

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

Held at St John Fisher, Chorleywood  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 @ 7.30pm

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

## 1. Welcome and Prayer

Jane welcomed everyone to the 31<sup>st</sup> JPPC meeting. Father Andrew opened with a time of prayer.

## 2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Visits to sick and Housebound Flyer – Jane spoken to Clare Pride – they will form a flyer before the next meeting to share with homes and people informing them the parish are happy to visit with Holy Communion.

Volunteering Details – Father Andrew showed Annual Financial Return volunteer details and showed encouraging numbers. 113 volunteers in Our Lady's, who it is estimated volunteer for the parish for 381.5 hours per month, doing 221 roles. Of a parish of 260 people this is encouraging, but also shows how many volunteers we need across the parishes to continue to operate as we are, and more volunteers if we are to grow.

Unifying as the Christian churches in the local area – Richard reached out to James Roberts (contact at Clement Danes); so will follow-up again.

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

## 3. Discipleship given by Fr Andrew

Alpha – Taking place on Monday evenings. Going well with a really good group this year, and a strong Alpha Team building. Finishes on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Have already begun looking ahead to planning next year as Alpha season again from September. Richard is also talking to the Diocesan Evangelisation Co-ordinator about having an introduction Alpha retreat in April for leaders interested in starting Alpha in their parishes.

GIFT – Now 58 children signed up and encouraging to see some who have made their First Holy Communion continuing to come. Also empowering older siblings by helping with powerpoint and lead prayers, and parents have also started getting involved in leading.

Faith and Friendship group - David shared the group is going strong and continues to be held on Wednesday afternoons at Our Lady's bi-weekly. The group have also established a link with Harrow Connects – an Adult group for those with Special Needs who attend twice a year in socialising and sharing faith and experiences. Jane commented that other local community groups could also link in with the group if they wanted.

Kairos - this group meet virtually on the last Tuesday every month, with involvement extending beyond our parishes. They are currently using the resource 'Understanding the Mass' with Edward Sri.

Prayer & Life workshops - a second series is continuing – is a small group 4 but very beneficial for those taking part.

RCIA – Will follow on from Alpha beginning on 11<sup>th</sup> December on Wednesday evenings. A really strong group this year with 7 or 8 candidates from different backgrounds. Father Andrew really encouraged that several are in their early to mid 20s. One came as a result of attending a First Holy Communion in the summer of his nephew – realised something missing in his life. Another came forward after his family involved in GIFT. Judy Gordan looking at a new Symbolon course, which goes into a bit more depth than Sycamore and is a bit more catechetical.

Baptisms – Father Dom now taking the lead. Next course is 7<sup>th</sup> December. As discussed a couple of years ago we now sometimes have Baptisms at Mass on Sunday. Fr Andrew has invited one family who have recently had a baby to have her baptised on Easter Sunday at the 11am Mass at Our Lady's.

Confirmation – Small numbers have applied so far. Father Dom had a meeting with catechists. May be a need for another catechist depending on the numbers as 2 of our catechists are unable to commit fully to this year's course.

Warm Spaces / Community Lunch – Community Lunch continues to go well. About 40-50 attended yesterday. Some new faces both from within the parishes and from the local community. Warm Spaces is due to re-start in the coming months once the hall refurbishment project is completed.

Parish Cell Groups – Richard will organise to meet with Beatrix to see where we are in organising these groups, and support her where needed.

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

Understanding the Mass – this continues and will take a break for a series of Advent sheets prepared by Lizzie in December. All available on the parish website.

Young Adults Group – Fr Dom has met with Ben and Sabrina on how to engage with young adults across the parishes. The news that we are having a group and we've shared with deanery.

#### **4. Youth Ministry given by Toni**

Last meeting there were 12 attending. This is a big increase on previous year. Mainly girls but a couple of boys. 1 older boy helping out with games.

Dates fixed for 2025 and emailed to Jane for social media coverage.

Following Origins Prayer Course – gives the group something to follow. Discussion, creativity. Getting them to communicate about their faith.

The group have also supported Helen and Katy Nolan's Fairtrade drive. Three of the girls dressed up as part of the coffee morning to raise the profile of Fairtrade in the parishes. The Youth Group plan to help build on this for next year.

The Youth Group would like to get involved in the Parish Joint Carol Service on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

Hoping to get in touch with Lizzie Quinn and talk about the Youth pathway that she has begun talking to Fr Andrew about.

Youth Mass on 1<sup>st</sup> December – have organised young people to be involved in welcoming, reading, serving, choir etc. Pizza and games in the hall after Mass. Will contact Scouts and see if they will help with food. Hoping Paul and Anita Woodward will be able to help as well.

