

Minutes of PPC Meeting - Sunday 13th September 2026

Opening Prayer Led by CT

Apologies MD, MT, Fr MW, DC

Present: PP, PL, HF, BA, PM, JR, CT, TQ

Minutes from last meeting: Discussed and agreed

1. Finance Committee – Wayne Maynard (if available)

Wayne was not available. JR said he is still waiting for training regarding Gift Aid. PL reported that there has been difficulty marrying up Gift Aid givers with the envelopes allocated for each individual. We don't have a definite list of those who give. Fr MW has requested that each donor to let him know their box number

2. Parish Centre Grounds:

PP reported that her and her husband have already taken about 20 Dumpy bags to the tip and there is still a huge amount to get rid of. The hire of a chipper was not possible due to the type of greenery that needs to be shredded. The hire of a skip seems to be a better option. A request to the finance committee will need to be submitted. If that can be arranged then another appeal for helpers to get rid of any surplus and possible further tidy up needs to be before the change in the weather

3. Funding Strategy for Parish Hall

Questions were raised on the progress of the leasing of the Parish Centre but as Fr MW was absent from the meeting nothing could be reported.

The Parish Hall, we all agreed that something has to be done regarding funding for the hall, whether it is to pay for a full survey of what needs to be done or whether it is a viable project.

PL reported that her son Michael is willing to meet with anyone who wants to be involved to discuss and suggest ways to raise funds, awareness etc. PL will check with Michael when he is available and add an appeal on the newsletter for anyone willing to join a team.

4. Parish Sub Groups

This still is unresolved and it was agreed to leave things as they are until our position with joining Gateshead is ascertained

5. Advent Planning

PP to ask Fr MW to let her know all Advent activities and Christmas Mass times as soon as they are confirmed. PL will ask FR MW if we should still supply the 3 schools with Christmas Trees. The large Jesse Tree will be purchased.

The Dressing of the Jesse Tree was discussed. Last year this was dressed during our Sunday Liturgy Service and was well attended.

6. Outstanding Health and Safety Issues

Tony Scott has agreed to be Health and Safety Officer and is meeting with Fr MW to assess what needs to be done

7. Remembrance Service

For the past 3 years Fr MW has not been available to represent St Joseph's. We are aware that he celebrates a Mass in Washington on a Sunday but we hoped that with sufficient notice with the Partnership he could attend the Remembrance Service and meet with the other church ministers. TQ said he would be willing to stand if this was not possible

8. Trees front of church

The trees at the front of church are growing to an enormous height and are dangerously close to the electric cables . TQ to contact a tree feller to get a quote of costs

9. Minor Issues- Toys and Community Support Posters

PP has supplied a small number of toys at the back of church to keep the children occupied at the back of church. She will make sure they stay in good condition and clean them weekly.

Fr MW is getting a number of people asking for food donations and this is not possible for him to maintain. A poster is displayed at both front and back doors and in the church porch informing them where they should go. PM said if they were genuine callers Fr MW should give PM a call and he will come and meet with them. PM does not want his contact details given out

10. List for those willing to lead announcements before Mass

PL: 19/9, CT 26/9, PP: 3/10, BA 10/10, JR:17/10, PM: 31/10, TQ: 7/11, MT :14/11
CT to compile rota

11. Any other business

As from this weekend and for the next 3 weeks a count should be taken at each Saturday Mass

Closing Prayer

Next Meeting Sunday 11th October @7pm