

3 Churches Pastoral Advisory Council

Tuesday 27th January 7.30pm at St Paul's Church

Present: Elizabeth Taylor (Vice Chair) (ET), Fr Andy Bord (AB), Deacon Christian Mahoney (CM), Sheila Roberts (SR). Ceri Facey Davies (CFD), Kieran O'Brien (KOB), Pedro Mariblanca (PM), Russ Wigley (RW), Carmel O'Grady (COG), Celia Gleeson (CTK) Catherine Power (CP), Karen Sylvester (KS)

Apologies: Canon Matthew Jones (MJ), Ray Sherry (Chair) (RS), – both due to illness; Hadar Abdulahad (HA) (belated apology, family commitment). Apologies accepted.

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer: led by Father Andy Bord

2. Welcome

The Vice Chair (ET) led the meeting, welcomed members, and confirmed the meeting was quorate. Elizabeth introduced Celia Gleeson, appointed as a CtK representative though an attendee at all 3 Churches. Celia had agreed to become the link for evangelisation.

ET advised that Ryan Mc Lister had stepped down as a St Pauls representative and a replacement would be sought. **Action MJ, RS and ET**

In the absence of a PAC link member, ET would be a temporary link for liturgy.

3. Approval of the minutes of meeting on 25th November 2025

- Page 1: COD corrected to COG (Carmel O'Grady).
- Minutes agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

The following outstanding points for action were discussed and completion by next meeting agreed.

Item 5 COG had attended a meeting of the CtK Finance and Buildings Committee. StB/StP Committee meeting pending - KS would attend.

Item 6 Youth Engagement: CM to follow up inviting Fr Matt Roche-Saunders to a future meeting. **Action CM** RS to follow up on learning from the experience of the Orthodox Coptic Church in London. **Action RS**

Item 8 Communication of PAC work **Action ET** to provide a synopsis of key issues discussed for 01/02/2026 newsletter. **Action: CP:** Photos of KS CP, and CG to be sent for

inclusion on the website. Pastoral Groups/contacts had received emails introducing their Pastoral Advisory Council link person.

Item 10 AOB Arranging lifts to Mass at Christ the King was being addressed by the Parish Office. PAC members raised some concerns about compliance of lift giving arrangements with safeguarding and insurance requirements. Action to address this not identified.

5. Update on Focus areas

Spirituality and adult formation (PM)

PM had identified a range of regular 3 Churches spiritual activities and was following up to get more information. Prayer and reflection remain central to all gatherings.

CM mentioned a Lent retreat at St Joseph's, Cardiff. He suggested that the 3 Churches might consider organising a similar Lent retreat in the future; and copy the Advent retreat held at St Joseph's. **Action (PM): To publicise information about the St Joseph's Lent retreat**

Catechesis – See attached Report (KOB)

KOB reported on a very positive meeting with all catechist teams (Baptism, First Communion/Reconciliation, Confirmation, RCIA) on 26 January to review current practice and discuss future development. Issues to be followed up included catechist training, embedding celebration of the sacraments in the life of the 3 Churches and working with parents to involve them in parish life and strengthen their capacity to share faith with their children. **Action KOB**

Additional points made in discussion

- Concern about what happens after the sacrament—need for follow up support through integration of candidates and families into parish life.
- Importance of welcoming families at Mass, especially given parents' varied experiences of how children's behaviour is received
- The thanksgiving Mass during the Jubilee Year was successful as an opportunity to celebrate with the community.
- Confirmation programme needs more volunteers, particularly to support parental engagement,
- RCIA operates one-to-one, mainly with Fr Andy and Fr Matthew, rather than as a programme.
- General lack of provision for adult formation across the 3 Churches
- Very few weddings across the 3 Churches - preparation provided by the clergy and available through Marriage Care

Youth and Teen Engagement

- Pastoral Advisory Council to invite Fr Matt Roche-Saunders to a meeting **Action: CM**
- Need to strengthen connections with Corpus Christi HS and St David's College.
- Decline in Confirmation numbers in 2025 – potential for exploring reasons with Corpus Christi HS

Schools (CP)

- Christ the King School links regularly with CtK Parish through liturgy
- CP to meet the Corpus Christi Chaplain and report back at next meeting. **Action CP**

6. Reports from Link Areas – circulated

Safeguarding – (RW)

Introductory meetings have taken place with safeguarding officers at St Brigid's and St Paul's. A meeting with the Christ the King officer is planned for early February.

