and explained.

She also reported that the newly established Instagram account was beginning to attract visits.

13.5 FLAME 2027

This event for young people is presented by the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation of England and Wales (<https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>). Tickets are available at the end of this month. The parish will be sending a group, partly from St Bede's. Can the parish arrange for other children to join them?

13.6 Lighting problems in the church grounds

Issues with lighting in the parking areas at night were reported. Paul will work with the maintenance team to address them.

14. Next meeting

14.1 Monday 16th March 2026 at 7 pm in the Parish Centre lounge.

14.2 Opening and closing prayers: Brian to arrange.

15. Closing prayer: Fr Joseph

ACTION POINTS – 19 January 2026

1	Brian to pass on to Colette the electronic archive of the minutes and agendas of PPC meetings since 2002.	Brian
2	Recruitment of younger parishioners onto the PPC to be continued.	Fr Godric, Bridget
3	Fr Godric to contact the Archbishop and Abbot Paul on behalf of the PPC expressing our concerns about the current, unsatisfactory situation regarding safeguarding oversight.	Fr Godric
4	Agree a date for the parish pilgrimage to Holywell.	Deacon Des, Fr Godric.
5	Identify a suitable date for celebrating parish volunteers with possible shared meal.	Fr Godric, Colette
6	Setting up a parish group to watch together online the TV series <i>The Chosen</i> . Brian to add this to agenda for the next meeting.	Brian
7	Putting on films in the parish centre . Brian to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.	Brian
8	The parish mission . Bridget to organise setting up a working group to consider this. Brian to add discussion to agenda for next meeting.	Fr Godric, Bridget, Brian
9	Brian to add increasing parish funding to the agenda for the next meeting.	Brian
10	Brian to add Walk of Faith to the agenda for the next meeting.	Brian
11	Irene to take forward setting up pilgrimage visits to local churches.	Irene.
12	Ideas for <i>fund raising activities</i> to be sent to Brian who will collect them into a list.	PPC members, Brian
16	Brian to add Bereavement / Dementia Carer support groups to agenda for next meeting.	Brian
14	Fr Godric to approach Bishop Rawsthorne regarding giving a Lenten talk.	Fr Godric
15	FLAME 2027	Bridget

16	Lighting issues in church grounds.	Paul
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Appendix 1: Parish fund raising proposals

Rock n Roll/Tribute bands Jazz band Quiz night Jumble Sale
Themed music nights Comedians

War time dances Speakers Buy a brick/bag of plaster/tin of paint
marathon walks Art and craft sales

Sponsored walks local businesses sponsors/donations charity car
wash film nights pay what you can meal night

Appendix 2: Local and National Dementia Support Groups

1. Lancashire Age UK

Lancashire Age UK has a range of free local services for carers and for people diagnosed with dementia.

Contact details:

Web address: ageuk.org.uk

Email: lroberts@ageuklancs.org.uk

Telephone: 0300 303 1234

2. Alzheimer's Society

They offer a range of dementia services. From a listening ear on the phone to a visit in person and opportunities to connect with others.

They can be contacted on [0333 150 3456](tel:03331503456) to get personalised information, support and advice.

3. Dementia UK

A range of support is provided largely through their 'Admiral Nurses'. For further information go to:

Web address: dementiauk.org

Telephone helpline: 0800 888 6678