

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the 3 Churches Pastoral Advisory Council Monday 13th October at 7.30 in St Brigid's Hall

Present:

Clergy Canon Matthew Jones (MJ) President, Fr Andy Bord (AB), Deacon Christian Mahoney (CM)

St Brigid's Raymond Sherry (RS), Ceri Facey-Davies (CFD), Kieran O'Brien (KOB),
St Paul's Catherine Power (CP), Pedro Mariblanca (PM), Russell Wigley (RW), Karen Sylvester (KS) co-optee

Christ the King Elizabeth Taylor (ET), Carmel O'Grady (COG), Sheila Roberts (SR), Luigi d'Ambrosio (LDM)

Apologies Hadar Abdulahad (HA) *St Brigid's* and Ryan McLister (RML) *St Paul's*

1. Welcome and introductions MJ took the chair and welcomed everyone.
2. Reflection and prayer MJ reflected on the different histories of the two parishes and the sharing and interaction which had developed between them since he had become parish priest of both almost 20 years ago. In the last year the two parish advisory councils had developed proposals to establish the 3 Churches pastoral advisory council, with finance and buildings issues to be dealt with separately. In his experience parish advisory councils were often dominated by finance and buildings issues to the detriment of consideration of pastoral issues. St B/St P's had had a finance committee for many years but this was being made more formal. CtK had not had a committee with matters referred to the parish advisory council, so a new committee had been established and had held its first meeting. MJ underlined that the new arrangements were a significant change and had the potential for greater co-ordination of pastoral activity across the 3 Churches and new initiatives, taking account of the synodal approach being promoted in the world-wide church.
MJ invited everyone to join in prayer and reflection for a few minutes.
3. Adoption of the Constitution for the Pastoral Advisory Council
The draft constitution was adopted, including changes to the original draft to allow for the appointment by the parish priest of up to 2 co-optees and to adjust the arrangements for sharing the initial officer appointments between representatives of the churches. KS was approved as a co-optee.
4. Appointment of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for the first 2 Year Term
Given that one of the representatives from each church would occupy an officer position, MJ invited each group of representatives to nominate one of their number to fill an officer position. From those nominations RS was selected as chair, ET as vice chair and CP as secretary.

5. Allocation of members as links for the Pastoral Advisory Council's areas of responsibility

Deferred to the next meeting with members asked to consider in the meantime which area of activity they might link with. **Action All Representatives**

6. Arrangements for reporting at future meetings.

Discussion deferred to the next meeting, with the point strongly made by several members that reporting should be selective to avoid meetings getting bogged down.

7. Deanery and Diocesan Pastoral Councils

ET explained that each parish was asked to send a representative to the Deanery and Diocesan Pastoral Councils. She and Bernard Hayward (formerly vice chair of St Brigid/St Paul's PAC) had attended the St David's DPC (Cardiff and the Vale) since its inception about 18 months ago. The Deanery PC was focusing on sharing good practice and taking forward action where it made sense for parishes to share resources. So far it had focused on training for children's liturgy catechists and was now looking at baptism preparation. Tania Walsh from Christ the King was also involved as vice-chair of the Council. Council meetings were every 2 months.

The Diocesan Pastoral Council had started in July and had met twice. ET and Bernard Hayward had represented the 2 parishes. In future it would meet 6 monthly. Archbishop Mark saw its role as looking at diocesan-wide issues and developments. The first meeting had looked at proposals for the development of youth provision and received a presentation on diocesan finances. The recent meeting had considered spiritual development, in particular prayer; and had received further information on diocesan finances and communications.

ET would circulate the presentations and records of these meetings. **Action ET** Going forward, it would be for MJ to decide who the two parish representatives on the Councils should be. **Action MJ**

8. Any other business

All those present were content for their email addresses to be shared with other PAC members. **Action CP to get agreement from absentees.**

PAC contact details to be included in the newsletter with a 3 churches email address. **Action ET**

9. Dates and venues for future meetings (approximately every 2 months) agreed

- 7.30 Tuesday 25th November, Christ the King Parish Centre
- 7.30 Tuesday 27th January, St Paul's meeting room
- 7.30 Tuesday 24th March, St Brigid's Hall

- 7.30 Tuesday 19th May, Christ the King Parish Centre
- 7.30 Tuesday 30th June (to include consideration of annual report), St Paul's meeting room
- Reporting meeting to the Parishes – not later than w/c 13th July

The meeting ended at 9pm.

Elizabeth Taylor
16th November 2025