Outreach – (SR)

SR had met 8 group leads so far. Groups are functioning well and are financially stable. Key issues raised include the need for safeguarding training and additional volunteers. Meetings with remaining group leaders are planned.

Children & Young People – (CFD)

Initial contact made with the Brownies and the Mother & Toddler Group leaders. Children's liturgy now running at Sunday morning Masses in all 3 churches.

Social Activities – (HA)

No report

Communications – (RS) – See Attached Report

- Two meetings with Simon Williams to review the 3 Churches website. Ideas for a more modern website and a potential app discussed. A possible template is provided by www.thetownchurch.org.uk RS suggested PAC members take a look.
- Notice boards and event advertising across the 3 Churches reviewed and inconsistencies in usage identified. KS advised a new external noticeboard was about to be installed in the porch at St Paul's.
- Work needed to establish clear guidelines for Facebook and other social media use.
- ET advised a new edition of the 3 Churches Directory was nearing completion

Ecumenism – (ET)

- Following closure of the Llanishen Council of Churches it was hoped to continue the monthly Saturday morning prayer link meetings and church contact arrangements.
- She had not yet responded to an invitation to join a coordinating group.

Liturgy – (Link to be confirmed)

At its meeting on 14th January the Liturgy Group had

- Reviewed Advent and Christmas - generally positive, though Advent Penitential Service attendance low.
- Done initial planning for Lent and Easter.
- Confirmed arrangements for First Communion candidates to attend a Sunday morning Mass in each church during their preparation.
- Confirmed the date for a 3 Churches Mass to be held at Corpus Christi HS on 5 July.
- Agreed occasional Welsh be introduced into weekend Masses, using 1 March as a focus.

ET reported that the Liturgy Group had considered a request by a CtK parishioner that the bidding prayers at weekend Masses be expanded to include thanksgiving, praise and personal testimony. The request, addressed to the PAC, fell within the remit of the Group.

The Group had concluded the bidding prayers could not be expanded as requested given the requirements of The Roman Missal, which sets the norms for celebration of Mass, including guidelines on the length, purpose and format of the Prayers of the Faithful. The Group had expressed interest in exploring alternative opportunities for parishioners to gather for praise, thanksgiving, and personal reflection, and had invited the CtK Parishioner to make suggestions for consideration at its next meeting on 25 February.

The PAC endorsed the conclusions of the Liturgy Group. **Action ET to communicate this to the parishioner.**

Evangelisation – (new link – Celia Gleeson)

7.Safeguarding (standing item at each meeting)

No major concerns currently, though some delays persist in diocesan processing of DBS checks. Need for additional training of volunteers identified; while training is available online, many would prefer in-person sessions.

Action: RW to liaise with the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Team to arrange group training for volunteers across the 3 Churches.

10.Diocesan Pastoral Council and Deanery Pastoral Council Reports

No meetings since the last 3 Churches PAC meeting – the Denary Pastoral Council meetings on 31 January and 21 March and Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting on 14th March to be reported on at the next meeting. **Action RS & ET**

11. Any other business

The Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer (EWOAP)

ET referred to the paper containing a request from a CtK Parishioner seeking agreement to publicity for the EWOAP project. As explained in the paper, a near identical request had been considered in November by the 3 Churches Proclaim Group and had not received support. ET considered that it would be inappropriate to revisit that recent decision given that there were no new issues to consider. The current newsletter already provided links to a range of resources for developing faith, including the EWOAP, which seemed sufficient at the current early stage of the project. As it progressed, it might be appropriate for the Proclaim Group to review publicity for it, in line with the PAC's approach of supporting, not seeking to take over, the work of existing 3 Churches groups.

The PAC endorsed this conclusion. **Action ET to communicate this to the parishioner.**

Future Agendas

KOB commented that while the recent and on-going listening exercise was valuable in giving an accurate picture of 3 Churches activity, some matters called for deeper reflection at future meetings. Adult formation was one such issue if the 3 Churches were to move towards a more genuinely synodal culture with parishioners growing in confidence in their faith.

Members suggested this might be achieved by having themed agendas and dedicated sessions.

Action: MJ, RS and ET to bring forward proposals for future agendas which have space for discussion of substantial issues and encourage more fundamental questions.

13. Matters to be regarded as confidential - None

14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24th March 7.30pm St Brigid's Church Hall

Future Meetings

1. Tuesday 19th May 7.30pm at Christ the King
2. Tuesday 30th June 7.30pm at St Paul's.