

Parish of Mary Mother of God, Bradford
Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday 25th September 2025, The Presbytery

Present: Helen Wain (Chair); Paul Rafferty; Patricia Barstow; Ben Lavin; Linsey Holmes; Andy Watts; Moira Page; Mary Martin; Bernadette Benyon; Lucy Höllerer; Sean Kilduff; Sandra Scully; Kathleen Allen, Bernie Kelly, Gerry Martin, Alex Hill, Mgr Paul Grogan.

Apologies: Sean Kilduff; Giedre Masiukaite, Sylvanus Akwaegbu, Anna Norbert.

The meeting began with prayer

The Minutes of the previous meeting in June 2024 were approved.

The Parish Mission Statement was read: *In obedience to Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), and in response to our Bishop's call for parishes to become more missional, we will engage in three missions in particular: to the family of the parish; to young people; and to those outside the Church.*

The following issues were reflected upon:

- Growing Old Gracefully has offered us a grant for the post of a Pastoral Worker for Older People. This 10-hour-per-week post is to run for three years.
- Diocese of Leeds Music has invited us to host the Bradford Catholic Girls' Choir for seven Masses a year at St Win's. The cost would be £1,500.
- Following the relaunch of Caritas Leeds last Saturday, all parishes in the Diocese are being invited to appoint a volunteer Caritas Coordinator who would help develop social welfare work within the parish
- Do we need to add or subtract anything from the Parish 2024/25 Calendar?
- The proposed appointment of a four-hour-per-week Parish Youth Worker to maintain and develop the Friday Night Youth Group.
- The induction procedure for Fr Sunny Joseph.
- Grants to assist the parish and Catholic Care in social outreach work.
- Proposed door-to-door evangelisation campaign.
- How should we develop communications within the PPC?
- How should we mark the Platinum Jubilee of St John the Evangelist's Church (8th June 2024) which marks the end of the 18-month Parish Jubilee (which began with the Golden Jubilee of St Winefride's Church (8th December 2023)?

The following decisions were made

- We will continue with the Sign of Peace at Mass.
- We will reinstitute the chalice at Mass.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 12th December, 7pm.

Parish Group and Committee Reports for the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting of Wednesday 25th September 2024

Family and youth - In our parish, family and Catholic life have been enriched through various events and activities set by Andy and others, that foster community engagement and spiritual growth. With Andy stepping down at the end of his contract, we are currently assessing the ongoing programs and how to best support them moving forward. A key focus is on ensuring these activities continue to thrive by training new volunteers and encouraging more people to get involved. Engaging the wider parish community will be crucial to sustaining and growing these efforts, and we are exploring ways to inspire participation and strengthen the volunteer base.

Youth Report – May to date

Continuation of Senior Youth Group – Round up for the summer

Youth and family events ie St Winefride's Hall and Wibsey Park

Taken 6 young people to the KYT & LifeTeen Summer Camp

Explored options with SPARKS as to what can be done in the Parish regarding young people & social justice

Completion of resources packs for all things youth work in the Parish

Catholic Care Groups (Catholic Care Community Market, Catholic Care Stay and Play, Catholic Care Lunch Group, Catholic Care Friendship Group at Wagtails)

Catholic Care Community Market

Still being well used by many. Numbers dropped off over the summer as there are quite a lot of initiatives for free food for children over the summer but numbers are now steadily growing again. Fostering empowerment through our Family Support Worker and DWP has been key for those who use the service. Pre loved stall is very useful for saving for Christmas items for the children of the families who attend Upcoming problems – worries about funding

Stay and Play

Numbers fluctuate, anything between 30 and 40 adults with their children. We really do need some more volunteers. The service is really enjoyed by all those who come. We managed to buy some new equipment thanks to a kind donation from a parishioner of another Parish. It's a great little group though with a lovely happy feel to it.

Catholic Care Lunch Group

Numbers are steady, we have had a few new faces over the last couple of weeks. We had an autumn party and we plan to have an activity in November for Remembrance (especially of those who attended the group) We had a joint trip to Lytham with some other Catholic Care groups. Those who attended from both the Wagtails Group and also the Lunch Group really enjoyed it. There is a 'Health Morning' happening in October and this will continue into the lunch group time so that they can also avail of the service. Christmas Party too in the planning! It's all go at the moment!

UCM

The UCM continue to meet monthly in St John's Hall.

Since my last report the UCM held a Race Night raising over £170 for UCM funds. We are having a cake stall at both churches this coming Sunday for McMillan.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the Afternoon Tea we had booked for May due to lack of interest. We trailed Bingo during June & while it was very enjoyable for those who came there wasn't enough take up for it to continue - we may try again next year.

SVP

- Both conferences continue to receive referrals from Central office for assistance with white goods and furnishings for people in our areas - we are able to help where possible.
- St Winefride's conference assist with the Catholic Care Community Market every Wednesday people to and from
- St John's conference continues to visit the isolated in their own homes and in in the local care homes
- Also visits if necessary to the hospitals as well as transporting and accompanying people to hospital appointments if required
- St Johns conference has recently been in touch with St John's School to highlight our role in maybe being able to assist with any families struggling to afford uniforms or to possibly financially assist with anyone unable to afford the school trips
- Our biannual Mass for Healing is to be held at St John's on Saturday 7th December

Social Committee

Following our recent meeting we are preparing for the farewell parties for Andy and Fr Festus.

We will be having a cake stall after mass on Sunday 27th October to raise funds for a memorial plaque in memory of the Gawaith family to be placed at our ladies grotto at St John's.

The car boot/table top continue to grow in both buyers and sellers, the word is getting out there and donations are always welcome.

Vintage Group

Since our last meeting our vintage group decided to have an outing instead of the usual film and food.

We had a very successful shopping trip with lunch at Batley Mill and our golden girls had a lovely day and they're already looking forward to our next adventure.

We have yet to decide whether to go to Tong garden centre with lunch or the Midland Hotel for afternoon tea, either will be much appreciated.

Friendship Group

9th September we had a picnic lunch at wagtails hosted by linsey a very enjoyable afternoon.

We are in the process of planning our next outing to the noble comb in Shipley for a pub lunch, hopefully there will be 14 of us. Happy days!!

Snowdrops

Following recent meeting on the 8th of September we attended a beautiful blessing ceremony of the grotto at St John's as we replaced the statues we purchased from Lourdes whilst on pilgrimage thanks to Fr Paul

27th of September a number of our group will be joining our parish pilgrimage to Walsingham.

7th October

Some members of our group will be attending And serving at the Batley torchlight procession.

Finance Committee

The Parish remains in a relatively healthy state with positive cash balances held although the overall cash position includes grants of c.£41k that will be used to replace the heating system at St Winefrides hall. 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

- Wifi now fitted to St John's Hall – thanks to parishioner, John Isles, for this work.
- Working with Diocese Property department to ensure new heating system at St Winefride's Hall is appropriate for our needs. That it complies with the terms and conditions of the grant obtained.
- Work on grant application to NL to obtain funding for new soffits and facias to the whole of St John's church site in conjunction with Finance Dept. Quote obtained £18990.00 from C & M Builders.
- Undertaken maintenance tasks at both churches and halls.
- Work at St John's to clear overgrown area surrounding sacristy and cellar grounds with volunteers.
- Outstanding: extensive area of back garden of St Winefride's site which is overgrown needs cutting back. Volunteers needed
- Trees in same area require pruning – neighbours complaining.
- Working with Wibsey Neighbourhood team to get snicket at side of St Winefride's cleared.