

Blessed Hugh Church Faringdon

Minutes 19 October 2026

8.15 pm – 9.25 pm

Ann – Chair

JP – Minutes

Present: Ann O'Reilly, Fr Claro Conde, Kathleen Thomas, Lorraine Brabin, Nicole Kamugisha, Wilibroard Chashi, Vanessa Hall, Darren Hall

Fr Claro opened with a prayer.

KT has spoken to Mary already about lifts to church- there is a rota for collecting Maria Pugh- the diocese has said we can't do this.

Action- KT to put this in writing to Mary.

KT- suggests keeping the notice about the parking in the car park being for only those with limited mobility as a permanent item in the newsletter.

NK- not that many people read the newsletter, so suggested we should announce it after Mass.

KT- JPC has already announced it.

Action- Fr Claro to announce it again this Sunday.

1. Youth group Update

NK- 2nd October- 10 attendees. Still inviting friends, but there are a few that we are losing. Last Friday no meeting- HB has unforeseen problem. If group getting smaller, then could do the meeting at HBs house?

AOR- is HB covered by insurance for that?

NK- was just a thought.

KT- concerns regarding giving children a lift in their cars- insurance and DBS (for the church).

LB- also safeguarding issues if done in the own home.

NK- OK, meetings will continue in the church hall.

AOR- Any parents involved in the youth group need DBS checking.

Action- NK to get the email addresses of the parents picking up the children/involved in the youth group for AOR.

KT- suggested we have a questionnaire for the children of the parish, to see what they would like out of a youth group.

Action- NK to make questionnaire to ask the children about the youth group.

2. Welcome team Update

AOR- Welcoming team are very welcoming!

VH- despite a lot of initial interest in the welcoming team (many volunteers), some of the adults are dropping off. Feeling that she needs to check up on people last minute on the Saturday, especially as some are dropping out with little notice, despite having the rota for months.

Perhaps best to have 2 rotaed on per Sunday?

KT- best idea to have 2 on per Sunday. Don't want to make the welcomers feel unwelcome.

Action- VH to trial having 2 people per Sunday on the upcoming rota.

3. Social Media Update

KT- Karen did not understand what a big job it was to keep up to date with the social media, and does not feel she can continue.

AOR- should we put a plea out in the newsletter.

KT- should speak to Neill about it first.

Action- JPC to speak to Neill about it.

4. Children's Liturgy Update

KT- age guidance in the newsletter. Now smaller groups, but regular attendees.

Update on diocesan day for catechists. 90 people there. More of a retreat day than training. Dr Mary North- spoke about accompanying people on their journey of faith. Also Fr Emmanuel (Franciscan Friar of the Revival). A reminder of the role of catechists.

Powerpoints will be shared. 3rd speaker- doing a PhD on how RCIA is delivered in the diocese, what brings people to the RCIA and what happens afterwards. Peter Starr has been informed and has already contacted him.

Action- JPC to share Lego Mass and Sacraments books with KT

5. Evangelisation including evening talks

JPC- evening talk this Friday, given by me. Then 1 further talk this year, in November (20th), to be given by Dr Peter Foot, on the Annunciation in Art.

Please could someone be on standby to set up the hall that day, as I am at a conference in London and may be delayed getting back.

KT- volunteered to do this.

JPC- looking at next year, the theme is "learning from the saints"- confirmed speakers: Sjoerd, Aude, Stuart Harwood-Hope, Fr Matthew Topham and William

Field (parishioner from East Hendred). Waiting to hear back from the Franciscans and Oratorians from Oxford, but they both agreed in principle.

Would the youth group be interested in presenting on their favourite saints- 10 minutes per person?

NK- thought that they would not be interested. Too scared/shy of speaking in front of adults, though they had done something similar already, presenting to each other.

JPC- RCIA classes began on 14th October, was advertised in the Faringdon Advertiser.

VH- went on Wednesday- was very good. Peter Starr so knowledgeable, plus the session begins with prayer in the church, which at that time of the evening is so solemn and special. However there were only 2 people on the RCIA programme, plus one other parishioner and then VH and DH.

JPC- last year we probably had so many as it was the first time in a long time that we had had an RCIA programme in the parish, so it was clearing a backlog, so that is why numbers were much higher. 2 catechumens is not too bad for a small parish, but we all need to keep spreading the word about the course.

6. Forward look:

- CAFOD advent bake sale
 - *JPC- will organise, will put out the call for volunteers etc nearer the time.*
- Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) charity quiz
 - *JPC will organise.*
 - **Action- JPC to check pizza prices in Faringdon and arrange.**
- Vigil Mass
 - *6 pm Vigil Mass on 31st October, with food and games after, organised by Steph Harwood-Hope. Children to come dressed as their favourite saint.*
 - **Action- JPC to put in newsletter**
- Advent

AOB

Fr Claro: Rosary at 3 p.m. in the church every Saturday.

WC- RCIA suggested praying the rosary as an extension of the RCIA programme

Action- JPC to put it in the newsletter.

DH- can the Finance and Maintenance committee get a weedburner to burn out the buddleia that is growing out of the wall.

AOR- is this health and safety?

LB- what is the cost?

Action- DH to find out price and get to LB.

LB- Portsmouth lay leaders conference on 21st November, in Portsmouth. KT and LB cannot attend. Need 4 people from pastoral area. Would be ideal to have someone from Faringdon. LB to contact Chris Bevan and Chris Harrison to see if they are going.

Action- LB to mention it to Andrew Chell

*KT- suggested using Teams next time.
Met with general approval.*

Action- KT to send out Teams link for next PPC meeting.

Date of next meeting: Monday 23 November 2026

Chair- JPC

Minutes- KT

Closing Prayer