

**Parish of Mary Mother of God, Bradford**  
**Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024, The Presbytery**

The meeting began with Prayer.

Present: Helen Wain (Chair), Linsey Holmes, Moira Page, Mary Martin, Bernadette Benyon, Sandra Scully, Bernie Kelly, Mgr Paul Grogan.

Apologies were received from Trish Barstow, Paul Rafferty, Kathleen Allen, Gerry Martin, Lucy Hoellerer and Ben Lavin.

1.0 Minutes of the previous meeting

Corrections: Paul Rafferty, Linsey Holmes and Sean Kilduff were not present and sent their apologies.

The Minutes were approved.

Matters arising:

The Diocesan HR Department has approved the proposals that the 10-hpw Pastoral Worker for Older People and the part-time Parish Youth Worker should be diocesan employees. The advert for the former will be publicised in January. PG hopes to obtain funding from the Marist Fathers for the latter.

A number of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion have been enrolled for 2024/25 so it will be possible to reinstitute Holy Communion under Both Kinds, at least at some Masses.

The Parish Finance Committee decided that there are insufficient funds to pay our Parish Organist an annual stipend but proposed that a collection be taken one weekend to allow parishioners to express their appreciation of his voluntary work.

2.0 For decision making:

1. Members voted unanimously to approve a request from a number of older parishioners to move the 9.45am Sunday Mass to 10.15am from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The Mass would revert to 9.45am on any Sunday when just one priest was available.
2. It was noted that there are currently only four Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who take Holy Communion to housebound

parishioners, of whom there are approximately 45. This means that the majority of these parishioners receive Holy Communion only very rarely. Repeated appeals for more parishioners to volunteer for this work have proved unsuccessful. We will have a lectern appeal in the New Year with an offer of basic training.

3.0 Committee updates: The papers from Finance (Paul Rafferty) & Property (Patricia Barstow) were received. See separate paper.

Matters arising: There is an occasional shortfall in cleaning materials at St Winefride's Hall and some of the locks need attention. We are still hoping that some parishioners will volunteer to be occasional hall stewards.

4.0 Community updates. The reports from Parish Groups were received (see separate paper).

5.0 Re-imagining our Parish Pastoral Council

Helen Wain (Chair) spoke about the online workshop which the Bishops' Conference ran that she and Frs Paul and Sunny had attended concerning Parish Pastoral Councils in the light of the recent Synod in Rome. She proposed a paper on how we might develop our existing structures (please see separate paper). She noted that it was a good moment for the parish to take a step forward in this way given that we are celebrating a Jubilee Year of our parish (Golden Anniversary of St Winefride's Church and Platinum Anniversary of St John the Evangelist's Church) within the 2025 Year of Jubilee of the Catholic Church as a whole. It was agreed that we would have a Day Retreat for PPC members on a Saturday in February 2025 and a Jesuit-run Retreat in Daily Life for all parishioners in Eastertide 2025.

6.0 Meeting dates.

The next meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Committee and Group Reports for the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

### **Finance Committee**

The Parish remains in a relatively healthy state with positive cash balances held although the overall cash position includes grants of c.£37k that are intended to be used to replace the heating system at St Winefrides hall. We expect the position with regard to the grant funds held to be resolved prior to the end of the year. These funds will be returned to the relevant body if the funds held are insufficient to cover the total cost of replacing the heating system. Revenue streams remain stable and cover standard operational costs. All discretionary expenditure is reviewed prior to approval to ensure, as far as possible, that the Parish remains solvent and that the Parish is able to meet reasonable unforeseen costs as and when they arise.

### **Property Committee**

- New carbon reduction heating system for St Winefride's Hall being assessed. Funding from National Lottery.
- Successful Home Office Grant for St Winefride's site security – going to second round. Further assessment probably in New Year.
- St John's church re-decoration almost completed by Peter Barstow and David Dooling – volunteers.
- Work to Presbytery re Andy leaving and Father Sunny arriving.
- Quotes for curtains in St Winefride's church Sacred Heart Chapel to retain heat £830.00,
- broken toilet and new self-closing taps £515.00 in St Winefride's Hall
- skylight repair required St Winefride's Hall
- Maintenance of all whole site when issues arise.

### **Craft Club**

- The Craft Club continues to meet each Tuesday
- There's a core membership of six at present.
- We are joined by several other members who enjoy visiting now and again, some of whom have a disability so it depends how they are. We have activities relevant to their abilities and interests.
- Father Sunny joined us last week and enjoyed chatting to the group and to David and Peter who were decorating St John's church.
- Some members bring their own crafting materials depending on their interest. They are very creative and are able to pass on their skills.
- We have a stock of activities for everyone to join in and can add to our stock if needed.

- This is a very sociable group who enjoy reminiscing about school days and especially their families. Also ready to give support to one another.
- We're having a 'works do' this week and will then close for Christmas.
- We'll meet again middle of January 2025

### **Friendship Group**

We are now meeting every other week 10am - 2pm.

We have been busy crafting making decorations for Christmas to help raise funds for our outings. We will be meeting Tuesday 10th of December for our Christmas party afternoon at the crown, there will be 12 of us fighting over the microphone!

### **Snowdrops Group**

Meeting this Sunday for snowdrops Christmas party . we are also looking forward to our youth group joining us, They were a great help to us helping to wrap presents for Catholic Care. We enjoyed being in their company.

We held a Christmas stall after Mass on Sunday and raised £60.00 which we would like to donate to the Youth Group to help fund its members' trip to the Flame Conference. We are looking forward to engaging with them with the youth fundraising efforts in the future.

### **SVP**

As well as dealing with referrals for requests for food parcels and white goods

St Winefrides conference members and others lead the Community Market organised by Catholic Care on a Wednesday morning setting up from 7.30 ish when delivery arrives to 10.00 when the customers arrive serving the customers and then clearing away afterwards - worthy 3 hours work. St Johns's Conference continuing their visits to the sick and housebound. The Mass with anointing of the sick to be held on Saturday 7th December at St John's - Mass followed by lunch and entertainment.

### **The Youth Group**

The Group has been revitalized under the leadership of Alex Hill and Alex Noad, with valuable support from Fr. Paul, Fr. Sunny, and Summer. Attendance is steadily growing, with a core group of three regular participants and up to seven on busier evenings. The sessions have focused on fostering a connection with the parish, supporting those in need, and helping the group bond through "getting to know you" activities. This foundation aims to build a stronger sense of community and engagement among the youth.

Looking ahead, the hope is to deepen the relationship between the Youth Group and the wider parish, recognizing that engagement is a mutual effort. The growing enthusiasm and involvement are promising signs for the group's continued development.

### **Catholic Care Community Market and Catholic Care Wednesday Lunch Group**

We are grateful to the Parish for being so supportive of the work Catholic Care does. We know St Winefride's is used as an example of good practice but for us it's more than that: it forms a real community.

### **Union of Catholic Mothers**

Outstanding.

Reports from **St John the Evangelist and St Winefride's Catholic Primary Schools** are provided separately.