

DRAFT MINUTES
Parish Pastoral Council
Corpus Christi and Our Lady of Lourdes
Saturday 7th December 2024 – 12.00-13.30, Parish Hall, Headington

Vision: A welcoming and dynamic Catholic community, with the Eucharist at the centre, reaching out to all.

Present: Fr. Mervyn, Sr Marie Ann, Anna Brooke, Nick Kenworthy-Browne, John Guy, Ruth Kennell, John Kirwan, Marc Laferty, Shalini Lalvani, Sharon Taylor. **In attendance:** Jon Rosebank & Penelope Middle **Apologies:** John Hanlon Maureen O'Neill, Sula Wiltshire.

1. **Welcome and opening prayer**
2. **Synodal Journey – update.** The final session of the Synod on Synodality took place in October in Rome with the Final Document, approved by Pope Francis, being published on 26th October, see: <https://www.synod.va/en/news/final-document-of-the-xvi-assembly.html>]. Jon R & Penelope M (who have been very much involved in the Root & Branch movement (a community which works for a safe, just and inclusive RC Church <https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org/>), shared their insights in the light of the Final Document. In essence, while there had been a positive progression in the tone of discussions since the last Vatican meeting in 2023 and ten study groups considering substantive issues were scheduled to report back in 2025, they felt that a drawback was that implementation of the Synod's final recommendations appeared to be being left to local Bishops (some of whom were more active than others), along with a lack of accountability at some levels in the Church and a need for more clarity around 'differentiated co-responsibility' and what it might mean in practice. JR & PM were thanked and accepted an invitation to stay for the rest of the meeting. Our own parish synodal journey continues as we discern and respond to needs.
3. **Minutes of last meeting** – 7th September 2024 – approved with minor corrections
4. **Matters arising from the minutes** (not covered by items on the agenda)
 - Parish Guide (ML)- ML reported that he had almost completed a draft and this would be circulated to the PPC for comment.
 - New notice boards (SL)- reported that these had now arrived and would now most likely be populated in the New Year.
5. **Safeguarding update** - RK reported that our new Safeguarding rep, Linda O'Sullivan, is still going through the appropriate checks, which are also in process for those who have volunteered to join the new parish SVP group.
6. **Social activities & plans** (SL)- Christmas Fete on 1st December 2024 was deemed a great success and raised £2,517, Shalini and team were thanked for their efforts. The monthly "Meet and Eats" in the parish hall, after 11.00am mass at CC are also going well and Wheatley is celebrating monthly ecumenical gatherings.
7. **Communication with PPC** - suggestions received from parishioners. None received in advance of the meeting. Reminders are now routinely issued in the bulletin before each meeting.
8. **Vision & Mission areas progress - with reference to away day action notes.** The PPC had held away days on July (6th) and October (12th). At the latter Fr Mervyn had observed that from now on we need to start thinking of ourselves as being within a 'cluster' of parishes (CC/OLL, along with Greyfriars and St Anthony of Padua) in the wider Deanery. The cluster could share information and collaborate on events, etc. The action notes, were reviewed and updated as follows:

Liturgy and Worship

Area	Initial Action	Progress/ action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liturgy planning with all groups – so that music at masses takes account of Sunday readings and is geared to particular celebrations (e.g. First Communion). Offertory procession and gifts to be reinstated at all weekend masses System for Greeters for all weekend masses to be explored and implemented Ecumenicism- Explore the possibility of a shared Carol/Advent service with Headington Churches Engagement of Young People through the new Diocesan Youth Service Officer, Patrick Denton, who is working with the Deanery 	<p>Meeting to be arranged for leaders of music groups - JH/Fr M</p> <p>Fr M & Sr M-A</p> <p>Need to identify co-ordinator for each mass, seek volunteers and create rotas. Announce at Mass & in newsletter - FR M/JG</p> <p>Explore with Headington Churches - AB</p> <p>Possibility of joint meeting with PD amongst cluster parishes – Fr M?</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Ongoing – introduce in New Year</p> <p>Ongoing – JG had put in newsletter. JH to follow up, also ST (for 11am)</p> <p>AB had raised this with Headington Churches, but all churches already had events planned. Events could be circulated to network. Several parishioners had recently attended the Taize evening hosted by the Methodist community in Lime Walk.</p> <p>PD had subsequently spoken at all masses recently and the pizza Sunday lunch meeting at CC had been well attended by young people.</p>

