

Meeting of Parish Core Team 23 rd July 2025 7.30pm	
Present:	Sarah Cooper (SC), Claire Fairlie (CFa), Kevin Rourke (KR), Canon Tim Madeley (CTM), Claudine Maude (CM), Denis Woodhouse Minutes Secretary: CFa (Thanks noted to DB)
1.	Opening Prayer: Feast of St Brigid of Sweden, Patron of Europe. Prayers for the dead, Mary Woodcock & Fr. Ray Blake
2.	Apologies: Denise Bass (DB) Claire Fecher (CFe),
3.	Minutes of last meeting: Agreed
4.	Matters arising from the Minutes not on the agenda: - KR reminded the Team again, of DB's request at the last meeting for the Core Team to consider who would take on the task of checking the weekly income, completing the cash sheets, preparing and taking the cash to the bank. No one has been suggested for this task yet. - John Woodhouse to be approached about accounts once they are ready (SC) - Posters (from Marguerite) to give CTM to decide on their suitability
5.	Finance & Property Updates: - SC for AGM on 13/09 accounts are now formatted and ready aside from the closing of accounts dates to be added Our Lady of Consolation - accounts shared with the group to compare year-on-year, from the Diocese, with figures supplied from Geoff Day - SC has no access to the accounts data held by the Diocese. Concerns were raised over the funds and allocation to various cost centres and this will be followed-up - Donations and Legacy, on the whole, are up on last year. This reflects well from the Standing Orders appeal that was made earlier in the year St Gabriel's - accounts shared with the group to compare year-on-year, from the Diocese, with figures supplied from Neville. Concerns were raised over the funds and allocation to various cost centres and this will be followed-up - The sale of Pulborough church is somewhat obscure in the accounts - SC suggested that the accounts be merged ASAP in order to give clarity and transparency going forwards - Donations and Legacy, on the whole, are up on last year at Billingshurst as well. This reflects well from the Standing Orders 'planned giving' drive that was made earlier in the year - Overall, a positive picture across both parish centres although the accounts themselves are far from clear - CTM will supply a list of monies paid from sale of Pulborough church, in order to see more clearly what is going on - The committee offered its thanks for the work done to date, by Neville and Jeff - Thanks also to SC for her work Deanery Finance Meeting concerning new parish formation - meeting of finance officers and interested clergy: Good meeting and Sarah Kilmartin gave a good precis of the goals and realities of combining the different church centres. An overall framework is in place. Larger cost implications would be shared proportionally across the different centres. Total of our two churches would be 8% as it stands currently Formal Application for Canonical Amalgamation of Clergy and of Parishes will be made by CTM in October 2025 - There are administrative challenges to be met by the diocese and this may take some time. - A new finance committee will be formed on the approval canonically, of this process. When active it can approve up to £25k spending without Diocesan approval

	• Each current 'committee' will then be rebranded as STEWARDSHIP TEAMS • Once formed, the Stewardship Teams can approve up to £7.5k without requiring Diocesan oversight/approval • Communities that were struggling would support each other • Restricted Funds will remain restricted (ie Pulborough monies cannot be used outside of the Billingshurst and W Grinstead church centres) • The meeting was positive and the strategies were well-received
6.	Suggestion Box Submissions: <i>Many thanks to those who made suggestions and signed them. Each is summarised below:</i> • Kate at W Grinstead requested that reserved parking spaces have a moveable post of some kind, in order to keep them - in principle agreed
7.	Implementation of the Bishop's Pastoral Plan: na
8.	NEW RECRUITS: (i) PCT Diane Fievez has agreed to take a place on the team - <i>noted with thanks</i> (ii) Maintenance Team – Gary Richards has agreed to join in order to support Brian Brian and Chris Bass have sorted the electrics in the Narthex of St Gabriel's church. More efficient lighting has now been installed at a cost-effective price. <i>Fence panels still need to be removed as they are unsightly however it is more effective to do a 'run' to the tip with a full load – lorry with a grab is needed.</i>
9.	Distribution of Jubilee Tickets: The tickets have all been allocated, Claire Fairlie is now waiting for completed application forms.
	Thanks to Claire and Denis for their input on the PCT over the past 3 years September 6th 'all hands on deck' please for the Bishop's Mass 'rededication of the altars' at West Grinstead @12noon CTM will send details about parking nearer the day
	Final Prayer:
	Date of next meeting: 04.09.25 immediately after evening Mass @7:30pm. To focus on the Shrine rededication Mass and AGM preview/itinerary.