

Parish of Mary Mother of God, Bradford

Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council - 16th December 2021

Present: Joe Deegan (Chair), Agnes Tetteh (Vice Chair), Alison Park (Note taker), Sean Kilduff, Christian Oldcorn, Bernadette Benyon, Monica Spyrka, Ben Lavin, Tina Spyrka, Moira Page, Fr Peter Morkah, Fr Paul Grogan.

Observing: Andy Watts

Apologies: Julia Mason, Sandra Scully, Lissa Oldcorn, Michelle Vink

JD welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Change of personnel

Resignations from Eve Wright (Eco Action), Ellie Rose Henry (Young Adults) were noted, new members TS (Young Adults) and AP (Adult Formation) were welcomed.

2. Presentation from Andy Watts

It was agreed to change the agenda item order. JD welcomed Andy Watts (Parish Youth Worker) to the meeting and invited him to give a short presentation on his role and work in the parish.

AW outlined the main aims of his role; to meet young people where they're at and to be with them on their journey of faith, the lockdowns had highlighted this need for accompaniment.

- High school – currently based at SBSJ on Wednesdays to engage with students and participate in activities such as the school mission, reconciliation days etc.
- Primary schools – weekly visits to talk with pupils on Advent themes and then work on a creative activity.
- Faith in Action – nine children have signed up for the programme, which will run from January 2022 to the end of the academic year.
- Ascension Friday Youth Group – a weekly space for young people with discussion time, linked activities, games and pizza. The group is growing steadily, work around Advent themes has solidified the group and friendships are being strengthened.
- Building relationships with the leaders of the Junior Youth Group.
- Sacraments - leading on the Confirmation programme in 2022, centred around building personal faith.
- Local community – this work is evolving, building contacts with Sandale, Bradford Park Avenue, SVP Centre in Bradford, also need to build links with young people outside the parish, to get into their space and be the 'face of God'.

JD invited PPC members to ask questions:

- Challenges of the role - AW noted it was good to be back in ministry, good working relationships had been established with schools, but still a challenge to go out to people beyond the parish.

- Was there any scope to work with younger people - No, focus is on Year 5 up to the age of 18.

CO noted that the scope of the job is huge, and the challenges presented by a lack of involvement from baptised Catholic families. The mainly older demographic present at Synodal listening meetings in the Diocese indicates the need for the role in order to hear from younger people.

AW noted that the job specification has changed and needs to evolve for the times; it has been slightly rewritten in order to identify what the priority is in the parish.

- What do you need from us as a parish - need for more input from parishioners to help lead, important to bring together different generations to share wisdom/knowledge of faith, to facilitate meetings with the purpose to connect.

Fr PG suggested exploring possible input from young people at older people's groups, for example serving, participating at charitable events as part of Faith in Action.

BL – role is a good transition link for primary school children as they go up to high school. It was noted that family masses are encouraging people to church, bridging the gap with the parents is critical.

JD thanked AW for his presentation and encouraged members to get in touch with him to share ideas.

AW left the meeting.

There was a brief discussion on the appraisal process for the role. It was noted that the parish management committee is being supported by the Diocese HR department.

3. Matters arising from the meeting of the 23rd September 2021

There was some discussion on First Sacraments and Confirmation, specifically a query on the age of children undertaking confirmation. It was felt by some members that things were weighted towards primary school, children were too young, parents were making the decision for them and that this didn't necessarily help to build faith. Was there the possibility of a wider discussion with the Bishop and Diocese?

Fr PG noted that AW taking the lead for confirmation next year would help to build bridges. However, it was observed that we need to ensure everything doesn't rest on the role of one person on a three year contract, parish leaders and wider parishioner input will be required to help take this foundational work forward.

Fr PG noted a suggestion that sacraments formation could take place in school with young people then receiving the sacraments in their home parish; he would raise this with Fr Keiron Walker as college chaplain and Dean of Bradford.

4. Group matters:

JD thanked members for their summary reports and invited questions.

MS – suggestion of a parish intercessory prayer group, further discussion on logistics would take place but it was proposed to possibly meet on a Monday at 5.00pm with Adoration, followed by the 6.00pm Mass. People could be invited to suggest intentions through the different communication channels in the parish and therefore still participate remotely if they were unable to come to the meetings.