Evangelisation & Formation

Area	Initial Action	Progress / action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Called & Gifted – spiritual gifts (charism) discernment process. 	<p>Interest in parish/Deanery to be ascertained in New year, with aim of running C&G in 2025.</p>	<p>JK to speak about C&G at masses on w/e 25th/26th Jan</p>
<p>Faith formation - some activity is going on – e.g. Journey in Faith & accompaniment, on 1:1 basis, of enquirers; Café/Sycamore sessions.</p>	<p>Need to consider whether Sycamore resources can be utilised more and sessions perhaps promoted more across cluster, approach to evangelisation - JK</p>	<p>Four café style session run using Sycamore resources in Nov/Dec, attracting 6-8 people per night, including several from other parishes. Format works well. JK to</p>

		consider further café/Sycamore sessions for Lent.
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Social Outreach

Area	Initial Action	Progress/ action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice and Peace Group (Action for Fairer World) has active external focus e.g.– CAFOD/FHL. Perhaps need to look more at parish/local needs eg SVP Food Bank Ambassador - coordination with Kevin and Mike to determine the role's duties (delivering food from the church, helping with the Food Bank itself, etc). Fair Trade Ambassador to maintain profile of CC/OLL as a Fair Trade Parish. Stall at Christmas Fete might help advertise the role to attendees. Working with our diverse community to identify other needs and priorities within the parish Social outreach more broadly 	<p>SVP talks after masses w/e 19/20 Oct and meeting Th 24th - ST/JH</p> <p>Check on process and needs of food bank. Coordination with Kevin & Mike – ML</p> <p>Seek Fairtrade ambassador via newsletter - JG</p> <p>Areas can be flagged to PPC via suggestions box/office, or newsletter item.</p> <p>Talks after masses in November from Lin McWilliams from Jesuit Missions</p>	<p>Ongoing. Ref SVP Group – talks at masses were delivered by Andrew Nash (Abingdon SVP coordinator). The follow up meeting resulted in a group of parishioners agreeing to form a local group. Several training sessions have since been held and the DBS checking procedure is under way. JH to update.</p> <p>ML reported that Kevin & Mike are continuing in Wheatley. AB reported that she, Mary and Cleo are now collections for Headington. Possibility of talks after mass to highlight needs and inclusion of items in offertory procession once a month. TBC.</p> <p>No one has come forward and the Fair Trade shop in Headington has given notice of closure. Review in New Year. JG reported dismay that the coffee served at the Christmas Fete was not Fairtrade, in contravention of our commitment as a Fairtrade Parish. Action: SL to ensure Fairtrade products served in future.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Talks and appeal given at all masses in November.</p>

Co-Responsibility

Area	Initial Action	Progress /action
<p>Fr M valued work of PPC in channelling ideas and suggestions. Ongoing need to identify competent people to support or lead activities in the parish.</p> <p>Website/ parish information – identified need to develop an engaging active web portal to support parish communication and evangelisation, with relevant up-to-date information. Links to having a welcome leaflet and possibly an alphabetical listing of parish contacts/activities</p>	<p>Raise profile of PPC and activity. Continue seeking suggestions from parishioners – Fr M & all PPC members.</p> <p>Fr M to speak to JG about current website. Possibility then of small group to scope actual requirements for new website to ensure functionality enhanced. Fr M /JK</p>	<p>Ongoing. Will be aided by parish guide and website</p> <p>Website - SL has taken over updating and revising the parish website (thanks to JG for his earlier work on website). In discussion with Fr M she is working on a revised layout, a draft of which will be shared with the PPC. Will be structure to link to mission areas. Parish guide will support.</p>

9. **Update from Action for a Fairer World Group** – Minutes of meeting on 20th November had been circulated in advance (see also Social Outreach above). Brenda Gratwicke had given several moving talks to specific groups (e.g. Wheatley) on her charity work in Ukraine and it was agreed to invite her to talk to a wider audience in the New Year, in Headington – Action JK

10. Membership of PPC - gaps

Edwina and Nick had both offered their resignations and were thanked for their contributions. It was agreed that we did need to consider a more diverse membership to reflect the make up of the parish. A note in the newsletter had not produced any response and members were asked to consider who might be approached. Names to be sent to JK, in the first instance, by end of January. Action: All:

11. Finance Council – (Finance, building & resources) - feedback as appropriate

SL was congratulated on her appointment as parish treasurer.

i. **Donations to charity** – it was confirmed that the parish would contribute 10% of parish income to appropriate charitable causes. Fund raising for particular charitable causes would also continue and would be made clear in advance of events or activities.

12. **Ecology audit incl. PV Panels for CC Church roof.** Ongoing. JH & JK had met with a contact for an interesting preliminary discussion on ecology audits, which highlighted the need to be clear on what one was trying to achieve. Action TBC.

13. **Any Other Business** - none

Next Meeting: Saturday 8th March at 12.00 in CC parish Hall.

Some other Key Dates for 2025: Ash Wednesday 5th March; Easter Sunday 20th April, Confirmations - Sat 21 June, First Communion w/e 14/15 June