

Meeting of Parish Core Team 26 th February 2025 7.30pm	
Present:	Sarah Cooper (SC), Claire Fairlie (CFa), Claire Fecher (CFe), Kevin Rourke (KR), Canon Tim Madeley (CTM), Claudine Maude (CM), Denis Woodhouse Minutes Secretary: Denise Bass (DB)
1.	Opening Prayer
2.	Apologies: None
3.	Minutes of last meeting: Agreed
4.	Matters arising from the Minutes not on the agenda: - KR enquired if all was organised for the Lent Lunches in Billingshurst now. DB confirmed that all was sorted for the two lunches on the 7th and 21st March. Our thanks should go to Jane Matthews, Tessa Richards and Sara Tremlett for taking on the organisation this year. However action needs to be taken to find a coordinator for 2026 and beyond. - It had been mentioned in a previous meeting that 2026 is a year of celebration for the Shrine and that a committee should be established to help organise any events. CM told the team that this was coming together. CTM said this might be a useful group for an earlier event in the parish. (see 8)
5.	Finance & Property Update: - CTM asked that a date be set for a meeting of the Finance Committee as soon as possible. - A contractor has been found to remove the dead trees at the front of the property at St. Gabriel's at a cost of about £1000. The PCT didn't think the trees needed replacing with hedging although it might be wise to wait until the trees are taken down before making a decision. - Car parking at St. Gabriel's was discussed. People entering the car park need to be aware of those waiting on the road to enter the site and try to park swiftly and safely. People may turn left in the car park and park on the grass. It was suggested that plastic gridding should be put down to ease this. - Works completed at St. Gabriel's included removal of the moss from all the slippery pathways and clearance of the gutters of all buildings. - SC pointed out the wet patch that appears regularly in the car park and freezes in the cold weather. The problem needs investigating and in the meantime people need to be vigilant placing a cone on the area and using salt when necessary. - There is an electrical problem in the Hall and thanks go to Brian O'Connor for his swift action to resolve the problem. - At Our Lady of Consolation the St. Charles Borromeo altar is complete and the other altar is progressing well. Everything will be ready for the Easter services that will take place there and the PCT expressed their thanks to Carl Conroy and Linda Thompson for all they do. - CTM reported that he had meetings the following day at Our lady of Consolation with the Bishop, Sarah Kilmartin (the Diocesan Chief Operating Officer), Gareth Zaver (the Diocesan Property Manager) and the architect. It is estimated that the work to build the new Pilgrims' Way will be in the region of 1.1 million so it will need to be done in two phases starting with the demolition of the old Pilgrims' Way and the building of the new one. - Other works completed at Our Lady of Consolation are the rehangng of the cross that had to be moved for the new altar, the refurbishment of the entry bell and a thurible. PCT wished to pass on their thanks to Gary Lyons who kindly completed this work and restored a statue of Our Lady donated to St. Gabriel's by the Burnford family. - SC took contact details of a parishioner who may be able to help with the parish bookkeeping.
6.	Churches Together - Billingshurst: KR informed the PCT that Churches Together wished to once again advertise the Easter services in the Village Tweet as it was much more cost effective than producing cards and then having them delivered. DB said she had seen the emails on the subject and would email

	the details of the parish Easter services the next day. CTM asked if we may see the proof before it goes to print as an error was made in our 2024 Christmas services.
7.	Suggestion Box Submissions: None
8.	Mass for the dedication of the new altars and font at Our Lady of Consolation: CTM told the PCT that we are awaiting the availability of Bishop Richard but ideally the Mass would take place on a Saturday at midday followed by lunch. Representatives from St. Thomas' Church, Salisbury, where the font came from would be invited plus other clergy. CTM asked CFa if she would be involved in the catering and she agreed. It was thought that she should be introduced to Jasmin Tapleras as it is an opportunity for both sides of the parish to come together.
9.	Change of PCT members: Following CTM's Moderators' meeting he was able to explain that each new large parish would be required to have a Steering Committee. CTM has asked CFa to serve on this committee and she has agreed. Therefore when this committee begins to meet CFa will step down from the PCT. CFa will also liaise with Youth Advisor Lizzie Wakeling about the Jubilee event in Ardingly.
10.	Diocesan Plan: CTM reported that as well as the Steering Committee there would be a larger group made up of the Chairs of the Core Teams. Their role would be to ensure the decisions of the Steering Committee were carried out. Each new large parish will have one Finance Committee made up of the Chairs of the Finance Committees of the current parishes. Each church would continue to have their own finance group with a different name, Stewardship groups. CTM distributed the 1 st edition of the Deanery Newsletter. This will be published four times a year and will be renamed once we officially become the new large parish. Copies will be given to each church. Numbers will be given according to Mass attendance figures. The newsletter will also be available online. The next issue will have the biographies of the clergy who were not included in Issue 1 and the new steering committee. Huge thanks to Kathy Bishop who took on this project and got finance from Freeman Brothers for an advertisement which will help pay for printing. Thanks too to Chris Bass for getting the newsletter finally laid out ready for printing.
	Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9 th April 2025 7.30pm @ CF's home