

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

Held at St John Fisher Church, Chorleywood
16th June 2025 @ 7.30pm

In Attendance:	Apologies:
Father Andrew Gallagher	Dee Vanstone
Richard Booth	Eddie O'Sullivan
Ben Sadler	Peter Kuncewicz
David Kendrick	Paula Castree
Father Dom Matokovic	Margaret Simon (Youth Group representative)
Sheila Harrington	
Hannah Power	
Elaine Price	

1. Welcome and Prayer

Richard welcomed everyone to the 34th JPPC meeting. Father Andrew opened with a time of prayer.

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes – 17th March 2025

- i) Fr Andrew and Sheila reported that the Watford Deanery Blessed Sacrament Procession on Sunday 15th June was well attended and an encouraging witness to our faith. 5 members of our parishes were present plus Fr Andrew and Fr Dom. It is hoped this event will be repeated and more parishioners will join the event.

3. Discipleship & Evangelisation

Alpha – This is our parishes' way of introducing people to the faith and reminding people of their faith. A new season will begin in September and the Team are already preparing for this and it will begin to be advertised soon.

GIFT – There is a forthcoming pilgrimage to St Albans on Saturday 21st June and there is a social planned for parents on Wednesday 25th. There was recently a meeting for parishes having GIFT family Catechesis in South eastern England which was insightful. AG referred to statistics which point to a sharp increase in families practicing their faith since GIFT was introduced 3 years ago. Of the 37 who have received the Sacraments, 27 continue to come (73%), 5 have moved away (13.5%) and have 5 no longer come (13.5%). Parents are also

more engaged taking on ministries and 3 have gone through RCIA as a result of GIFT. This is in sharp contrast to the 10% of families continuing practice under the old model of catechesis.

Faith and Friendship group - David share how Faith and Friendship group is stable and going ahead well.

Kairos – Paul Forrest recently asked to step down from leading this group, since he moved away from the parish a year ago. Anne Lorrimer-Roberts will continue to lead and seek support from others within the group to also take the lead.

Prayer & Life workshops – Our guides Maria and Tracey are not likely to be able to provide a group this year, but hope to return in 2026.

RCIA – 1 person has already stepped forward to join RCIA next year and this will be advertised in the parishes over the next few months.

Baptisms – Fr Dom shared that a good number of families coming in and asking, with around 50% continuing to come to Mass afterwards

Confirmation – Fr Dom commented that Bishop Paul came on 10th May to confirm 18 candidates over 2 Masses (one in Chorleywood, one at Our Lady's). The candidates seemed happy with the experience, and there are promising signs that many will continue practicing. Elaine commented that the retreat pilgrimage was particularly well received.

Community Lunch –Fr Andrew: The Community Lunch happened again yesterday with a good attendance. It is good for many participants to have someone to talk to (which they otherwise often don't have).

The Chosen - Fr Dom reported that a nice group has formed of mostly well-known parishioners. It is being well prepared and led by Santoshi and Anouki which is leading to some good, profound and engaging discussions. Fr Andrew commented that he had heard some very positive comments about this new group and thanked those involved.

Parish Cell Groups – pending a discussion between Richard and Lizzie and reflection in SLT.

Young Adults Group –Ben and Fr Andrew to discuss how to arrange to invite those around the age of 18 in summer for a social.

Community Faith Stall - Jane Irwin has organised a 'Faith Stall' at the Rickmansworth Monthly Market for the Christian churches to reach out and be present in the community. This has provoked good conversations and outreach to many people and gives us a good presence in the town. The next date for this is Sunday 29th June.

4. Youth Ministry

i) Youth Group report by Margaret shared in her absence

The Youth Club for those in Year 7 and above continues to grow in strength with around 15 now attending. Still mainly girls, but it is good to have Fr Dom and Lizzie involved in helping

the group to grow. The group meet for an icebreaker, food and input in faith. We do need more adult volunteers to help this group to grow.

Year 6's were invited to a taster session in May but none came. This may have been because it was on the week of St John's Year 6 trip.

The Youth Mass went well, although fewer attended than last year. From this we may have a potential Youth Helper for the Youth Group.

ii) Youth Choir

We are currently short on numbers with 3 of our 7 girls asking to step down this summer. Fr Andrew and Lizzie Quinn are planning to reflect on this with Jaison and think about how we can recruit further members.

iii) ASCAT Post- Confirmation Discipleship

The locals school academy ASCAT have proposed creating a discipleship pathway for those aged 14-18. This will include 3 different types of event a) Ignite – events across Herts b) Ember – events in the Watford Deanery c) Coal – Parish events. The idea is this would lead to the group journeying together towards bigger events like the Flame Youth Festival and helping as Red Caps in Lourdes. We are looking to link into this with some Youth Mentors starting with Sabrina Mills. The first Ignite event is on 5th July at Holy Rood, Watford. Fr Andrew and Fr Dom will personally invite those who they think would engage with this.

iv) Lourdes Red Caps

We have 4 young people (16+) going to Lourdes to help assisted pilgrims this year. They have recently done some fundraising in the parishes and already raised £1800. This is a great opportunity for them to live out their faith and discover more about the universal Church.