JD noted the positive news that the UCM will continue in the parish and that the SVP was able to assist with a referral from St Anthony's parish.

On behalf of SS, Fr PG noted that the Faith and Light Group had hosted an event to mark Disabilities Week in the Diocese. SK was thanked for his input in helping to set up the church.

BL reported that a parental engagement excellence award had been given to both primary schools from Bradford Council, which was positive news.

JD noted the proposed First Sacraments programme from JM, which had been circulated to members. There was some discussion on the practicalities of running two possible sessions within the programme aimed at parents, as well as children. Fr PG would discuss this further with JM and MK as catechists and AP for adult formation.

5. Synodal consultation:

It was noted that the listening session had taken place in the parish; there was some discussion on when parishes would receive summary reports for further discussion and actions.

6. Charisms workshop:

This workshop took place, run by St Pio Friary. 8/9 people are currently enrolled on the Called and Gifted programme. Fr PG would be meeting with Fr Michael Hall and Anne-Marie Fletcher (Called and Gifted UK) in March 2022 to discuss further input and is also in discussion with Fr Columba at St Pio Friary on further support.

There was some discussion on how current participants might be supported and also the importance of sharing their experiences with others in the parish to encourage greater awareness and understanding of charisms discernment and how it links to the vision/mission of the parish going forward.

7. Disability Audit:

JD to work with SS on this in the new year. It was noted that the audit feeds into a number of areas including buildings, welcome, communication and liturgy. Fr PG noted that Gill Grant, a parishioner, has offered to assist in the process.

8. Parish Secretary vacancy:

JD thanked Elly Fiddler, who has covered this role temporarily and finishes in December.

It was noted that whilst there is strong volunteer support, a permanent paid person is needed to bring things together. Fr PG reported that three people have applied; all three have been identified by the Diocese as suitable to go through a second interview in the parish. JD noted an action point for him and Fr PG to arrange interviews in early January.

9. Finance/Grants

JD noted the report from Paul Rafferty, chair of the Finance Committee, and that the parish is in a good position financially.

Fr PG noted that the parish has been allocated £5000 to spend on provision for young people, AW has suggested the purchase of equipment for St John's Church Hall e.g. a new sound system and screen.

The parish has received £9000 from the DWP's Household Support Fund through Bradford Council. This will be used to provide 60 food parcels to families in need over the Christmas and February half term holidays. Food is being delivered on Saturday at St Winefride's Church Hall, Elly Fiddler has been working on arrangements for who will sort and pack. Fr PG will also liaise with MP on delivery logistics.

It was noted that a recent application for funding for a Family Liaison Officer in the parish had been turned down.

10. Buildings Update

JD noted that this is a significant task and thanked Trish Barstow, chair of the Buildings Committee, for a comprehensive report on the work being done to maintain buildings.

It was noted that discussions on the replacement of fascia at St Winefride's Church are still ongoing, in consultation with the Diocese.

JD noted that a meeting would take place in January to go through a list of building works and prioritise what needed to be done, in consultation with the Finance Committee.

AOB

The discussion on a proposal for an intercessory prayer group had been covered under item 4 on the agenda.

MS asked about the possibility of children reading at Mass, as that encourages parents to attend. It was noted that the 10.15am Family Mass would be a good place to try this out, however it could also take place at the 11.15am Mass at St John's. There was some discussion on input from the schools to assist with planning; it was suggested that this was something which could be taken forward by AW.

JD noted the need for maintaining the bar area in St Winefride's Church Hall. SK pointed out that most groups who hire the hall supply their own drinks. It was noted that the parish has a licence to serve alcohol and this was worth preserving. Looking to the future and income generation from social events, JD noted that there needed to be a facility to serve alcohol and maintain a licence. All PPC members agreed to maintain the bar area and licence.

JD thanked BB and other volunteers who helped to put on the recent Christmas Fair, which raised £1300.

JD noted that the role of PPC Chair is subject to review on an annual basis, with a maximum term of 4 years of service. JD indicated that he was happy to continue as Chair; all PPC members were in agreement that he should continue.

