Chapel Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 12th June 2025

Minutes

1.) Opening prayer – Frank led the prayer.

2.) