

**St Gregory's and Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Robert Dibdale Faith in Action  
Committee**

**The Minutes of the Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Present:** Fr Oliver, Maureen Thompson (Chair), Marion Whelbourn, Edmund Blackie, Damien O'Brien, Terry Phillips, Teresa Franczuk, Simon Chappell

**Apologies:** Jane Thomas, Olivia Lavelle, Cecilia Donnelly, Theresa Phillips, Lucy Dudley and Becky Bailey, Mike and Helen Dolce.

1. Opening Prayers and welcome Maureen Thompson (Chair)
2. Apologies: as above.
3. The Minutes of the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were approved as drawn.
4. Matters arising:
  - Audit of Parish Skills to be implemented at the appropriate time
  - Our Lady of Peace has Wi fi and Livestreaming but not Contactless Card Payment
5. Feedback and update on Parish Pastoral Council:
  - Parish Pastoral Council; the Building Committee is now meeting and minutes are being circulated.
  - Finance Committee: Peter and Theresa Finkel (Joint Chair of the PPC) have been appointed to the Committee
  - AGM: Peter and Theresa to provide an update on progress at the Deanery Meetings
  - Windows for the Parish Room at St Gregory's: estimated cost of £25-30,000 makes this prohibitive and consideration is being given to artwork/hanging pictures
6. Update on Parish Pastoral Council: see 5 above
7. Updates on
  - Quiz Night: A very successful charitable event to raise funds for the Parish Pilgrimage to Medjugorje. £650 was raised and with further donations a total of £710 was achieved.
  - Youth Club: the Youth Club of Year 7 children continues and after Easter will be open to Year 6 children. Activities undertaken so far include a Walk of Witness, making mosaics, icon painting, a karaoke evening, training for Stations of the Cross.
  - Warm Hub: attendances have increased with both parishioners, refugees and people dropping in. In the most recent meeting considerable help was given by attendees to cleaning the Church's brasses. Consideration is being given to changing the name to perhaps "Drop-in" or similar.
  - Parish Heating: The quote from the favoured installer of infra-red heating is £19,000 for the equipment and £13,000 for installation (which will involve additional cabling to the Sacristy). Consent is still required from the National Grid. Elektrika have assessed the existing cabling in the church. If contracted, the installer will promote St Gregory's as the first Catholic Church to have such heating and supply additional supplementary heaters. An anonymous donation has been received towards the cost.

## 8. Proposed Social Events:

- Summer event – perhaps outside at either church
- St Gregory the Great – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 Wednesday or a close weekend
- Christmas – (November onwards) – fund-raising/social/quiz (School or Our Lady of Peace)?

Fr Oliver suggested promoting a Parish Charity or 2 Parish Charities – one local and one international (requiring 3 champions) for a year/2 years – selected by Parish vote.

Fr Oliver said the Redhill Centre cannot provide a venue for a Jubilee Year of Hope Event because the host's timetable is too restrictive.

## 9. Fire Safety

Fr Oliver has recently met Gavin Leatherbarrow (PIB Risk Assessors). His meeting covered:

- Insurance issues
- Specific issues at Our Lady of Peace include the need for a new fire door at the rear and an examination of the risks associated with the existing escape route in view of the proximity of the kitchen and the gas boiler.
- Fr Oliver has been advised that the latest arrangement of benches at Our Lady of Peace (following the removal of a row of benches) is acceptable.

## 10. Charities

Many of the Second Collections are imposed by the Diocese and some are optional. The number of Charities supported by the Church is under review. Fr Oliver has received many requests for Church support for charities which he has declined.

## 11. Constitution

Fr Oliver to meet with Joint Chairs of the Parish Pastoral Council to appoint a working group to look at this.

## 12. AGM

To be further considered in the light of 11 above.

## 13. Any Other Business

- Bereavement Mass 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 11am at St Gregory's. Helpers are required.
- The Bereavement Group reported on a gathering of the recently bereaved on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Cecilia's home and referred to a further one proposed for the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
- A small group, Cecilia, Dot, Leo and Shelagh (through the Chair) made a proposal to invite parishioners on Trinity Mead Estate to have an opportunity to meet and get to know one another with a view to support and develop a

sense of belonging and identify local needs – and if possible to be able to develop the Synodal Plan/Parish Mission. The Group also suggested further meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 between 10.30am and 12 noon and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 between 7pm-9pm at Cecilia's home. The Group's intention is to invite parishioners through the bulletin, posters or written invitation. After discussion, the Committee agreed on the need to consult the Safeguarding Officer for his advice on whether these are parish events.

- Our Lady of Peace Garden: Subject to any restrictions which may be contained in the Planning Permission(s) relating to the land and the Charities Legislation (which have yet to be examined) the legal title to the land does not appear to restrict the use of the land for such purpose. However, issues raised included the need for clarifying the scope and purpose of the garden; the need for an approved plan; resources (including existing donations); site security/anti-social behaviour; car parking management/security cameras/marketing out spaces. Fr Oliver agreed Damien can put a note in the bulletin requesting former volunteers to meet him after church
- Volunteer works proposed at Our Lady of Peace: PIB Risk Assessors have advised of the need for insurance purposes of a Volunteer Policy to cover such activities. Pete can do many of the jobs on the 5 year assessment.
- Next Meeting of the Building Committee – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025.
- Marion has £170 in cash from the lunch club. It was agreed that this be used for Warm Hub funding.
- First Holy Communion: For St Gregory's pupils – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 (Corpus Christi) at St Gregory's. For other children – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at either St Gregory's or Our Lady of Peace.
- Communications Group: If there any events being organized that need to be shared to the wider community via the newsletter/calendar/website, please email details to the Parish Office in a timely manner.
- St Gregory's New Confessional: a bench is to be removed to enable easy access for Fr Oliver.
- Unwanted benches at Our Lady of Peace are to be brought over to St Gregory's.

#### 14. Closing Prayers