JD thanked members for their work over the last year and closed the meeting.

Date of next meeting: 24th March 2022

Any Watts (Parish Youth Worker) presentation notes for Parish Pastoral Council

My aim is to build relationships with the young people in and outside of the parish. Building upon these being a present face to them in showing who Jesus is. Offering opportunities of community, friendship and faith encounter. To be a link between schools and parish, doing this by engaging with young people and always offering in ways they can be involved. In the present I'm aiming to always keep a close eye to the needs of the young people and how I can benefit them and their faith.

SBSJ - I spend Wednesday's working via the school, in that is planning for future school events, meeting with young, liaising with the schools needs.

Prayer Groups
School Mission
School Retreats

St W/J's - Have been going into each school every week exploring the four candles of Advent, which has been an introduction following with a reflective creative activity. FIA will begin in both schools in January, 10 young people aim to finish the pin award by the end of the academic year.

Parish

I have joined on the confirmation program with Fr Paul and aim to take lead on this once the new candidates come through. In that exploring new forms of formation which can go along side the current confirmation program set by the diocese.

I have been looking at programs of new engagement within the liturgy which are created by Life Teen. When the time is right I aim to put this into practice within the young people of The Parish.

I have started The Faith in Action Award within the primaries. Once this unfolds in January I along side Karen Naik will then start exploring with the young people in ways they can contribute to The Parish. We aim to meet with these young people twice a month in person as well as liaising within the schools on their progress.

Ascension (Friday Night Youth Group) ages 12-16 is in full flow. With an average of 10 consistent YP attending each week and is increasing slowly. This has been a time in the week that these YP can come together and be in a space that is comfortable. Content is provided each week to what the leaders see fit, along side with exploring prayer in being creative. Games and food is provided to create an environment where they can feel they are relaxed. My primary focus of this is to be someone who can show these YP a personal experience of God where we can explore God in his variety. To be constantly offering that space for these YP to grow in their faith with like minded YP.

I have made contact with The Junior Youth Group leaders, I joined them on their trip to LazerZone and we are seeking ways of benefitting The Parish Youth Groups as a collective.

I aim to attend Sunday Masses within The Parish to be someone who is present and known for the adults and YP. This is a great time to be chatting to the young people especially after Mass for Tea and Coffee.

I have also been building upon relations with Parishioners who are willing/wish to volunteer within the youth ministry, which I am slowly becoming aware of those who I believe to be gifted in this and would like to contribute.

Local Community

I have been building up relations with local organisations such as, Sandale and Woodside where we are discussing how I can contribute to the community. To start seeking ways of engagement and use of local facilities for our own youth groups.

23:07

◀ Mail



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First Sacraments 2022 Parish of Mary Mother of God, Bradford



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Launch information for parents and carers from both schools :
Wednesday, 9th February 2022 – 3:40 at St Winefride's Church Hall

Enrolment Mass: 13th February - Children and parents can attend any of the Masses on that day at St Winefride's or St John's or the Saturday vigil at St Winefride's.

Lessons for the children will take place at both schools on:

Wednesday, 2nd March – 3:30-4:45
Wednesday, 9th March – 3:30-4:45
Wednesday, 16th March – 3:30-4:45
Wednesday, 23rd March – 3:30-4:45
Wednesday, 30th March – 3:30-4:45

The children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on:
Tuesday, 5th April at St John the Evangelist Church- 6pm
Thursday, 7th April at St Winefride's Church-6pm

Sacrament of the Eucharist



Launch information for parents and carers from both schools
Thursday, 31st March 2022 – 3:40 at St Winefride's Church Hall

Enrolment Mass: 3rd April - Children and parents can attend any of the Masses on that day at St Winefride's or St John's or the Saturday vigil at St Winefride's.

