

Report by the 3 Churches Pastoral Advisory Council

**For consideration at the open meeting of the 3 Churches Community on Tuesday
14th July 2026 7.30pm in St Brigid's Hall**

Introductory Word

Addressing a diocesan assembly in Madrid on 8th June Pope Leo had this to say:

‘Be ready to welcome new beginnings not as an exception, but as the rule of the mission’

He connected this to synodal conversion stressing the need for discernment and prayer to be built into parish governance saying ‘The participation in diocesan and parish councils has no lesser goal than this: to adjust the sensitivity of each person through listening closely to what the Spirit says to the Church. Rather than being reduced to ‘mere bureaucratic formalities’ such bodies should be spaces of mutual listening for the exercise of discernment, as a result of which worship becomes life, and bonds of fraternity and projects of solidarity arise among people.’

He urged priests to embrace ‘the practice of communal discernments as one of the greatest opportunities that synodality offers to their ministry’. He went on to say ‘when parish life is reduced to a routine in which everyone remains locked into their habits and roles, what we lack is the Spirit.’ He urged the priests – and by extension all of us - not to be afraid of what the Spirit stirs up.

This is our challenge.

1. Setting up the 3 Churches Pastoral Advisory Council (PAC)

The PAC had its inaugural meeting on 13th October 2025. Prior to that nominations were invited for 4 representatives from each church. As there were 4 nominations from each no elections were needed.

At that meeting the PAC constitution was approved and membership confirmed.

Key features of the constitution are:

- The purpose of the PAC is to support the parish priest and assist with oversight of all pastoral matters. These include safeguarding, liturgy, evangelisation, spirituality, catechesis, outreach, engagement of children and young people, social activities, communications, links with local Catholic schools and ecumenism.
- The membership consists of 12 representatives, 4 from each church, plus the clergy and up to 2 co-opted members proposed by the Parish Priest. The period

of appointment is 2 years – with any members appointed to fill vacancies appointed for the remainder of that 2-year period.

- The officer appointments – chair, vice-chair and secretary – are for 2 years and rotate between the 3 churches.
- The PAC is to meet every 2 months and publish an annual report for consideration at a meeting of the parishes in July.
- Each lay member is either linked with an area of pastoral life or joins one of the two Parish Finance and Buildings Committees.

2. Membership

The membership in 2025-26 has been:

Canon Matthew Jones - Parish Priest

Fr Andy Bord - assistant priest

Deacon Christian Mahoney

For St Brigid's – Ray Sherry (PAC Chair), Ceri Facey-Davies, Kieran O'Brien, Hadar Abdulahad (replaced from June 2026 by Suzanne Williams)

For Christ the King – Elizabeth Taylor (PAC vice-chair), Sheila Roberts, Luigi d'Ambrosio (replaced from January 2026 by Celia Gleeson), Carmel O'Grady (replaced from June 2026 by Sue Rees)

For St Paul's – Cath Power (PAC Secretary), Pedro Mariblanca, Russ Wigley, Ryan McClister (replaced from March 2026 by Elizabeth Regan)

Co-opted member – Karen Sylvester

3. Meetings in 2025-26

There have been 5 meetings since the inaugural meeting in October.

25th November Links were identified for each pastoral area and the 2 Finance and Buildings Committees. Four priority areas were identified for development

- Spirituality and adult formation
- Catechesis
- Youth engagement
- Schools

27th January Largely focused on reports about link activity, including in the priority areas. The Council agreed that future agendas should provide time for substantive discussion of key topics.

24th March The main topic was consideration of Archbishop Mark’s pastoral letter Heart Speaks to Heart and how to take forward in the 3 Churches the issues it raises. Suggestions included discussion groups and consideration by existing 3 Churches groups. It was agreed to run a series of 4 sessions between Pentecost and the summer looking at the key topics of youth engagement, faith sharing (evangelisation), formation in faith, service to the community. Currently under the banner ‘Building a Flourishing 3 Churches community there is a group meeting on Zoom led by Canon Matthew and a face-to-face group led by PAC members. Take up has been disappointingly small but ideas for practical action are emerging and the PAC will consider these in the Autumn.

12th May The main focus of the meeting was Youth Engagement (teenage and young adults) with input from Fr Matt Roche-Saunders Diocesan Director for Vocations and Young Ministry (see section 4 below).

30th June Preparation for the report back meeting to the Parishes on 14th July.

4. Links

Individuals and groups within the churches remain responsible for their areas of activity. The role of the ‘link’ person (and therefore of the PAC) is to support them; assist with co-ordination; and propose improvements in engagement, particularly where there are gaps. Groups have generally welcomed the engagement with their link.

