

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

Held at Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth
20th January 2025 @ 7.30pm

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

1. Welcome and Prayer

Richard welcomed everyone to the 32nd JPPC meeting. Father Andrew opened with a time of prayer.

2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – 18th November 2024

Visits to sick and Housebound Flyer – Jane confirmed this flyer is now completed and ready for use. Father Andrew advised there is currently a shortage of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion available to visit the sick and housebound; the flyer will be made available once this has been resolved.

Unifying as the Christian churches in the local area – Richard continues to work to meet with several other representatives of the Christian communities in the area.

Action (Richard Booth): Share update at next meeting.

3. Discipleship

Alpha – the most recent intake ended on 2nd December. A catch-up is taking place on Monday 27th January for participants. A “tester session” is taking place on 4th April for other parishes who are interested in understanding more about how Alpha is run.

GIFT – the most recent GIFT session was held on 18th January, with 23 children and their families participating. A total of 58 children have signed up to GIFT and it is encouraging to see several who have made their First Holy Communion continuing to come to the monthly sessions. There are also several families who were originally from other parishes and have joined because they appreciate the approach we are taking.

Faith and Friendship group - David shared the group re-started on 15th January for 2025 with ~15 people. A new DVD series about the Bible is the main resource currently being used.

Kairos - this group continues to meet virtually on the last Tuesday of every month, with the resource 'Understanding the Mass' with Edward Sri currently being used.

Prayer & Life workshops - the second series of workshops ended just before Christmas. David advised that Maria and Tracey have invited the group to join a group in Garston every fortnight.

RCIA – a total of 8 people are undertaking preparations to be received into the Catholic Church, including 3 Alpha participants from the most recent course and 2 parents from GIFT.

Baptisms – Jane shared that despite some technical issues with the most recent session, which had 5 families in total, it was a very positive session. Another session is planned for March. All shared that it was lovely to see the parish newsletter messages being shared for each baptism.

Confirmation – preparation commenced in January for a total of 17 students and is taking place on a Monday evening. Decision Point continues to be used as the main supporting resource.

Warm Spaces / Community Lunch – Warm Spaces has restarted on Thursday afternoons. The Community Lunch took place on 19th January with good representation from across the community.

Parish Cell Groups – no update; pending a discussion between Richard and Beatrix.

Action (Richard Booth): Arrange to meet with Beatrix regarding the Parish Cell Groups.

Understanding the Mass – will recommence this week following “special editions” for Advent and Christmas. All previous editions are available on the parish website.

Young Adults Group – the next session will be taking place on 28th January, watching an episode of *The Chosen* and having pizza.

4. Youth Ministry given by Margaret

The Youth Mass took place on 1st December and once again was well-attended.

While the group continues to have good representation from the younger years (quite a few starting high school this year), there are several older students are no longer regularly attending.

There is interest in getting the group involved in the art competition being held by the diocese for the Jubilee Year. The YMLT are discussing the possibility of Fiona Ryan-Watson facilitating some sessions.

A meeting of the Youth Group leadership team with Lizzie (supporting Families and Youth Ministry for the SLT) will also be taking place in the coming weeks.

6. Communications - Social media strategy / Parishes website report give by Jane

The same activities continue to be shared on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (X).

A strategy meeting will be taking place in the coming weeks.

Elaine asked if the Young Adults group might be interested in contributing. Jane confirmed that Ben and Sabrina are already involved and will ask them to see if there are any expressions of interest.

Action (Jane Irwin): Ascertain if any of the young adults are open to supporting social media efforts.

Margaret asked if there are any students who might be interested in project work associated with A-levels.

Action (Jane Irwin): Explore possibility of students supporting social media efforts.

7. Parish Development Plan – MINISTRY

Father Andrew opened with a recap of the Divine Renovation definition of **Ministry** (found on page 270) – “service to others; includes essential ministry within the life of the parish [and also] to go out and serve those who do not belong”.

