

**Minutes - Parish Pastoral Council
Corpus Christi and Our Lady of Lourdes
Saturday 7th March 2026 – 12.00-13.30**

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

Present: Fr Mervyn (FrM), Sr Marie-Ann (SrMA), John Kirwan (JK), Maureen O’Neill (MON), Marc Lafferty (ML), John Hanlon (JH), Sharon Taylor (ST), Ruth Kennell (RK), Anna Brooke (AB), Shalini Francis (SF), Amy Angelici (AA), with Ruben Angelici (RA) in attendance. **Apologies:** Nevin Vuddamalay (NV).

1. **Minutes of last meeting** – 6th December 2025- were approved.
2. **Matters arising from the minutes (not covered by items on the agenda)**- JK welcomed Amy Angelici to her first meeting of the Pastoral Parish Council and Ruben Angelici, who would be presenting later in the meeting. FrM reported that feedback from the Parish Visitation would be after Easter, at a general meeting, when all the Deanery parish visits had been completed.
3. **Safeguarding update** - RK reported there is now a separate laptop for the use of the safeguarding team, which will help in undertaking safeguarding checks for anyone who requires a DBS check. An issue that has come to light was the taking of photographs and videos both in church and at events. RK stated that, while monitoring is difficult, the Parish needs to be aware that filming and photography may pose potential data protection and safeguarding issues. RK will consult further with the Diocese for guidance on this.
4. **Vision & Mission areas – progress:**
 - Evangelisation, Catechesis & Formation** (‘Good News’, teaching & faith development)
 - i. **Called & Gifted** - the current gifts discernment process is in the concluding phase, with a ‘taking stock’ meeting to be held on Sat 14th March. This would reflect on the charisms that appear to be emerging amongst parishioners and how these might help the parish in future.
 - ii. **Catechesis and evangelisation** – RA and AA made a presentation on the importance of Catechesis in our formation as Catholics (‘Equipped to Echo’). The PPC agreed that appropriate formation was essential to ensure a full understanding of the teaching of the Church and deepening this would in itself help to engage parishioners more fully in different aspects of parish life. It was agreed to present a version of the presentation to the forthcoming C&G group meeting on 14th March – as something of a sounding out. It was then hoped to launch development of an engaging catechetical framework, based around this, after Easter.
 - a. **Liturgy & Worship** (inc. prayer, sacramental preparation) –
 - i. **Lent 2026** – The Retreat Day at the Priory had been well received; ‘Sycamore Plus’ cafe style sessions on aspects of prayer were proving engaging. The parish one-year Sycamore licence now also gives access to film series covering parenting and also vocations (JK has details). Sharon and Martin T have started a new prayer group, sharing prayers together on a Friday night (see newsletter for details).
 - ii. **Communion under both kinds survey** – NV had produced a summary report from the 79 survey responses received. This had shown quite mixed opinions. It was noted that the relatively low response rate (from a weekly mass attendance of c. 700) provided only a snapshot of views. These were, however, very helpful and had highlighted issues of Theology, as well as some practical ones. It was agreed that further discernment was needed and FrM would explore this with the Eucharistic Ministers after Easter. NV was thanked for his work on the survey.
 - b. **Social Outreach** (incl. J&P/Action for a Fairer World; support for those in need, ecumenical outreach) –

- i. **SVP – brief update** – the SVP conference was focusing efforts on the parish and OX3 area. Ongoing fundraising and visits now established, liaising as necessary with other parties/organisations
- ii. **Action for a Fairer World (J&P) Group** – CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day, including the very well attended soup supper, raised £1,382 plus any donations made to CAFOD directly. Next Meeting is on 25th March. Friends of the Holy Land hamper raffle will take place after Easter.
- iii. **Ecumenical matters** – Churches Together Headington; Wheatley: -
World Day of Prayer was on March 6th - not that well attended (but was a weekday). 4 people from Corpus Christi contributed to readings and prayers. **Christian Unity Week** - service will not be this May, as had been proposed, but the new vicar at St Andrews, Mother Emma, has offered to host this at the more usual point in the year i.e. January (2027). An **Eco Festival** - with 2 themes, love of God's creation locally, and caring for our common home will be held on September 19th, at URC Risinghurst. Planning meeting for this is 7.30pm, April 9th, venue TBA (Please let Anna Brooke know if you would like to come. **Opportunities to pray with others:** look out for Taize services at the Methodists, Monday prayers on zoom, and others (usually advertised in newsletter). Some members of other churches are attending the Tolkien Stations of the Cross during Lent

c. **Co-responsibility**

- i. **Communicating with parishioners** – parish directory updates (Sr MA). SR MA was thanked for updating the directory and PPC members asked to review the draft and notify her of any errors or further suggestions by 13th March, for the office to then finalise. It is hoped that the directory will complement the website, newsletter and Facebook presence.
- ii. **Parish website** – it was hoped to progress development of this in the coming months
- iii. **Membership of PPC** – currently two vacancies

5. **Social activities & plans** – update. SF reported that the usual events would be run after Easter and advertised in due course.

6. **Finance Council** – (Finance, building & resources) - feedback on any significant matters

- **Donations to parish** – there was a need to boost parish income and increasing regular Gift Aid donations was a prime way to assist this. Talks on parish finances and the importance of Gift Aid would therefore be given after all masses on weekend of 14-15 March.
- **Ecology Audit (hall)** – has now been arranged for Wed 8 April at 10.00am, with Kelly Welsh from Oxford Brookes.
- **Parish accounts** – a query was raised about whether parish annual accounts could, in future, give clearer breakdowns of income and expenditure.
- SF replied that this was in hand.

7. **Communication with PPC - suggestions received from parishioners**

ST raised that eulogies delivered in foreign languages could be difficult to follow and it would be helpful for an English translation to be provided, where possible. FrM observed that this normally only occurs at requiems for the East Timorese community usually held on Saturdays. The PPC agreed that translations would be helpful.

8. **Any Other Business** none raised.

9. **Date for next meeting in 2026:** at 12.00 on Sat 6th June 2026