

MINUTES OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 16 MARCH 2026, 7:00 pm in Parish Centre

Present:

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

Minutes Secretary: Brian Farrimond

1. **Opening Prayer:** Susan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Keith led the opening prayer.

2. **Apologies:** Deacon Des Bill.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the PPC meeting on 19 January 2026 were accepted as a true and accurate record with one amendment regarding membership of the proposed group to attend FLAME 2027.

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

4.1 Membership issues

After observing at the last meeting, Pam has agreed to join the PPC.

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.

It was agreed that a squarer seating arrangement would improve the acoustics of the meeting.

4.2 PPC Communications

Notices went into the Bulletin about the last PPC meeting and the Mission working group.

It was agreed that PPC chairs may speak at the end of weekend Masses from time to time to share information and encourage more people to get involved in parish activities..

Brian circulated to PPC members electronic copies of the PPC minutes from 2002 to January 2026. He was thanked for producing them and making them available.

4.3 Chairs and Dates of meetings

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

5. Safeguarding Update (Standing item)

Terry Graham has no safeguarding issues to report.

Fr Godric will be discussing the oversight of the parish's safeguarding at the Abbey next week.

6. Grounds and buildings

A discussion took place on potential ways ahead for the future of the parish centre. It was agreed that the Finance Committee should continue their work on this.

7. Car parking

A discussion took place on car parking arrangements. It was agreed that the Finance Committee should continue their work on this.

8. Walks of Faith

Keith led the discussion on the proposed Walks of Faith. Appendix 1 contains the proposals that were sent to PPC members in advance. The proposals were welcomed by the meeting. Several points were made:

- scheduling needs to enable working people to attend and avoid clashing with other parish events
- the numbers walking should be within the constraints of health and safety considerations. This would be helped if people made their own way to the destinations.
- sponsorship appeals should reach as wide an audience as possible
- Churches Together should be involved
- it was agreed that outdoor Masses were very popular and one should be organised for the summer.

9. Reviewing actions from last meeting

Items have been added to the agenda as directed by action items **9.6, 9.8, 9.9, 9.10, 9.11, 9.13**

9.1 PPC electronic archive

See item 4.2 above.

9.2 Recruiting younger members to the PPC

Ongoing.

9.3 Safeguarding oversight

See item 5 above.

9.4 Parish pilgrimage to Holywell, North Wales

Deacon Des not present at meeting.

9.5 Celebrating parish volunteers

This is ongoing.

9.6 The Chosen TV series

See item 11.1 below.

9.7 Films in parish centre

Work on this has been paused. Licensing issues have been raised.

9.8 Parish Mission

See item 11.2 below.

9.12 Parish Fund Raising Ideas

Suggestions were submitted by Pam and added to the minutes of the January meeting as an Appendix. More suggestions are hoped for from the suggestion box at the back of church.

9.14 Invitation to Bishop Rawsthorne to give a Lenten talk

Fr Godric reported that Bishop Rawsthorne was no longer able to provide talks.

It was noted that a full Lenten programme has been successfully arranged.

9.15 FLAME 2027

Bridget reported that tickets have been booked, coach enquiries are ongoing. The intention is to do fundraising as part of the youth group.

9.16 Lighting issues

Paul reported that new floodlights have been fitted and final adjustments were being made.

10. Parish outreach including foodbanks

Discussions continue to take place.

11. AOB

11.1 Screening *The Chosen*

Bridget reported that sessions had begun and have been very well attended.

11.2 Parish Mission Working Group

Bridget reported that:

- there has been no email engagement on the working group.
- there have been youth meetings from an existing group and engagement from Sarah McGeehan at the Archdiocese.
- some significant suggestions are being made e.g.
 - regular social and prayer events
 - fundraising for FLAME events
 - ‘Mini Ministries’
 - Catholic Alpha

11.3 Bereavement Support Group

Discussions continue to take place.

11.4 Opening the PPC meetings

It was proposed and agreed that PPC meetings should open with a 10 minute Lectio Divina session in which a reading from scripture or Catholic social teaching would be followed by a prayer and a time for listening.

Fr Godric agreed to lead the Lectio at the next meeting in May and Paul to lead at the meeting after that in July.

11.5 John Abraham

There was a vote of thanks to John Abraham, who is retiring from his voluntary role looking after the church and parish centre buildings. Fr. Godric commented on how much invaluable work he has done and it was agreed that a gift to thank him should be arranged.

12. Next meeting

12.1 Monday 18th May 2026 at 7 pm in the Parish Centre lounge.

12.2 Opening and closing prayers: Brian to arrange.

13. Closing prayer: Fr Godric

ACTION POINTS – 16 March 2026

1	Fr Godric to discuss the oversight of the parish's safeguarding at Douai Abbey.	Fr Godric
2	Recruitment of younger parishioners onto the PPC to be continued.	Fr Godric, Bridget
3	Work on organising the Walks of Faith to be continued	Keith, Irene
4	Churches Together to be invited via Terry to collaborate on the Walks of Faith	Irene
5	Agree a date for the parish pilgrimage to Holywell.	Deacon Des, Fr Godric.
6	Identify a suitable date for celebrating parish volunteers with possible shared meal.	Fr Godric, Colette
7	Parish fund raising ideas – parishioner suggestions	Bridget
8	Recognition of the contributions to the parish made by John Abraham.	Fr Godric, Susan, Paul

Appendix 1: Walks of Faith

We want to make these an inclusive set of events which will inform people about various religious sites in West Lancashire whilst at the same time raising much needed funds for St Anne's Roof and essential repairs to the Parish Centre.

We are thinking of two types of Walk:

1. Walks of Faith (Short)- to start from St Anne's and visit a new destination each time. (EG-The Parish Church, Emmanuel Church, Christ Church.) Each of these might only take an hour at the most and could include a talk at each location about its history etc. Potentially these could run from June onwards through to school summer break up.
2. Walks of Faith (Long)- These would consist of 4 longer walks of around 6 miles each. Taking in St Annes, St John the Evangelist (Burscough), Our Lady and All Saints (Parbold) and St Elizabeths (Scarisbrick). Again, we would look to have a short talk at each destination as well as prayers. (Hopefully we could spend some time inside the churches in Burscough, Parbold and Scarisbrick). Potentially these could start in Mid April to allow time for planning and publicity and finish in May

The detail needs to be worked out but we could look to raise funds by:

- A Go Fund Me Page for people to donate online
- Sponsorship Forms for people to raise sponsor monies from friends and family
- A special collection once all of the 4 longer walks had been completed post the weekend masses

Outdoor Mass:

This could be held in the Summer in addition to the one usually conducted during Creative Time. We would need a small group of volunteers to facilitate chairs, an altar etc as per the usual Mass. Potentially we could have a bring your own picnic/barbecue? post Mass with an opportunity for people to donate towards roof funds through games and/or other activities