

Blessed Hugh Church Faringdon

PPC Minutes 15th January 2026

8.30 pm – 9.30pm

Lorraine – Chair

Kathleen – Minutes

Attending: JP, Kathleen, Ann O'Reilly, Nicole, Wilbroad, Lorraine, Fr Claro.

Matters and actions arising and actions from the last meeting

- Children's room C/O Aude & JP Room was cleared by Aude before she left.
- Notice board C/O JP On going, JP has moved on notice board so that we don't have to seek permission. A board will be found that will fit the existing poles.
- New Zoom account – Lorraine Done Thank you.
- Youth Group Volunteer C/O – Kathleen The volunteer in mind does not have a lot of time but there are enough people at the moment.
- Retreat – Larger PA, PPC, Eucharistic Ministers and wider community – Lorraine On going, Lorraine is now organising for the Pastoral Area. It should take place in March/April. Lorraine will need some help with organising. It was suggested by Chris Bevan that a possible theme could be about the role of the PPC but it was felt that something more spiritual would be better.

Youth group update

Some of the older members have left so the remaining members are inviting other youths to join. The meetings are once a fortnight after school on a Friday. Members meet at school and are taken down to the church hall where they have a snack before they start. It runs from 3.30 until 5.00pm and it is for Secondary school age kids. They usually have discussions around everyday topics, talk about their experiences and then relate them to scripture. They are hoping to get Don Bosco from the Carmelites back to help run some of the evenings. The Youth Group will be advertised in the newsletter.

Welcome team update

We now have 5 members including Flora who is a new recruit. It is working well which is evidenced by the feedback over Christmas that visitors to the Church said that they felt welcomed. Welcomers will stay near the back for a little while after Mass to give hymn books and help late comers to get seated.

Social Media Update

Ann has received consent forms from most of the people who are likely to be seen on the altar and the Live Streaming of Sunday Mass has been moved to the Parish Facebook page. Lorraine will catch up with Karen about social media.

Children's liturgy update

New Rota drawn up and volunteers are usually involved 3 times per school term which isn't too arduous. We have 8 volunteers. We are using Welcome to the Word as a base to build on. Each Liturgist delivers the Liturgy in their own style which is good for the kids to see and hear different approaches to sharing faith. It was mentioned that it is great to hear the children reporting on what they had learnt during the liturgy rather than just the leader.

First Communion

We are running the First Communion preparation for the third year in a row due to demand. Lorraine, Clare, and Kathleen will be guiding the preparation alongside the parents and we hope to start the preparation at the end of February. So far, we have 4 Communicants.

Evangelisation including evening talks

Evening talks: JP has the programme of talks organised for 2026. The first one was last Friday and was well attended and the next one will be at the end of February. They are listed on the Parish website and are advertised in the bulletin. There will be a pause for Lent as there are other activities going on with Churches Together during Lent.

Evangelisation

Chris Harrison has asked that we complete the spreadsheet with what Evangelisation currently occurs in the parish and who does it and when. This will eventually go onto the PA website once that is up and running. Lorraine has set up a meeting about this with Chris and some other members of PPC will attend.

Formation

JP went to the pastoral area Formation meeting last week and these are his notes.

- We need to make sure that we complete the spreadsheet with what formation currently occurs in the parish and who does it and when. This will eventually go onto the PA website once that is up and running.
- There is agreement in principle between the "webmasters" of the various parishes to have all their parish stuff on the PA website.
- There is a youth group in Didcot connected to the Saint Vincent De Paul. I told them that we had one in Faringdon. The lady from Didcot was going to find out who runs the Didcot one and then I will put Nicole and Helena in contact with them.
- There will be some training for children's liturgy catechists by one of the Dominican sisters after the Saturday morning Mass in Wantage - this was originally scheduled for 14th February, but as this is half-term they are looking to see if this can be changed. Once date is confirmed we can see how many from our parish want to go.
- There will be training for RCIA catechists in Abingdon in mid-April. Pauline Hanley from Abingdon who will run this wants names and numbers by mid-February. I have put her in contact with Peter Starr.
- The Ascent UK was suggested as a good thing for young people who have done their confirmation to do. It is a year formation programme. Some of the people there spoke very highly of it. [Home | theASCENT UK](#) . One of the parishioners at East Hendred, David Guest, is the director for the south of England. Something for the youth group perhaps? I can see if David will come and talk about it if you would like, Nicole and Helena?

Forward look:

- Fund raising – CAFOD/ Quiz

A long discussion took place around different fund raising activities that we do. A balance is needed between effort made, funds raised and evangelisation opportunities. A garage sale and a monthly lottery was suggested. Fr Claro then recentred us by explaining that we need to redirect PPC activities to evangelise and reach out to gather people into the Church. We need to ask ourselves if we are encouraging more people to come to Church and when they do come are we making an effort to get to know them and get them involved. The current events that we put on are mostly attended by the same faces. He asked that in future our agendas should centre around the sacraments. Improving RCIA, getting First Holy Communion parents involved in Church life, get families involved in Confirmation. It was said that a lot of people come to the Church from outside of the area because of the Parish. As a PPC we need to be more visible and take responsibility to make new people feel welcome and proactively get to know them.

- Lent Agenda for next meeting
- Easter Agenda for next meeting
- Feedback from Parish questionnaire Agenda for next meeting

Action	Person Responsible
Continue with Noticeboard Actions	JP
Message Welcomers to remind them to stay near the back after Mass has started.	Vanessa
Check in with Karen about social media	Lorraine
Let the Children's Liturgists know that it is great to hear the children reporting on what they had learnt during the liturgy rather than just the leader.	Kathleen
Look into financing snacks for the Youth Group	Lorraine
Youth Group to be advertised in the newsletter.	JP/Nicole
Distribute flyers with link to parish questionnaire after Mass in the Hall	Kathleen

AOB

Children's religious instruction through art/displays, we have a good collection at the moment but we will keep an eye out for anything engaging.

Next 3 Meetings:		Minutes	Chair
23 rd February	8.30	JP	Kathleen
23 rd March	8.30	Ann	Lorraine
20 th April	8.30	Kathleen	Vanessa