The links, those they engage with and a brief resume of their link activities:

Link	Groups/Activities Covered by the Link	Report of activity
Safeguarding Russ Wigley	Safeguarding Officers for each church	Has liaised with the Safeguarding officer for each church over specific concerns about training and procedures: and with Joanne White, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer to set up a session for 3 Churches volunteers scheduled for 5 September.
Spirituality & adult formation Pedro Mariblanca	Monthly scripture group; weekly Thursday morning scripture group; prayer petition books; rosary (St Paul’s); Lent discussion groups	Prayer and reflection becoming a more integral part of meetings. Awaiting roll-out of diocesan materials secured through a partnership with Steubenville University to parishes as a basis for offering adult formation in faith.
Catechesis Kieran O’Brien	Baptism team, 1 st communion/reconciliation team, confirmation team, RCIA	Positive meeting in January with teams to review current practice and discuss future development. Issues for follow up - catechist training; embedding celebration of the sacraments in the life of the 3 Churches; working with parents to involve them in parish life and strengthen their capacity to share faith with their children; more catechists for confirmation; enabling contact between those received into the church. Further meeting with catechists proposed for September looking at potential for parental engagement. 3

		Churches Mass on 5 th July focused on sacramental celebration.
Outreach Sheila Roberts	Bereavement support Welcome space Faith and light Sustainable clothes & books market Phone link – CtK Free food market SVP APF (red mission boxes)	<p>Welcome Space thriving, average 40 people weekly; Sustainable Clothes Market 60-70 attendees monthly, good number of volunteers but needs a 2nd organiser; Food Market provides food and toiletries to 40+ people monthly. Prayer tables provided at clothes and food markets proving popular. Faith and Light - has 5/6 regular clients plus carers/family members - more volunteers needed, safeguarding and first aid training requested. Missio Red Boxes - banking sometimes a problem due to bank closures, CtK organiser hoping to step down. SVP – working effectively to provide support where there is a need.</p> <p>Phone Link – maintains weekly contact with around 10 housebound CtK parishioners – scope for replicating this for St Brigid’s & St Paul’s parishioners. Bereavement Support Group one new volunteer – more would be welcome. Support is provided for all funerals in the 3 churches & conducted by our clergy at the crematorium and the group organises the annual Mass of Memories.</p>
Children & young people Ceri Facey Davies	Brownies and guides Baby and toddler group Junior club Children’s liturgy Family Masses (CtK)	<p>The engagement of children and young people identified as a focus area for the PAC. Current provision includes:</p> <p>Children’s Liturgy: now established at St Brigid’s, so all three churches offer Children’s Liturgy at Sunday morning Masses during term time.</p> <p>Junior Club: Caters for Years 3-6. Meets Friday evenings during term time. Group is well established and very well attended by children from Christ the King School and the wider community. Need for more volunteers.</p> <p>Brownies and Guides: Meet at St Brigid’s Hall on Thursdays. A large and active unit for girls aged 7–18 (split into sections), which wants to strengthen links with the parish.</p> <p>Baby and Toddler Group: Meets at CtK on Mondays during term time. Around 16–18 families attend, with new families joining recently.</p> <p>This current provision is largely focused on primary school age children. There is a clear gap in provision and sustained engagement for teenagers & young adults.</p> <p>To help identify opportunities for development, Fr Matt Roche-Saunders Diocesan Director for Vocations and Young Ministry, shared insights from his work with young people across the Archdiocese at the PAC meeting on 12th May. He outlined the diocesan vision for youth</p>

		<p>engagement, and his emphasis on accompaniment and the “find, form and flourish” approach provides a helpful framework for future reflection and planning.</p> <p>The PAC also received feedback from the current Confirmation group. A key theme was the importance of young people feeling that they belong and are actively involved in parish life. A follow-up meeting with the group is planned for the coming weeks.</p> <p>The first Building a Flourishing 3 Churches Community session had engagement of young people as the main topic. Attendees discussed ways of identifying and engaging young people across the 3 churches, and positive suggestions for action were proposed.</p> <p>The task over the coming months will be to bring together the feedback from the groups, along with the contribution from Fr Matt to identify practical ways forward to strengthen provision and help young people feel more fully part of 3 Churches life.</p>
<p>Social Activities Elizabeth Regan (link only recently established)</p>	<p>Quiz night Ctk Tea and coffee after Masses at St Brigid’s & Ctk St Brigid’s social group Circle of Friends St Paul’s ladies’ group UCM</p>	<p>Scope for more, and more regular, activities.</p>
<p>Communications Ray Sherry</p>	<p>Website, newsletter, parish register, 3 churches directory, notice boards, Grapevine magazine, live streaming</p>	<p>New website under development – recent appeal for parishioners to provide photos for inclusion. New edition of 3 churches directory published June 2026.</p> <p>New protocols being developed for use of social media. Proposed initial focus on liturgy with a series of short explainer videos taken from streamed recordings of Mass, enhanced with hymns. Recognition that it needs to appeal to younger people who won’t access the newsletter or website.</p> <p>Outstanding tasks to review the content and use of the Register of Parishioners, the use of noticeboards, compliance with GDPR (privacy requirements).</p>
<p>Catholic Schools Cath Power</p>	<p>Christ the King primary Corpus Christi High School St David’s College</p>	<p>Very positive responses from Corpus Christi HS (Lorayne Kelly chaplain/RE teacher) and Christ the King Primary (Sue Miles headteacher) with suggestions for closer engagement between the 3 Churches and the schools. Follow up actions for Corpus Christi HS – commissioning of chaplain as a eucharistic minister, setting up a shared</p>

