

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL FOR CHRIST THE KING & HOLY CROSS CHURCHES

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting held on Tuesday 13 October 2026 at Parlour Room, Porch House, Christ the King

Attended by:

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

The meeting was chaired by Sarn Bradshaw

Welcome and Opening Prayer

by Father Frank

Apologies for absence

Chris Hurford, Tim Sherwin

Minutes of last Meeting held on 10th March 2026

The minutes of the meeting were agreed

Matters Arising

Nil

Pastoral Report

Deacon Lawrence highlighted a variety of events that had occurred since the AGM held on the 21 April. These included "Journeying with Jesus" discussion groups held at CTK, the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimages to Lourdes (attended by 2 parishioners from Holy Cross) and to Glastonbury (attended by 21 Parishioners from both churches), CTK "whole" school with Parishioners and Class Masses, the CAFOD, MSP Mission, St Patrick's Cathedral (Tanzania) Appeals and the financial support given to the MND bike ride. Gillian also thanked the Parish for the CTK Little Church Bake sale.

The period had sadly been marked by five funerals during the period and by five Baptisms and six weddings (three of which had been held at CTK Church).

Special mention was made of the First Holy Communion Mass held on Sunday 10th May, when 12 candidates (from both Churches and elsewhere) made their First Holy Communion at CTK.

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

Fr. Paul Harris SDS, the SDS Provincial Superior, was accompanied by two visitors from the SDS General in Rome for a brief visit to Thornbury on the 8th of October. Our visitors met with Father Frank and Deacon Lawrence before meeting the Bishop in Bishop's house.

Recent increases in the number of volunteers who support the CTK Flower and Church Garden Groups were also mentioned and thanked.

Finance and Property

Chris Hurford provided a written summary of the finances for the two churches for the period from January to September 2026. This was read out by Sarn in Chris's absence.

The financial position of CTK at the end of September was reasonably stable given the transfer of funds from the Reserve account at the beginning of the year. The launch of the "Closing the Gap" appeal proved particularly positive, though an annual increase of around £16k in standing order donations was welcomed. The extent of the increase in all collections (cash and standing orders) for the last four months of the year remains to be seen. It is important to recognise that the costs of supporting a church, a listed building and a presbytery will continue to take its toll and we will need to look for ways of replenishing our reserves as well as encouraging those who have not yet increased their donations to feel willing to do so. The work on

repairing the Porch House roof should begin later this month and we hope that the external walls can be repainted before the onset of the winter months.

The financial position of Holy Cross Church remains health following the sale of the former presbytery. Work is now well underway to refurbish the church building: work is nearly finished on the new electrical heating in the Church; the installation of a chair lift is in progress, as is the supply and fitting of a new noticeboard. There are some significant remedial tasks to be done and scheduled for 2027, including the Upper Room flooring.

CTK School

A report was provided from Paul Crowley on behalf of the School Governors. The new school year started well in September with everyone refreshed from their summer holiday. Ofsted inspected the school on the third week. The report has not been published yet but everyone is happy with the way the inspection went. The reception class is due to visit CTK Church soon which is always an enjoyable occasion, complete with a treasure hunt of the church which results in lots of questions as many of the children are non-Catholic. Fr Frank and deacon Lawrence had the pleasure of meeting up with the Reception Class recently. There are 205 children now at the school and a full reception class of 30 with waiting lists for most of key stage two. The school celebrated its Harvest and Start of Year Mass recently celebrated by Father Frank with deacons Lawrence and Kingsley, which was attended by many parents and parishioners. Finally, the school has now started its own food bank with donations received being made freely available to those in need. The parish as a whole was thanked for their continuing support and encouragement during the period.

Safeguarding

Frances Beck provided a report for the meeting. Since the last PPC meeting, Deacon Lawrence and I completed the Diocesan Safeguarding Audit for CTK and Holy Cross. This was duly approved by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. All relevant church roles and staff currently hold DBS certificates. The summer has been very quiet with no DBS applications submitted. We have 6 DBS holders who will require renewal of their DBS certificates by Christmas. Deacon Lawrence and I plan to highlight Safeguarding Sunday on November 15th by including Safeguarding in our Bidding Prayers.

Synodality

Deacon Lawrence spoke about the invitation for all Parishes across the Diocese to "*Tell their story*" of how they are working and flourishing as Parishes in Communion in the culture of synodality. Cecile and Sarn had attended a Diocesan training session about this recently. When Pope Leo XIV was appointed to be the Shepherd of our Church, he said in his first public address from the balcony at St Peters: "We want to be a synodal Church, a Church that walks together, a Church that always seeks peace, that always seeks Charity, and that always strives to be close, especially to those who suffer." There are so many good things happening within our two Parish Churches at present and also perhaps some things that we could do a little better. Before the end of the year, we plan to convene a get-together of Parish representatives and others who may be interested at both CTK and Holy Cross who can meet and discuss our story. The outcomes from these will help our Parish going forward and can be used to "tell our story" at the Area and Diocesan Group meetings which will follow in the first half of the New Year (in 2027).

Christ the King Weekend

Deacon Lawrence outlined the events over Christ the King Weekend which after discussions will include a Quiz and "half time" Musical Accompaniment on the evening of Saturday 21st November and then a Children's Entertainer plus Wine and Nibbles for Adults after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 22nd November. Suggestions for other events at both Churches were also discussed for later dates, including a "Talent Night", "Strictly Come Dancing" and a Ceilidh. The latter suggestions (and others) would be discussed by a "Fundraising" Group at a later date.

AOB

No AOB items were raised.

Date of next meeting

The next PPC meeting will be on Tuesday 12th January 2027 at 7.00pm in the Upper Room at Holy Cross.

Closing Prayer

Fr Frank gave the closing prayer