**St Peter's and Our Lady's Collaborative Pastoral Council (CPC) Minutes 11 March 2025**

Present: Fr Stephen Day (Fr S), Martin Foley (MF), Anne Elson (AE), Paul Milton (PM), Gill Ayers-Hunt (GAH), Simon Tibke (ST), Ira Winter (IW)

1 Opening prayer
2 Welcome and introductions
All council members were present physically, with Paul Milton present on Zoom. MF welcomed Eric Kirwan, Chief Operating Officer of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.
3 Minutes of the last meeting
There were no corrections to either the minutes or the Constitution.
4 Buildings and Finance
As EK had to leave the meeting early MF suggested we should move straight to Agenda item 4.
EK gave us a very detailed picture of the diocesan finances. He said that all parishes in our diocese, and all dioceses in England are facing the same challenges. Most of them have too many buildings and not enough money to maintain them. Although there is evidence that some congregations are growing, there are too few priests and many are due to retire in the next 5-10 years. Every single parish is being asked to look at their position in 5 years time. The diocesan vision is for us all to be Joyful and Vibrant people.
There is a need for radical thinking both on parish and cluster level, in order that resources should be used in the best possible way. What are our property needs 5 years from now?
This may include selling property to raise money and to use the money generated in a more practical way. There are very hard decisions to be made.

Fr S gave us all a printout of the letter from Eric Kirwan and also copies of the income and outgoings of both churches. The letter from Savills suggested that the sale of the Presbytery could raise between £500,000 and £700,000. This was queried by all present and a more likely figure of £1,000,000 was suggested.

We have been charged with writing our "Our Vision for Catholic Leamington". This has to be delivered by the end of March.

EK left the meeting and we continued discussing many options without reaching any conclusion.

Each one of us is to prayerfully write our own vision of our parishes for the future.

Next meeting is Wednesday 19th at 7.00pm in the Presbytery.