		<p>calendar for clergy engagement with the school e.g. for celebrations of Mass and reconciliation, closer links with confirmation programme, reciprocal arrangements for publicising events.</p> <p>Follow up actions for Christ the King primary - reciprocal publicity for events, development of programme of inputs into the RED curriculum by parishioners on vocation, service, ministries, liturgy; collaboration in developing Catholic Social Teaching in practice through parish-linked outreach and stewardship activities.</p> <p>Proposal to develop a link with Peter Knight, the lead for Catholic Social Teaching at St David's College.</p>
Ecumenism Elizabeth Taylor	Prayer link rota	After a prolonged decline in activity, particularly post Covid, the local Council of Churches folded last Autumn making ecumenical engagement more difficult. A small group is keeping monthly inter-church prayer link services going – July session held at CtK.
Liturgy No link	3 Churches liturgy group	Since the Autumn the Liturgy Group has reviewed Advent & Christmas arrangements; planned and reviewed Lent and Easter services; taken forward arrangements for 1 st communion candidates to attend Mass in each church; planned for the 3 Churches Mass at Corpus Christi HS on 5 th July; planned for recommissioning of Eucharistic Ministers; promoted the introduction of occasional Welsh into Sunday masses; considered how to better support Fr Andy in taking communion out to the sick and housebound.
Evangelisation Celia Gleeson	3 Churches Proclaim group	The focus of the Proclaim Group is moving on from outreach (such as the Food and Clothes markets) to looking at other more direct forms of evangelisation. Its recent meetings have focused on the evangelisation element of the pastoral letter 'Heart Speaks to Heart'. The second 'Building a Flourishing 3 Churches Community' session had focused on evangelisation.
St Brigid & St Paul's Finance and Buildings Committee Karen Sylvester		
CtK Finance and Buildings Committee No link since Carmel O'Grady stepped down from PAC		

5. Diocesan Pastoral Advisory Council (DPAC) and Deanery Pastoral Council (DPC)

Each parish is entitled to a representative on both Councils. Ray Sherry (StB/StP) and Elizabeth Taylor (CtK) are the representatives and in addition Tania Walsh (CtK) is vice-chair of the St David's DPC which covers Cardiff and the Vale. The DPAC meets 6

monthly and the DPC every 2 months (though this is being adjusted to quarterly). The PAC receives reports on the meetings of both. To date the DPAC meetings have focused on cascading information from the Diocese, with representatives able to discuss and feedback. Topics have included prayer, youth engagement, diocesan finances and diocesan communications. The DPC is focusing on sharing good practice between parishes and developing shared activity. This has included a training day for Children's Liturgy leads, recommendations to parishes on baptism preparation and introducing Welsh language into the liturgy. For the year ahead the DPC plans to look at and develop proposals for first communion preparation, disseminating Catholic Social Teaching and communications within parishes.

6. Looking Ahead The first year of has focused on getting the PAC up and running. Next year we plan to focus on:

- Catechesis - catechist training; embedding celebration of the sacraments in the life of the 3 Churches; working with parents to involve them in parish life and strengthen their capacity to share faith with their children; finding more confirmation catechists; enabling contact between those received into the church
- Spirituality and adult formation – consider the programmes available through the partnership between the diocese and Steubenville University and the opportunities they offer for adult formation in faith
- Youth engagement – to talk to our teenagers and young adults to identify how they want to engage with the 3 churches, with them develop new opportunities and walk with them as they journey in faith
- Schools – using the links we have identified, develop partnerships with Christ the King primary school, Corpus Christi High School and St David's College.
- Communications – revamp the 3 Churches website and develop our presence on social media.
- Reviewing the vision statement for the 3 Churches which was created in 2011 (available on the website).

3 Churches Pastoral Advisory Council

July 2026