Lizzie has taken on the role of the SLT to look at Families and Youth Ministry Pathway. She will be meeting with Youth Ministry Leadership Team soon, as well as Sabrina about older group. Also want to tap into resources ASCAT are working on for post-Confirmation and also possible family days. Waiting to hear more about this over the coming months.

**Action (Fr Andrew):** YMLT to contact Fr Andrew about the Christmas Carol Service. Lizzie to meet with YMLT group.

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

A lot of content of 'What's on' events. Perhaps need for more reflections into it and use it as basis to enrich their faith.

Has shared Youth Group dates and also passed these onto St John's School.

Will organise a meeting with Lizzie and Clare. Put it out there to expand the team – perhaps a social media savvy person to build on the momentum we have started. Might put something on social media itself to get people talking.

Will reach other communities through putting out Christmas Leaflet etc. on social media.

Parishioner Profiles – did members of staff from the Parish Team and Dee's family. Very popular. Need to keep encouraging. Might be able to tie in with Parishioner of the month.

Ben and Sabrina now on social media to put out Young Adult information. Took some time to work out who was Administrator of the account.

## **7. Parish Development Plan – FELLOWSHIP**

Father Andrew opened with a recap of the Divine Renovation definition of Fellowship (found on page 270) – ***“Fellowship is community – what the New Testament calls koinonia, the common life. It is meaningful community where people are known and loved, called by name and supported in their call to holiness. It may include socialising, but cannot be reduced to it. Fellowship happens when parishioners are accountable to and for one another.”***

The plans outlined at the January 2024 meeting were:

6 months	<p>Re-start House meetings – connecting in the homes of fellow parishioners to share community and faith.</p> <p>Parish cell groups – currently under development.</p>
12 months	<p>Explore another series of ‘At your Word Lord’</p> <p>Introduce prayer family sponsors at GIFT – <i>‘Summer’s meeting’</i></p> <p>Explore adopting ‘Acorns’ (as run in Barnet)</p> <p>Explore inviting people to make meals for families with new babies.</p> <p>Explore a more formal way to welcome new parishioners to the parish.</p>
5 years	<p>Explore concept of renting a stall at the Rickmansworth Monthly markets</p>

During the November 2024 meeting, the team discussed a range of topics, and made updates to the plan as follows:

6 months	<p>Formation of Joint Parishes Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> December Christmas Carol Service – led by Fiona St-George. Direct new parishioners to events. The remit of this group is to produce good quality events to be advertised across the parishes. Both about fellowship and evangelisation. Not primarily fundraising events, but building the community.</p> <p>New Welcomers badges with name – and encourage to ask people’s names</p> <p>Parish AGM ad it is a good way to find out more</p> <p>New parishioners welcome to usual tea and coffee on specific Sunday – so don’t have to put extra effort in – invite people from different groups to come as well.</p> <p>New Parishioners meeting after GIFT.</p>
12 months	<p>Stall at Rickmansworth Monthly Markets for faith groups – share it with Churches Together. Leaflets etc. on Batchworth Community Stall always welcome – last Sunday of the month. Will put in form to start own stall from March.</p>

5 years	<p>Small groups – remaining on the journey once started from Alpha, JPPC etc. Building support network – might be that you do a little thing and then do something else that is heavy for a couple of years.</p> <p>Try and encourage more engagement from across the parishes in groups such as JPPC to raise awareness about how much is going on. Importance of Word of Mouth.</p>
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## 8. Any other business

Novena – very successful venture. It was great to have familiar faces return and the talks were all of a good quality. It was also affordable compared to a traditional retreat which can cost up to £4000. Might be something to consider repeating in some form in 2025.

Youth Choir – Jane asked if entrance to the choir can be younger than 8. Fr Andrew responded that it was really about maturity. We want it to be seen as something to grow into, and in fact we are encouraging older children to continue so it is now 8+ rather than 8-13.

Cafod Fun Run – 27<sup>th</sup> December – Jane said a lady called Anna wants to run a virtual fun run 5k and encourage members of the parishes to join her as a parish event. Will involve turning up at Our Lady's at 9.30am, returning to the hall for cup of tea and mince pie. Justgiving page set up - £5 to enter the run. And anyone to sponsor uses the Chess Valley Just Giving Link. Would have a sign-up sheet one weekend.

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

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 and let Fr Andrew know.

Upcoming parish events – outlined as follows:

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	6pm Youth Mass, Our Lady's
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	St John's Parish Christmas Event
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	SVP Community Christmas Lunch, 12.30pm, St John's Parish Hall
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	3pm Joint Parishes Christmas Carol Service, Our Lady's

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 @ 7.30pm** Venue: Our Lady's, Rickmansworth – Please note the change of date!