Lessons for the children will take place at both schools on:

Wednesday, 6th April – 3:30-4:45
Wednesday, 27th April – 3:30-4:45
Wednesday, 4th May – 3:30-4:45
Wednesday, 11th May – 3:30-4:45
Wednesday, 18th May – 3:30-4:45
Wednesday, 25th May – 3:30-4:45

The children attending St Winefride's school will make their First Holy Communion on one of the following dates:

Sunday, 19th June - 10:15 Mass at St Winefride's Church
Sunday, 26th June - 10:15 Mass at St Winefride's Church
Sunday, 10th July - 10:15 Mass at St Winefride's Church

The children attending St John's school will make their First Holy Communion on
Sunday, 17th July - 11:15 Mass
at St John the Evangelist Church

Group Reports

Charismatic Renewal

Charismatic renewal is back with face to face prayer meetings if Omicron doesn't stop us.

We met last month which was very successful and uplifting. We have planned to meet on every 3rd Sunday of the month so next Sunday 19th Dec will be our next prayer meeting. Members are looking forward to it. You are all invited to worship and praise God together

Agnes Teteh

UCM

Our group met face to face in October and I am pleased to be able to report to the PPC that the UCM will be continuing to function on a National Level due to 2 volunteers stepping forward & taking on 2 of the officers roles.

We will continue to fundraise as and when it is safe to do so. We would like to try and host our Afternoon Tea event next May. We have donated £50 to the Bradford Food Bank.

Bernadette Benyon

SVP

St Johns SVP have transitionally recommenced visiting some of our most isolated parishioners and I know St Winefride's were considering the same

We had a referral via St Anthony's Parish whose SVP has sadly disbanded with regards to a homeless gentleman recently re housed but obviously without any furniture and essentials – we agreed to purchase a bed and bedding and a chest of drawers – for which he was very grateful

On a Wednesday between Pauline Sellers, Kath Kenningham and myself we have been delivering an average of 12 bags of essential food items supplied by the Catholic Care Market Stall in St Winefride's Church Hall to families on a rota basis from a list supplied to us from Father Paul

We have agreed to assist /co ordinate the initiative where Father Paul has obtained funding for the school holidays leading up to Christmas and February half term to deliver to approx. 60 families – this will be quite a task and although Father has enlisted help from St Bede's /St Joseph's for the packing up help will be needed from car drivers for the delivery aspect

On a lighter note on Saturday 11th St Johns conference hosted Mass for the Anointing of the sick followed by a social in the Church Hall afterwards – it appeared to be a great success over 45 attendees it was so good to see the Church Hall so full again

Hope this gives an update for the end of the year

Let's pray that 2022 lets us continue

Moira Page

Faith and Light

Faith & Light have had an exciting time leading up to Disability week as seen on the Parish website

And fortunately before the new variant restrictions are being tightened we are now stepping back until the new year and we have some new plans and ideas to meet up on a regular weekly basis rather than monthly. We are waiting to see how we are going to be affected by this omicron virus and are taking steps to make sure our members get the booster vaccinations and staying safe.

Sandra Scully

St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College – Mary mother of God PPC update – December 2021

This academic year has seen a return to something that resembles normality, although some larger gatherings have still been done online and some events have had to be cancelled, especially in recent weeks as Omicron has emerged. However, the faith life of the college has continued and grown with the support of the College community, our House system and Chaplaincy team, and our House Priest Chaplains.

Our House Priest Chaplains are:

St Matthew's House – Mgr Paul Grogan

St Mark's House - Fr Gregory Knowles

St Luke's House - Fr Anthony Jackson

St John's House – Fr Kieron Walker (also College Chaplain)

St Paul's House – Canon Jim Callaghan

St Benedict's Sixth form – Fr Chris Angel

Over the first term of the academic year, all students have had opportunities to attend Mass (we have Mass each Wednesday on Alternate sites) as house groups and as larger congregations on special days. We have had a Year 7 Mass of welcome, and we have also just had the feast of the Immaculate Conception where all of Year 11 joined Fr Kieron in celebrating the Mass.

We have also had Advent reconciliation days where all students attend a short service and then have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are very grateful for the local clergy support that enables these to happen.

We have also strengthened our Charity policy to ensure that we support as many charities as we can throughout the year, and that Catholic charities, who may rely on the Catholic community for a lot of their support, are given priority (although we do not exclusively support Catholic Charities.

