

Blessed Hugh of Faringdon Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting

21 September 2026, Meeting Minutes.

1. Matters and Actions Arising from the Last Meeting

- **Social Media:** Kathleen contacted Karen regarding progress with the parish social media work. A response is still awaited.
 - **Youth Group / GCSE:** The GCSE Religious Studies topics have been incorporated into the youth group programme. The **AQA GCSE Religious Studies resource on BBC Bitesize** has been shared with Helena and Nicole. This action is complete.
 - **Lifts to Church:** It was confirmed that the parish should **not organise or operate a formal rota for lifts to church**, due to potential liability and insurance implications. Informal private arrangements between neighbours remain permissible.
 - **Action:** Kathleen to contact Mary Hughes regarding the existing lift rota and explain that it cannot be organised through the parish.
 - **Car Park:** Reminders regarding keeping spaces available for people with mobility needs to continue through the newsletter and announcements at Mass. Informal reminders to members of the Filipino community will also continue.
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2. Youth Group Update

- The most recent youth group meeting was attended by eight young people.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for **2 October**.
 - The group will initially use **AQA GCSE Religious Studies material via BBC Bitesize**, focusing on relevant Catholicism-related topics.
 - A short weekly **Zoom prayer/Bible study** is proposed for university students **Tiani, Regan, Emily and Danilda**, once they have settled into university.
 - The purpose is to maintain their connection with the parish and support their faith while at university.
 - Helena will help identify a suitable time when the students have settled in.
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3. Welcome Team Update

- The Welcome Team has sufficient volunteers at present, and no additional recruitment is considered necessary.
- Some younger parishioners and members of the Filipino community have occasionally forgotten their scheduled welcoming duties or arrived late.
- Pairing younger volunteers together has worked well and should continue.
- Volunteers are encouraged to arrange swaps where they are unable to attend.
- It was confirmed that **Welcomers do not require a DBS check where they are simply welcoming parishioners and are not working alone with young people.**

4. Social Media Update

- Kathleen has contacted Karen to request an update on the parish social media work.
- No response has yet been received.
- **Action:** Kathleen to follow up with Karen.

5. Children's Liturgy Update

- The Children's Liturgy rota is adequately staffed and is operating well.
 - The **maximum age has been set at 11 years**, with the general expectation that children should return to Mass after First Communion where appropriate.
 - Specific circumstances may be considered individually.
 - Parents should ensure children arrive promptly for Mass and Children's Liturgy. The occasional absence of children at the start of the session does not require the leader to wait separately in the hall.
 - The **Catechist Day in Basingstoke on 10 October** was highlighted. It is open to those involved in First Communion, Confirmation, Children's Liturgy, RCIA and other catechetical activities. Parishioners are encouraged to register individually through the link in the parish newsletter.
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6. Evangelisation Including Evening Talks

- **RCIA** will restart in October, led by **Peter, Paul and Wilbroad**.
- A poster has been prepared and will be submitted to the **Faringdon Advertiser** and circulated more widely around Faringdon and surrounding villages.
- **October evening talk:** JP Crilly.
- A further evening talk is planned for November.
- The proposed theme for next year's evening talks is **“Learning from the Saints”**.
- Potential speakers include Ord on Joan of Arc, Sjoerd on Titus Brandsma, Stuart Harwood Hope, Father Matthew from East Hendred, and an Orthodox priest on a saint shared by the Catholic and Orthodox traditions.
- Further invitations have been sent to the Carmelites, Dominicans, Franciscans and Oratorians.

7. Forward Look

7.1 CAFOD Advent Cake Sale

- The annual CAFOD Advent cake sale was confirmed for **Saturday, 5 December**.
- Proposed time: approximately **10:30am–1:30pm**.
- Any remaining cakes will be offered for sale after Sunday Mass.
- **Action:** JP Crilly to book the hall.

7.2 Aid to the Church in Need Charity Quiz

- The annual **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Quiz** was confirmed for **Friday, 11 December**.
 - **Fish and chips** will again be provided.
 - JP Crilly will act as **Quizmaster**.
 - **Vanessa** offered to assist with collecting the fish and chips, particularly if there is a large order.
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7.3 Vigil Mass

- A possible Saturday evening Vigil Mass was discussed.
- Previous trials had attracted only a small attendance.
- Father Claro will consider the matter further and consult others before making a decision.
- If another trial is undertaken, it was suggested that it should run for approximately **four consecutive weeks**, with advance publicity through Mass announcements and the newsletter, rather than being offered as a one-off Mass.
- No immediate decision was taken.

7.4 Advent

- The parish will host the **Churches Together in Faringdon Advent Service on Sunday, 29 November**, the First Sunday of Advent.
- The annual **Christ the King shared lunch** will also proceed as in previous years.

8. AOB

Safeguarding

- **Cecilia Ampo:** Her DBS has expired. It was confirmed that she has returned home permanently. Her name can therefore be removed from the parish safeguarding records.
- **Emmanuel:** His safeguarding training has expired. It was noted that he is no longer involved with the Youth Group and currently serves as a reader. His current safeguarding requirement will be verified.
- **Paul Hedger:** He is responsible for the altar servers and must complete the required safeguarding training within **14 days of 16 September**. The Diocese has already contacted him.
 - **Action:** Anne to send the relevant training details to Father Claro.
 - **Action:** Father Claro to contact Paul Hedger regarding completion of the training.
- It was clarified that volunteers involved in **regulated activity with children cannot simply be accompanied in place of holding the required DBS clearance.**

- Regular involvement in Children's Liturgy constitutes regulated activity. The agreed rule of thumb is **three or more occasions within a 30-day period**.
 - Parents may attend Children's Liturgy on a one-off basis or on a maximum of two occasions; regular attendance would require the appropriate safeguarding clearance.
 - Any **new Children's Liturgy volunteer** must be reported to Anne immediately.
 - **Wilbroad** is still required to return the outstanding DBS documentation to Anne.
 - **Action:** Willbroad to check his email and complete and return the outstanding documents.
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Next Meetings;

- **19 October:** Chair – Ann; Minutes – JP Crilly.
 - **23 November:** Chair – JP Crilly; Minutes – Kathleen.
 - **14 December:** Chair – Kathleen; Minutes – Lorraine.
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