

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL FOR CHRIST THE KING & HOLY CROSS CHURCHES

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2026 at Upper Room, Holy Cross Church, Wotton-Under-Edge

Attended by:

Father Frank Waters (Priest in Residence)	Cecilie Bradshaw
Deacon Lawrence (Administrator)	Sarn Bradshaw
Elaine Godfrey	Tim Sherwin
Jane Parker	Gillian Pollard
Bella Warren	

The meeting was chaired by Elaine Godfrey

Welcome and Opening Prayer

by Father Frank

Apologies for absence

Deacon Kingsley, Chris Hurford, Frances Beck

Minutes of last Meeting held on 18th November 2025

The minutes of the meeting were agreed

Matters Arising

Elaine reported that the provision of a new noticeboard for Holy Cross was progressing

Pastoral Report

Deacon Lawrence highlighted a variety of events that had occurred since the last meeting which included the CTK Feast Day, the Advent and Christmas celebrations, Operation Elf (gift collections for local Prisons), CTK “whole” school with Parishioners and Class Masses, Lenten services and the forthcoming Holy Week and Easter services.

The period had sadly been marked by seven funerals during the period and by ten Baptisms and seven wedding preparations that remain in progress.

It is pleasing that we have 12 candidates who are preparing for their First Holy Communion (who made their First Reconciliation on the 7th of March) and two RCIA candidates who will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Special and annual Parish appeals have also been held including for the World Leprosy Day (25 Jan), Bishop Lazarus Morogoro Appeal (event held at Holy Cross on 21st Feb) and the CAFOD Lent Appeal.

“Home and Care Home” Communion visits continue to take place on a regular basis by dedicated volunteers from both Churches.

Fr. Paul Harris SDS is now the SDS Provincial Superior (previously Fr Richard Mway SDS) following the Salvatorian Chapter held in Jan 2026.

The “follow up” to the “Journey in Faith” classes held previously at CTK and reported in the last minutes has been scheduled for Wed 11th and Mon 16th March at CTK. On Monday 16th March, there will also be a welcomed return of the Lent Taizé Service.

Finance and Property

Chris Hurford provided a written summary of the finances for the two churches for 2025. He highlighted the gradual fall in parishioners' donations and the need to invite parishioners to review their donations if they haven't done so over the past few years. He also drew attention to the work being done to gather estimates for the repair of the Porch House roof and the likely impact upon the parish reserves. Chris mentioned the sale of the former Holy Cross presbytery and the need to review improvement work necessary in the church.

Property work completed during the period at CTK included the removal and replacement of the ramp at the entrance to CTK Church, the removal of the "old" gardeners shed / cellar and the levelling of access to the kitchen at Porch House, repairs to the Presbytery roof, 2 more sash window repairs, and repositioning of the Church sign in the front garden. At Holy Cross, this included repairs to the roof at the entrance to the Church and the replacement of the external light, and remedial work and clearance of all debris following a previous H&S inspection.

CTK School

A report was circulated and read by those present from Paul Crowley on behalf of the School Governors. The report highlighted that the school thriving and being very well supported by Fr Frank and deacons Lawrence and Kingsley. A noticeable highlight were the school and class masses and in the former as many as 35 parents and parishioners had attended Mass on one occasion. The school was now undertaking a number of Lenten activities and planning for events which will follow. The Easter fair at the school will be led by the School Chaplaincy team who are very active in the life of the school.

The parish as a whole was thanked for their support and encouragement during the period.

Safeguarding

Frances Beck provided a report for the meeting. DSB checks continue to be made for all "new" and existing volunteers when their checks need renewing. Frances mentioned that Safeguarding is about considering all aspects of safety in the Parish and people are now coming and asking questions about if their concern is a safeguarding issue and this is good that people are aware of issues around them and thinking about them. We have the continued support of the diocese and Deacons Lawrence and Kingsley plus Frances will undergo further safeguarding training in May at a day conference organised by the diocese for Deacons and PSRs.

Certificate in Catechesis

Cecile and Sarn reported on their progress with their studies and that they had passed their "Oral" examinations recently. They both continued to enjoy the course and were benefitting greatly from it and were able to apply "lessons learnt" in their Charity and Work situations.

Holy Week and Easter services

Deacon Lawrence outlined the events over Holy Week and Easter, which would be a repeat of the services and celebrations held last year and will be included in the Parish Newsletter over the coming weeks. We are again grateful to Canon Michael Fitzpatrick who will celebrate the Easter Sunday Mass at 10.00am in Holy Cross Church.

Pastoral Areas

Deacon Lawrence confirmed that following discussions with Father Gary Brassington and Father James Finan, both CTK and Holy Cross Churches will remain within the pastoral area of St. Wulstan (Gloucester / Stroud) but will liaise and share celebrations with the Pastoral Area of St Emund of Abingdon (previously "North Bristol") for Confirmations etc.

AGM – 21st April

The Annual General Meeting for the PPC and Parishioners from both Churches will take place on Tue 21st April at 7.00pm at CTK (Porch House).

AOB

There were no AOB items raised.

Date of next meeting

The next PPC meeting will be scheduled after the AGM

Closing Prayer

Fr Frank gave the closing prayer