We have one whole school charity focus each term (Term 1-CAFOD, Term 2 Catholic Care Good Shepherd, Term 3 Lourdes Pilgrimage) and each House has their own charity that they support throughout the year. They are:

St Matthew's House – Mary's meals

St Mark's House - Mind

St Luke's House - St Pio Friary Soup Kitchen

St John's House – Gianna Project

St Paul's House – St Gemma's Hospice

Also during Advent, we have launched a revelation style event for students looking to explore their faith. This was led by school staff in conjunction with Andy, Our parish Youth worker.

There is a lot more that I could tell you, about liturgies, Masses and worship, but these are the major developments thus far this year.

Christian Oldcorn

St John the Evangelist School

Catholic Life– Autumn 2021

Masses and Liturgies

We have started our calendar of worship with a welcome back worship, Virtues worship, Worship based on the Wednesday Word and a Gifts from God celebration assembly on Friday mornings. We welcomed our Reception families to join us for mass at St John's in October. There were approximately 11 families joined the parish mass which was lovely to see.

Family Masses

In this new term, we are also starting to celebrate 'Family Masses' where each class in school will be invited to a mass at St John's at 9.15am to celebrate being part of the St John's parish community. 14th November – Years 5 and 6 , 30th January – Years 3 and 4 , 3rd July – Years 1 and 2

Virtues

As a school, our focus is still on the Virtues we wish to develop. This is still on the SDP and we introduce new Virtues to the children in a variety of ways. During the autumn term, we will be looking at how to display the Virtues of Respect / courtesy, Thankfulness, Hope, Patience and Courage. We have a weekly 'Virtues worship' where the children are introduced to a different Virtues statement to follow each week ~ e.g. Week two's statement was 'I know I belong to a community which includes my school'. Each Virtue is a focus for 3 weeks. This is developed in a number of ways within each class and anyone who is seen demonstrating that Virtue is celebrated.

Church Year

We celebrated our Harvest Worship before the half term break. The children prepared work for our 'Rainbow Harvest' theme and presented their ideas very confidently. Thank you to Father Paul who came to assist in our worship time. Thank you also to the parents who contributed so generously to the 'rainbow hamper' raffle and those who bought tickets too.

Wednesday Word

This is still being sent out electronically to all parents and the staff are using it as a resource for planning worships.

Throughout school, we are also introducing our 'RE Word of the Week', which will be displayed and discussed throughout the week in class – this will be whatever the Wednesday Word is for that week.

Faith in Action

We are hoping to start the Faith in Action programme this year, as it was put on hold by COVID. We are hoping that Andy Watts, the new parish youth worker, will be able to assist with the programme across both schools.

Charity work

We are hoping to begin some charity activities again this year which haven't been possible during COVID times. Charities to be supported during the year will be discussed with staff and children to gather their ideas.

We will be looking at ways that we can assist Michelle Vink from Catholic Care to keep links during this time where we are unable to hold our Intergenerational Afternoon Teas. We would love to re-introduce these as soon as possible. The children have made cards for Michelle's group for Christmas, Easter, Remembrance Sunday and Grandparents Day during COVID times.

Other Faiths Work

Our approach to Other Faiths teaching will continue this year, looking at 3 major world faiths over the 3 terms. Each class looks at a different aspect of the same world faith and spends a day studying the importance of faith and the similarities and differences to the Catholic Faith. This year we will be looking at Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.

Prayer Buddies

During the year, we are hoping to 'buddy up' with the children from St Winefride's and have 'Prayer buddies' that we pray for at key times in the school and church year.

St John's have now sent prayer buddy cards to the children at St Winefride's and we are looking to prepare another card for their 'buddies' during Advent.

The children are also making prayer cards for the sick of the parish, hopefully to bring a bit of cheer.

Parent Catholic Life Questionnaires

At the same time, the parents were also asked for their opinions of the Catholic Life of the school. We had 36 responses from 170 questionnaires (21%). The results were in general very positive and we are now looking at how we can address the areas that were less

Youth and School links

Andy Watts, Youth Worker for the parish, has been into school to visit and introduce himself to Years 5 and 6.

He is looking at starting the Faith in Action programme in January with Years 5 and 6.