6. Communications - Social media strategy / Parishes website

Fr Andrew told the JPPC that he has linked up one of those who was received at Easter with Jane Irwin to join the Communications team.

Fr Andrew has also updated a few things on the website. It would be useful if those in the Committee look at the website regularly and let him know if anything is out of date!

Action: JPPC to look at the parish website and alert Fr Andrew of anything that needs changing.

7. Parish Development Plan – WORSHIP

Father Andrew opened with a recap of the Divine Renovation definition of Ministry (found on page 269) – “Our primary act of worship is the celebration of the Eucharist. Worship can include prayer meetings and times of praise experienced in small groups”.

The plans outlined at the May 2024 meeting were:

6 months	<p>Consider how the parish cell groups can contribute to “times of praise” (to be discussed with Beatrix, who is organising these).</p> <p>Use the month of October to develop something more intentional around praying the Rosary (this also builds on previous JPPC discussions on holding a talk about Mary during October).</p> <p>Add a “please pray for” notice in the parish newsletter for children as they receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the first time.</p>
12 months	<p>Continue to increase youth readers</p> <p>Continue to increase musicians and Welcomers</p> <p>Introduce Youth Music Group for Teenagers</p> <p>Increase Stations of the Cross options in Lent 2025 (not just Friday evenings*)</p> <p>Consider ways to showcase the faith-based activity groups more widely**</p> <p>Organise a joint parishes Carols service at Christmas (as was done in 2023)</p> <p>Invite the Joan of Arc choir to sing at Mass (weekday or weekend TBC)</p>
5 years	<p>Continue to develop the Youth Choir</p> <p>Hold a second Week of Guided Prayer</p> <p>Host an evening of spiritual music (organ recital or similar)</p> <p>Introduce a cantor</p> <p>Hold a joint pilgrimage or walk across the parishes***</p>

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

6 months	<p>Candle stand (real or electric) as devotional practice in Chorleywood</p> <p>Bible Study/ Lectio Divina/ Bible Timeline course? – possibly as lead-up to Christmas</p>
12 months	<p>Introduce a weekday evening Mass in Advent/ Lent for those who are working.</p>

	<p>Think about making the 2026 Pentecost weekend an international weekend in worship and social event.</p> <p>Increase youth readers (only a couple in Mill End only so far)</p>
5 years	Develop Music at Mill End 6pm Vigil Mass – perhaps led by cantors

Any other business

i) JPPC terms of Reference

Fr Andrew confirmed the amendments made after discussion at our last meeting. The JPPC term of office will not be 3, but 2 years; Core Groups are to meet when necessary at the president's request.

ii) Government Legislation

Sheila expressed her concerns regarding the new Crime and Policing Bill, which could see an end to the threat of criminal investigation and prosecution of women who choose to terminate their pregnancy up until the day the child is born. This is being voted on in the same week as the third reading of the Assisted Dying bill and has come under the radar. There seems to be a strong agenda pushing these to become law. Sheila asked members to write to their MPs. Fr Andrew confirmed he has written to our MP but sadly the Crime and Policing Bill had not come to his attention in time for it to be pushed more widely in the parish community. He encouraged all to pray for our legislators.

iii) Corpus Christi Procession

Fr Andrew reminded everyone of the Corpus Christi processions taking place at the weekend. Chorleywood will have a procession in the back garden followed by teas and coffees; Mill End will have a procession after the 10:30 Mass + tea & coffee and sausages in the hall; Our Lady's will have a procession at the end of the 11am Mass

iv) Brass on the Grass

Fr Andrew confirmed we have over 50 volunteers to help with this, thanks to Lizzie Quinn and her team of helpers in requesting help at Masses. He encouraged all to come and bring a friend.

v) Upcoming Jubilee events

The parishes will walk the 5-mile Jubilee Path the Westminster Way on Saturday 6th September and on 20th September there will be a Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham and we are planning to team up with Croxley and Watford to organise a coach to go. We hope it is better supported than previous years.

Upcoming parish events – outlined as follows:

Sunday 22 nd June	Corpus Christi Processions
Sunday 13 th July	Brass on the Grass
Saturday 6 th September	Parishes Walk the Jubilee Westminster Way
Saturday 20 th September	Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 8th September 2025 @ 7.30pm Venue: St John the Evangelist, Mill End