St Peter's and Our Lady's Collaborative Pastoral Council (CPC) Minutes 19 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) (Via Zoom)

- Welcome and introductions

MF welcomed all council members. The meeting opened with a prayer.

- Minutes of meetings on 11 March and 19 March

These were approved and will be posted on to the Catholic Leamington website by Fr S. AE agreed to arrange for hard copies of the minutes to be placed into the red folders in both churches.

- Matters arising

Fr S confirmed that the vision statements for both parishes had been submitted to Eric Kirwan, Archdiocese of Birmingham, by the date set by Eric Kirwan. No response had been received.

- Parishes AGM 1 June 2025

The agenda for the AGM was discussed. It was agreed that the AGM should be no longer than 90 minutes. It was further agreed that the agenda should allow as much time as possible for listening, questions and dialogue, so that parishioners are able to contribute as fully as possible. MF agreed to chair the AGM. Fr S agreed to open the meeting with a prayer. After a short introduction and welcome from MF, members of the CPC will introduce themselves. The vision statements for both parishes will then be shared. ST agreed to share Our Lady's vision statement, AE agreed to share St. Peter's vision statement. GAH will then speak to the financial statement for both parishes. Once these presentations have concluded, MF will invite feedback and questions from the floor.

It was agreed that Fr S should circulate key information for the AGM in both parishes, including a summary of the accounts, one week prior to the AGM. It was also agreed that individual cards should be placed on seats in the hall prior to the AGM, inviting parishioners to volunteer their skills and experience to help the parishes.

MF will prepare the AGM agenda.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available immediately prior to the AGM. AE agreed to ask Pastimes to organise the refreshments.

- Buildings and Finance

Fr S reported that, having reviewed the accounts, the Finance Committee had, with great reluctance, concluded that the losses incurred by St. Peter's Hall were unsustainable and that the hall should be closed with effect from 31 December 2025. The CPC supported this decision. The CPC agreed to work with all parish groups to find alternative meeting venues. The absence of a parish hall at St. Peter's is a temporary situation. Once the future of the St. Peter's parish buildings is clearer, the CPC agreed that a parish hall will be integral to the parish.

IW repeated her suggestion from a previous meeting that consideration be given to turning one of the smaller hall meeting rooms into an oratory.

Fr S reported that, whilst the sale of the St. Peter's presbytery remains under active consideration, no decisions have been taken regarding its future. There are also some restricted funds that St. Peter's may, in the future, have access to. However, the timetable as to when such funds might become available is unclear.

Regarding Our Lady's, a definitive outcome following the recent RAAC inspection is awaited before any decision is made regarding the roof repairs. Assuming no RAAC issues are identified, the diocese will not countenance all the funds currently held by Our Lady's being used to fund the roof repairs. Rather, fundraising will be necessary, supplemented by a contribution from parish funds.

- Communication to parish communities

Covered under the AGM agenda item.

- Jubilee Year update

The Warwick Martyrs' Walk will take place in August. There is a diocesan event for the youth of the diocese in July. St. Anne's, Wappenbury, is organising a walk in June to celebrate the history of the Church in this area.

- Deanery and Cluster update

The deanery pilgrimage to Littlemore, Oxford, was well attended. There has been no deanery or cluster meeting since the last CPC meeting in March. Fr Kevin Hooper, parish priest in Kenilworth, is to retire later this year. He will live within the parish and support Fr S at Our Lady's and St. Peter's.

- Any other business

ST enquired whether Holy Communion under both kinds could be reintroduced. Fr S expressed reluctance to do so on hygiene grounds. He also noted that Christ is fully present in either the consecrated bread or the wine, so it is completely proper to receive only one form.

ST also enquired whether parishioners could be encouraged by Fr S to revert to the pre-Covid sign of peace. After discussion it was agreed that whilst some parishioners had resumed shaking hands, others simply acknowledged those around them, and that parishioners appeared happy with whatever feels most comfortable to them.

- Date of next meeting

8 July at 7pm in St. Peter's presbytery.