

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (JPPC)

Held at St John the Evangelist, Mill End

9th September 2024 @ 7.30pm

In Attendance:	Apologies:
Father Andrew Gallagher	Eddie O'Sullivan
Father Dom Matokovic	Elaine Price
Richard Booth	
David Kendrick	
Dee Vanstone	
Sue Noble	
Beatrix Li	
Jane Irwin	
Lizzie Quinn	
Margaret Simon (Youth Group representative)	

1. Welcome and Prayer

Richard welcomed everyone to the 30th JPPC meeting. Father Andrew opened with a time of prayer.

2. Opening items

Father Andrew shared an update on building works due to take place at Mill End in the coming months.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – 8th July 2024

Livestream messaging – Father Andrew confirmed livestream messaging has been updated.

Visits to the sick and housebound – Claire Pride has agreed to develop a flyer to raise awareness of how the housebound can receive visits and the sacraments.

Action (Jane Irwin) – share an update on flyer development at November meeting.

Unifying as the Christian churches in the local area – Richard reached out to James Roberts (contact at Clement Danes); no response yet due to summer breaks, so will follow-up again.

Action (Richard Booth): Connect with James Roberts and share update at November meeting.

4. Discipleship

Alpha - Richard confirmed Alpha is starting next Monday 16th September, and will run until Monday 2nd December. There will be one Saturday session on 9th November. There are 11 confirmed

participants. Awareness was raised through social media and the banners placed in Mill End and Rickmansworth.

GIFT - Several children received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion throughout the month of August. GIFT recommences on 14th September.

Faith and Friendship group - David shared the group re-started fortnightly meetings following a summer break last week and continues to be held on Wednesday afternoon at Our Lady's.

Kairos - this group meet virtually on the last Tuesday every month, with involvement extending beyond our parishes. Paul Forrest is continuing to run Kairos with Anne Lorrimer-Roberts following his move away from the parish.

Prayer & Life workshops - a second series commenced last week.

RCIA – Father Andrew is encouraging people to undertake Alpha before starting RCIA; two people are joining Alpha in this context, and Father Andrew is meeting a third person this week.

Baptisms – Father Dom joined the final course hosted by Father Matteo this week. There were three couples who participated, and a fourth that will be invited to join the next session in November.

Confirmation - Father Dom will share an update on Confirmation at the November meeting.

Warm Spaces / Community Lunch – the SVP 10th anniversary is taking place this weekend (15th September) and will be used as an opportunity to raise awareness of the work that is done, including the community lunch (which is combined with this month's community lunch). Warm Spaces is due to re-start in the coming months; further details to be shared at the next meeting.

Parish Cell Groups – Beatrix is working to meet with the lady who has run similar groups in the past; further discussions to take place with Father Andrew in the coming month.

Understanding the Mass – the printed version had a pause over the summer; the parish website has been updated with all printed versions (and upcoming instalments as well).

Young Adults Group – Discussion continues with Ben and Sabrina on how to engage with young adults across the parishes.

Action (Father Andrew): Share Young Adults group at upcoming Deanery meeting (in October).

5. Youth Ministry

Margaret advised the Youth Group will re-start on 17th September, and the team are hoping for more new joiners (particularly those starting secondary school this year).

Some of the older students (Year 10) definitely need more advanced content, and the team are still working on identifying ways of bringing more structure, including YCW (Impact) and Origins.

A connection with the Prayer & Life workshops requires safeguarding discussions to be completed.

There will be a connection to the efforts to raise awareness for Fair Trade Fortnight (22nd September); this will be discussed at the first Youth Group meeting.

Father Andrew would like to explore another Youth Mass close to the feast of Christ the King, similar to last year, and once again held on the 1st Sunday of Advent.

Action (Margaret Simon): Provide Youth Group dates with Jane for sharing on social media.

6. Communications - Social media strategy / Parishes website

There was a brief hiatus over the summer months, in line with the parish newsletter. Regular posts, including the newsletter reflections, have now re-started.

A meeting will also take place on 28th September to discuss the potential integration of Young Adults and the social media team.

Jane will also follow-up again with Andrea Fraser about leveraging the monthly market stalls to showcase multiple faith groups across the local communities.

Jane talked about re-starting work on parishioner profiles; several possibilities were suggested (Dee, Geraldine, Anne etc.) and also leveraging the 10th anniversary celebration of St. Vincent de Paul.

7. Parish Development Plan – DISCIPLESHIP

Father Andrew opened with a recap of the Divine Renovation definition of Discipleship (found on page 270) – “the lifelong process of growing, maturing and learning that the believer eagerly enters into if truly evangelised. It includes catechesis but cannot be reduced to it; it includes growing in – knowledge, faith, prayer and identifying one’s God-given gifts.”