The plans outlined at the March 2024 meeting were:

6 months	<p>Increase awareness of support available to those who are sick or housebound – <i>Pending additional support</i></p> <p>Create a flyer outlining housebound / sick support that can be shared by family and friends – <i>Complete (December 2024)</i></p> <p>Leverage Chorleywood Village Day to raise awareness of faith activities - <i>WIP</i></p> <p>Increase awareness of volunteering taking place across the parishes - <i>WIP</i></p>
12 months	<p>Explore having a stall at Rickmansworth monthly markets to raise awareness of faith activities - <i>WIP</i></p> <p>Increase awareness of ministry activities (e.g. Warm Spaces, SVP, Food bank) - <i>WIP</i></p> <p>Increase awareness of volunteering being undertaken across the parishes (to inspire further participation) - <i>WIP</i></p>
5 years	No specific plans identified

During the January 2025 meeting, the team discussed a range of topics, and made updates to the plan as follows:

6 months	<p>Awareness of support for sick and housebound</p> <p>Chorleywood Village Day (1)</p> <p>Awareness of volunteering (2)</p>
12 months	<p>Stall at Rickmansworth Monthly Markets (continues to be worked on by Jane)</p> <p>Increase awareness of ministry opportunities (3)</p>

(1) Chorleywood Village Day

This takes place on 12th July in 2025 (which is the day before Brass on the Grass). Elaine has offered to contact the organiser and discuss options.

(2) Awareness of volunteering

Jane suggested showcasing different volunteering opportunities on social media (similar to the parish profiles). Discussion also took place about the possibility of inviting people to share their volunteer work through the parish newsletter, showcasing a different type of volunteering each week / month over an extended period of time.

Father Andrew advised that the SLT are continuing to discuss the best way of raising awareness of volunteering opportunities across the parishes, and also of celebrating our existing volunteers.

Further updates will be shared on the outcome of these discussions in a future JPPC meeting.

12 months

(3) Increase awareness of ministry opportunities

A range of additional ways to minister to the local community were discussed, including possible support for the homeless community (via SVP), the Big Night Out, prison visits, and support for the elderly (e.g. via Chorleywood Care).

Elaine also highlighted there was an opportunity to help parishioners understand how things could be seen as a ministry (e.g. donating to the foodbank, being involved in the community lunches etc.).

There was discussion about possible hospital chaplaincy. Father Andrew confirmed while this has been raised previously across the parishes, there was only 1 volunteer and due to issues with the long duration of their DBS the chaplaincy was never realised.

Finally, there was discussion about the possibilities of prayer ministry, including asking the housebound to pray for specific intentions.

8. Any other business

Mill End Parish Hall refurbishment – the refurbishment has now been completed, including the kitchen. Father Andrew confirmed the space will also be available for rent.

Action (Jane Irwin): Organise for information regarding the parish hall to be shared on social media to raise awareness.

CAFOD Fun Run – 27th December – the run was very well-attended, with 30-40 people joining. Thanks to Jane and Anna for organising. The plan is for this event to be repeated in 2025, and there is also a discussion about utilising the CAFOD Lenten Walk that is held each year.

YMLT – there is a continued need for another volunteer to assist the group, particularly now that the numbers are increasing. It was suggested that we could we advertise on the back of the upcoming Youth Mass.

Jubilee Year – multiple activities have now been shared by the diocese.

A self-paced Westminster Way Pilgrim Walk is now available, starting at Tower Hill and ending at Westminster Cathedral.

There are several Jubilee churches throughout the diocese; several events are taking place in the summer (6 July – Welwyn Garden city for all Hertfordshire parishes).

Guidelines on the Jubilee indulgence has also now been published; this will be shared via the parish newsletter.

Father Dom has volunteered to give a talk on “What is the Jubilee”, explaining the concept of the Jubilee, this year’s theme, indulgences etc.

The Parish retreat day in March will also reflect the Jubilee Year in its theme.

Prayer cards have been made available by the diocese; these will be published on social media and printed.

Jane suggested introducing the concept of a “common time for prayer” across the parishes. Elaine agreed this was a good idea and referenced the Christmas prayer for lunch on Christmas Day, which Eddie seconded. The team suggested organising this time at 7pm on a Sunday evening directly after the 6pm Mass.

Activities for those with special needs – Margaret asked about deanery discussions. There is a centre for the diocese, and Fr Andrew thinks there is a group at Holyrood for children, but unsure if there’s anything else. The catechesis group in Watford run by Deacon Neville.

JPPC changes – thanks were given to Beatrix, David, Jane, Lizzie and Sue who end their terms in February 2025. Replacement members of the JPPC are pending confirmation, and Father Andrew will continue to approach parishioners in the coming weeks to step into these roles.

Upcoming parish events – outlined as follows:

Wednesday 12 th March	Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm, Zoom
Sunday 22 nd March	Parish Retreat Day
Saturday 10 th May	Confirmations
Sunday 11 th May	OLHC Marian Procession and Plant Sale
Sunday 22 nd June	Corpus Christi Processions
Sunday 13 th July	Brass on the Grass

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 17th March 2024 @ 7.30pm Venue: St John the Evangelist, Mill End