

Pastoral Council AGM

Letter from the Chair

As I sit to write this report at the end of my term as Pastoral Chair, I've been reflecting on the past year. I think many of us are wondering the same thing — where did January go, and how are we already approaching the end of April? 'Time waits for no man', and it certainly keeps marching on.

When I look back, what stands out most is the resilience of our parish. We have continued to rebuild after Covid, we have grieved the loss of loved parishioners and of Fr George, and we have welcomed new families into our community. Alongside the sadness, there have been so many moments of joy — weddings, christenings, celebrations — all the things that remind us what parish life is really about. And through it all, we have been held together by our faith, our love, our strength, and our sense of community. We have also been guided by the new leadership of Pope Leo XIV, now almost a year into his papacy.

Within our own parish, we have built a strong and committed Parish Council. Our purpose has been simple: to support those who devote their lives to the Church — Father Frank, Deacon Lawrence, and Deacon Kingsley — and all Parishioners to whom we serve.

But the life of this parish is carried by so many more. We are blessed with volunteers who run Children's Liturgy, First Holy Communion and Confirmation groups, safeguarding roles, and our vital links with Christ the King Primary School. We have parishioners who serve in ministries, support local groups, and maintain relationships with other churches. Our readers, offertory teams, choirs, cleaners, social organisers, and those who care for our buildings and grounds — every single person contributes. Even simply being part of the congregation is a ministry in itself. Together we are stronger, and it is on these foundations that the parish of Christ the King & Holy Cross continues to grow.

If anyone feels called to deepen their service, their ministry, or simply their involvement in parish life, there are many roles where you would be welcomed with open arms. No special skills required — just a willing heart.

And as we look ahead, we know that for many families the next few months bring the pressures of GCSEs and A-levels — my own family included. We hold all our students, and the families supporting them, in our prayers.

Let us pray for the future of our church, our community and those that follow behind us. As we look ahead with faith and with hope I leave you with these words of scripture - 'Let us not grow weary in doing good' Galatians 6:9

Elaine Godfrey