The plans outlined at the November 2023 meeting were:

6 months	<p>Hold week of guided prayer – <i>Complete (April 2024)</i></p> <p>Provide training for welcomers – <i>taking place at the end of September</i></p> <p>Update skills audit to include reference to talents – <i>Complete (February 2024); also reflected in the parish registration forms</i></p>
12 months	<p>Organise Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help – <i>taking place in October (1)</i></p> <p>Explore “Who is Mary?” during the month of May and connect this with the Marian procession – <i>taking place in October as part of the Novena.</i></p> <p>Developing a “talent mapping” list based on planned giving results – <i>Complete; all planned giving talent details have been sent to respective leaders</i></p>
5 years	<p>Extend GIFT approach to include Confirmation (as well as First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion) – <i>WIP</i></p> <p>Hold sessions to help people “Understand what your talents are”, and how you can use these for others – <i>WIP</i></p> <p>Create a mindset within the youth to understand what their talent is, and how they can use it for God – <i>WIP</i></p>

	<p>Offer ongoing formation for adults beyond Alpha that involves some kind of journey of faith – <i>connected to parish cell groups</i></p> <p>Provide a way for people to more deeply connect with each other - <i>connected to parish cell groups</i></p> <p>Achieve the team vision to be one of the most vibrant parishes in Hertfordshire – <i>WIP</i></p>
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During the September 2024 meeting, the team discussed a range of topics, and made updates to the plan as follows:

6 months	<p>Host the Novena and talks on Our Lady in October</p> <p>Use extracts from Pope Benedict’s letter on Hope to align with Year of Hope</p>
12 months	<p>Introduce parish cell groups</p> <p>Explore ways to recognise and celebrate those who are sharing their talents (2)</p> <p>Explore new ways to grow in faith and prayer (3)</p>
5 years	<p>Continue working on all existing 5 year plan efforts</p>

(1) Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Father Andrew confirmed that the Novena is taking place and shared the flyer that has been produced. The Novena will take place as a series of talks shared by different priests across the Westminster Diocese, including several priests who have served at our parishes.

The talks will all reflect on different aspects of Our Lady, and are being held at different times across all three parishes to support different people being able to attend based on their availability. Talks being held in Rickmansworth (Sunday 13th, Wednesday 16th and Sunday 20th) will also be broadcast via livestream.

(2) Using our talents for God

There was extended discussion about the different ways we could encourage people to use their talents and showcase those who do (e.g. through parishioner profiles).

Beatrix asked if there is merit in also approaching this from a different direction, namely providing way for people to recognise / express gratitude to parishioners who have used their talents for God and others. Fr Dom suggested this could be added to the parish website. Lizzie suggested this could be an alternative way to create parishioner profiles.

Action (Father Andrew): Share this concept with the SLT for consideration.

(3) Explore new ways to grow in faith and prayer

There was a wide-ranging discussion about other ways to growth in faith and prayer, which included:

- Using regular coffee mornings to reflect on Year of Hope newsletter extracts
- Organising prayer sponsorship for young people (when taking exams)
- Organising prayer sponsorship for the housebound (specifically with the Youth Group)
- Organising a “come and learn about the Mass” to attract those who are not Catholic, or have not been practising their faith for a long time

Action (all): Continue discussion of options that also connect with FELLOWSHIP in November meeting.

8. Any other business

Volunteering details – the JPPC have expressed interest in more deeply understanding volunteering that is currently taking place across the parishes, to provide inspiration for ongoing discussions.

Action (Father Andrew): Source volunteering details from Kerry to share at November meeting.

SLT – Father Andrew shared that with the progress the SLT has made on bringing the parishes closer together, and also following Paul’s departure, the SLT will be more closely aligned to the Divine Renovation areas of responsibility.

- Evangelisation – Richard
- Faith in Action – Geraldine
- Discipleship – Anne Lorrimer-Roberts
- Youth & Families – Lizzie
- Liturgy & Worship – Father Dom

Joint Social Committee - Father Andrew shared an update that Fiona Saint-George has agreed to take on a role leading joint parish social activities.

This was well-received by all members of the JPPC, who agreed with the importance of a joined-up approach across the parishes that ties back to our wider parish mission.

There were some questions about potential upcoming events (e.g. Advent Fayre) and Father Andrew explained that these would be considered as part of a meeting that is taking place on Tuesday 24th September at Our Lady’s.

Beatrix asked if there would be an explanation of the remit and scope of the new committee, so that everyone across the parishes understands the new approach. Father Andrew confirmed this was the plan, and that further discussion on this should take place at the next JPPC meeting.

Action (Father Andrew): Share further update at November meeting.

Upcoming JPPC changes – there was also reflection that 5 JPPC members (Beatrix, David, Jane, Lizzie and Sue) are due to end their terms in February 2025. In addition, there is still 1 vacant position for St. John’s.

Action (Beatrix, David, Jane, Lizzie and Sue): Consider fellow parishioners to nominate as JPPC replacements; for further discussion at November meeting.

Upcoming parish events – outlined as follows:

15 th September	10 year anniversary of St. Vincent de Paul – 10.30am Mass followed by buffet lunch at St John's, Mill End
24 th September	Brass on the Grass review + Social Committee launch
13 th – 20 th October	Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
2 nd November	11am Our Lady's Church, Deceased Parishioners' Mass
1 st December	6pm Our Lady's Church, Youth Mass

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 18th November 2024 @ 7.30pm Venue: St John Fisher, Chorleywood