

Pastoral Parish Council - Minutes from the AGM held on Tuesday 21st April 2026.

Present: PPC Members: Fr Frank, Deacons Lawrence and Kingsley, Elaine Godfrey, Bella Warren, Sarn & Cecilie Bradshaw, Gillian Pollard, Tim Sherwin plus 15 Parishioners: Debbie Nicholls, Jean Wallis, Graham Hunter, Lawrence & Sue Emm, Paul & Anne Crowley, Maggie Brown, Robert & Georgina Sheehan, Angela Clarke, Bob Hetherington. Jenny & Ray Pioli, Graham Bartlett.

Apologies: Chis Hurford, Jane Parker, Frances Beck, Joan & Alan Brown, Mark Wallis.

Opening Prayer:

Elaine Godfrey welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced everyone to the PPC members and chaired the meeting thereafter.

Fr Frank then opened with a prayer.

Minutes of previous AGM dated 29 April 2025:

The minutes from the previous AGM were reviewed briefly and accepted as a true record.

Pastoral Council Chair Report:

Elaine provided the "Letter from the Chair" which was available on-line (via the Parish website) and in hard copy at the meeting. Elaine commented on how the year had flown by, praised the resilience of the parish and how together we can grow stronger and prayed for the future of our church, our community and those that follow us. Mention was made about the pressures that many families will be facing with exams around the corner in the next few months. Elaine ended with these words from scripture – "*Let us not grow weary in doing good.*" (Galatians 6:9).

Pastoral Report:

Deacon Lawrence provided a detailed walk through of the Pastoral Report which was available online (via the Parish website) and in hard copy at the meeting. He mentioned that over the past 12 months, we have been blessed by a period of stability and growth across our two Parish churches with some notable highlights across the way, some busy times too, and with moments of sadness also as we celebrated the lives of many who have now gone before us. Our two churches continue to be places and people where all are welcomed and made to feel part of the same "one family." Lawrence echoed the comments made by Elaine in giving thanks to all who contribute to the working of the Parish in many varied ways. Special thanks were reserved for Father Frank, who continues to be our Chief Shepherd and Spiritual Guide, ably assisted by deacons Kingsley and Lawrence. Lawrence also thanked Debbie Nicholls, who from the 1st of July 2025 officially joined the Pastoral support team and thanked others who had been of particular help and support over the past 12 months.

Treasurer Report:

In Chris's absence, Deacon Lawrence a very brief headline summary of the Finance reports provided for both Churches and available on-line via the CTK website and in hard copy at the meeting. The financial situation at both CTK and Holy Cross is such that, perhaps for the first time, payments are outweighing receipts and Parishioners from both churches, reluctantly, will need to be asked to review the scale of their donations. Ongoing premises costs, particularly at CTK, were also highlighted and the need for roof repairs to Porch House brought to people's attention. Further information on the latter will be forthcoming once final quotations for the repair work is received. On a more "positive" note, the sale of the former Presbytery at Holy Cross was also mentioned, with sale proceeds now held in a diocesan reserve account. Graham Bartlett gave a summary of the Porch House roof work in progress and grateful thanks were reserved for Graham Hunter for his ongoing work and commitment to Property maintenance and developments at both Church properties.

School Report:

Paul Crowley had provided the School Report for CTK Primary School in advance of the meeting, and this was available on-line (via the Parish website) and in hard copy at the meeting. Paul opened up to questions from all present and in response to a previous comment from the PPC, CTK primary school continues to do so well and remain so popular thanks to the behaviour of the children, the leadership and talents of its Head and all members of staff and the embodiment throughout of its mission statement: "*making a difference.*" Paul thanked the Parish for the support that it provides to the school and to Father Frank and deacons Kingsley and Lawrence for the "full school" Masses and Class Masses which take place, and are well attended, throughout the year.

CAFOD Report:

Jean Wallis presented the CAFOD report and highlighted the very generous support given to CAFOD by both Churches over the 2025/26 year. Particular mention was made about the Lent and Advent Appeals, the Big Lent Walk, and ongoing other appeals. It was also mentioned that CTK is a fairtrade church and continues to support the foodbank also.

Safeguarding Report:

Elaine read the Safeguarding report from Frances Beck in her absence. The rigorous DBS process for all volunteer work involving children and adults which is carried out via the Diocese. Frances had highlighted that as a parish we are more aware that Safeguarding isn't only about Child Protection but also involves the vulnerable in our community the elderly, sick, and unemployed. The Clergy and Frances undergo regular training in Safeguarding provided by the Diocese and the Salvatorian Order. There had been no safeguarding issues over the past 12 months.

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Ray Pioli provided comments about the Finance reports during the meeting and was invited to provide any further feedback where appropriate after the meeting.

Deacon Lawrence spoke about the conversations which he and Father Paul Harris SDS, the new Provincial Superior, held after the Diocesan Lent reconciliation Service in March 2026. Father Paul reiterated that the Parish Churches of CTK and Holy Cross remain important to the Salvatorian Order and it is envisaged that they will remain in their care. Father Paul also asked that a word of thanks be extended to the parish for their care and kindness shown to Father Frank.

Father Frank reiterated the latter comment made by Father Paul and thanked the parish and those present for the support that they continue to give him, which is gratefully received.

Bob Hetherington spoke with Deacon Lawrence after the meeting to express thanks from the Friday and Sunday night Music Groups for the microphone and sound system which the Parish had bought for their evenings, this was much appreciated. Bob also mentioned that the numbers attending since Fr George had died were sadly now reduced but that the group was thriving otherwise.

A final word of thanks was to be recorded for Sue Emm and her team of volunteers for the magnificent spread which was again laid on after the AGM meeting was concluded. It was great to see the number of Parishioners who came along to the meeting to provide support to the Parish and to enjoy the social time together which then followed. It is hoped that even more people would be willing to spare the time to be present next year.

The Chair of the PPC now transfers to CTK for the next 12 months, with Sarn Bradshaw now Chair and Elaine as Deputy Chair. The next PPC meeting will be scheduled at some time during June at CTK (date tbc).

Closing Prayer:

Fr Frank finished the AGM with a closing prayer.

Date of next AGM meeting (2027): Tuesday 20th April 2027 at 19.00hrs