

Parish Pastoral Council Nominations 2021

Candidate Profiles

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING

Please read the attached profiles before voting.

Voting forms are available at the back of the church or can be downloaded from the parish website.

There are 4 places to be filled on the Pastoral Council.

Only one voting form is allowed per adult parishioner.

You may select **up to 4 candidates** on your form.

Please place your voting form in the ballot box at the back of the church by Sunday November 28th 2021.

Carole Cox

I taught music at St Dominic's School and St Columba's College for over 20 years, and gave piano lessons at my home for another 5 years, but I am now retired. So I have time to help more in the Parish.

I am in 2 book clubs within the Parish, one of which has been meeting for over 12 years since "At Your Word Lord" was begun in the Diocese.

I have read "Divine Renovation" and I am an enthusiastic supporter of parish renewal. I was a member of the Parish Council about 10 years ago and before that I was a member of "Churches Together in Harpenden".

I am now a member of the SVP, the Live Simply Group, and the Liturgy Group.

I am also the Chair of the Hertfordshire Circle of the Newman Association.

If I am elected to the PPC, I will work to help bring the aims of the Synod in which everyone has a voice, to be heard and respected.



Tony Fields

I feel so fortunate to have been brought up by my parents in the Catholic Church. My parents were practising Catholics and were actively involved in our parish growing up in Rickmansworth.

I now have a young family (with 4 young children) and want to bring my children up with a strong faith. There are so many young families in Harpenden, and I feel having more young parents on the Parish Council would be beneficial. I also believe that post the pandemic it is more important than ever to engage families and to set a great example. If I can play a small role I would be delighted.



In terms of my skills, I am a business owner and provide coaching advice to individuals who are stuck in their personal or professional life, and deep down would love to build better relationships with their families, and to make a positive difference on those around them. This includes inspiring parents to make better choices in their lives. This involves developing a high level of trust, to have empathy and to communicate effectively. I feel these skills have come naturally having held various leadership roles in the past and believe they would be so important in the Parish Council position too. In my business role I am also actively involved in the local community and have recently signed up as a Dragon's Den mentor to help Sixth Form students at a Harpenden school. I was brought up with love, support and in a household with Christian values, and so have always felt that I want to give back.

In addition, I am a Chartered Financial Planner having worked within Financial services for 20 years. I have a strong financial knowledge, and so these skills could potentially be beneficial in future.

Eddie Gaynor

I believe that I could make a potentially useful contribution to the Parish Pastoral Council. I was in the teaching profession for over 40 years, initially as an English and drama teacher. For the last 15 years, I was a headteacher in two secondary schools. As a senior leader and school governor, I led and chaired numerous teams and committees. I also worked closely with other secondary headteachers in Hertfordshire and served on the management boards of the local Educational Support Centre and the London



and south east region of The Schools' Co-operative Society. I was a member of the Hemel Hempstead Rotary Club, worked closely with them on various fundraising activities, and had good links with the MP and local businesses in Hemel Hempstead.

Throughout my teaching career, but particularly in headship, I was directly responsible for the pastoral welfare of our students and had constructive working relationships with their families.

I was a deputy headteacher in two Catholic schools in the diocese and was inspired by the CES's dictum that *'the seed of glory'* is in everyone. This deeply informed my work with colleagues, students and their families. I have been a minister of the word in the parish for many years, reading at the early mass on Sundays, and have had the pleasure of working with four parish priests in that time. I have recently retired and have volunteered to be a prison visitor with The Shannon Trust and an assessor/adviser with Citizens Advice in St Albans. I believe strongly in the importance of service and hope that, if elected, I may be of service to our parish and help it to become what Canon Antony calls *'an even more vibrant and outreaching Catholic community.'*

Thank you for considering my application.

John Newham

My name is Jon Newham. I am 54. I have lived in the parish for about 15 years, have been a member of the Church for 11, and have worshipped at OLOL for 14. I am an active member of the parish. I sing in the choir, I am a lay reader, and I participate in a number of church and related groups: Environment and Liturgy LiveSimply groups – I am Secretary of the former; secretary of the local Circle of the Catenian Association and a member of the local SVP Conference; I have recently signed up to the new OLOL homelessness support group.



I have taught History at a boys' secondary school in Hitchin for 30 years, so I am used to speaking in public and dealing with people in a variety of situations. Over the years I have been a local District Councillor and have served on a number of different committees, including housing association and Co-operative committees, so I am used to what is involved in such work. I am generally well-organised and adaptable and my computer skills are reasonable.

I would consider it an honour to be elected to the PPC, and, if elected, would be interested in pursuing the following issues:

- CAFOD LiveSimply parish.
- Divine Renovation.
- A co-ordinated approach to the various initiatives in the parish to assist the poor and vulnerable.

Thank you very much for taking the time and trouble to read this and to consider voting for me.

Fernanda Paukstys Baptista

I grew up in Brazil and I attended a Jesuit school - Colégio São Luís – one of the most traditional in the country. I have been a very active member of the community and have participated in several pastoral activities for the school and the parish it was associated with.

Some of the activities included youth meetings, liturgical organization of youth Masses and also social activities with different groups such as volunteer work with people in need.



I now live in the UK and I feel I can contribute to the local community development by bringing a new and diverse experience. I am a very committed person and I aim high for everything I do.

Mark Quigley

I have been a member of Our Lady of Lourdes since moving to Harpenden from St Albans with my wife and our four children back in 2004. Over the past few years I have been getting progressively more involved with the Parish, having been a member of the Live Simply group since its inception in 2015/16 and a member of the Liturgy Group, for the past 4 or 5 years, run by Sister Regina (who has kindly nominated me for this



position) which amongst other things has choreographed Masses for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (twice), Anointing of the Sick and Stations of the Cross. Prior to the pandemic, I also attended a men's choir set up by our choir mistress Katie Metcalfe, which met weekly in the undercroft and we performed at a concert along with the Bella Mamas, to raise money for charity.

My main career was working for Barclays Bank (for 31 years), but having left there in 2015 I am now the Managing Director of a small firm based in Knightsbridge which provides finance to property developers all across the country. In terms of qualifications, in addition to various banking exams, I have an MBA from Sheffield Business School.

Outside of work I was previously (2008-2018) a Governor at Beechwood Park School in Markyate (the last 3 years of which were as Deputy Chair) and a coach/referee at Harpenden Rugby Club for 12 seasons (2005-2017). More recently earlier this year I was appointed to the Gentlemen's Committee at Aldwickbury Park Golf Club.

I am committed to the Parish and to the wider Harpenden community and feel that I have a wide skill-set and a lot to give and if voted in would be delighted to represent the views from the pews of our parishioners.