Andy has also offered to present faith sessions for the older children during Advent, where he is going to prepare an hour where we explore the weekly themes in the run up to Christmas - Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

Shared school Celebrations (dependent on Covid if parents invited in)

November Wednesday 24th – Year 5 mass in the classroom ,Friday 26th – Blessing of the Advent Wreaths – 11am in school

December Wednesday 1st – Year 4 mass in the classroom , Wednesday 8th – Christingle service in school – 9.15am ,Thursday 9th – Carols service in church – 5.30pm ,Friday 10th – Advent service of reconciliation – 11am , Tuesday 14th – Nativity – in school – 2pm ,Wednesday 15th – Nativity – in school – 10am + 2pm Friday 17th – end of term mass – in school - 11am

Ben Lavin

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

UPDATE FOR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 2021

In September 2021 the work of the Halls Management Committee was expanded to include all property and grounds known as Parish of Mary Mother of God.

The year began with freezing weather. January and February were extremely cold months.

St John's Hall

On 16 February St. John's Hall suffered a major flood. The water tank and pipes in the loft above the parish meeting room burst bringing the ceilings down in that room and the ladies and disabled toilets. The whole block was effected with water spreading into the main hall and heading for the Church. Fortunately the leak was discovered in time to save the main hall from too much damage. A few hardy souls and a pump got the water out and stopped the flow of water before it reached the Church.

It took months to repair the damage but our insurance company has paid out.

We made a successful bid for a lottery grant for St John's Hall with the help of Sean Lawler, our then Finance Committee Chair. This has helped pay to refurbish the kitchen, gents toilet block, improve the lighting in the bar area and also to fit a Fire alarm throughout the premises.

The Hall was redecorated by a volunteer.

We were in lock down for much of the first months of the year. This enabled the restoration work to be completed without causing too much disruption or inconvenience for parishioners.

Work to repair the roof near the Confessional, which was leaking, was successfully completed.

Work to the guttering and drain pipes of the toilet and meeting room block was successfully completed.

The Sacristy has been repainted.

St Winefride's Hall

Our bid for lottery funding for St Winefride's Hall was unsuccessful this time.

St Winefride's needs quite a lot of money spending on it to bring it up to a standard we would be happy with.

The building looks rather tired now. However we have done what we can with voluntary work from the team during lockdown without funds. The lobby and toilet block have been redecorated.

Since lockdown ended in September we have reopened both Halls and are now taking lots of bookings which are bringing in plenty of funds which is great because we have plenty to spend it on. The new computerised booking system is being operated by Father Paul, very successfully.

We have been able to replace the carpet to the lobby area.

We have completed repairs to the roof which was causing water damage to several areas of the main Hall. These areas are now drying out nicely and we will soon be able to re-arrange our storage systems and redecorate.

In October Joe Deegan joined the team. We know he will be a great asset to our work.

We have just completed surveys of all our buildings and will be taking the results of these forward into the New Year. There's plenty to do.

We have had a flood, during the last week, at St Winefride's Hall, which is causing concern but we will work with our Diocesan Property Department and relevant drainage companies to make sure work is carried out to ensure it does not happen again. Again, we may submit an insurance claim.

Work has now begun with our Insurers and our Diocesan Property Department to carry out major repairs to the facade and structure of the front entrance to St Winefride's Church and to the roof of the Church. We have no dates yet for the work to begin.

We now have a private cleaning company, run by a parishioner, for both our church halls. The staff are very efficient, thorough and professional. We are pleased with their work so far. They've given us a special rate. We look forward to them working for us for the foreseeable future.

All statutory testing ie Gas, electricity, fire etc, is undertaken by members of our team. Graham Bolland and David Dooling undertake these tasks at appropriate times during the year.

Trish Barstow, Chair

Property Committee

December 2021

Finance Committee

Still some way to go in gaining a full understanding of the Parish financial position and ongoing cash flows but the high level position is that the Parish is in good shape i.e. the Parish holds a good level of funds that will enable it to meet its financial obligations for the foreseeable future subject to no major unforeseen and significant costs arising.

The position reflects healthy rental income flows from St W church hall and improving offertery receipts.

Paul Rafferty

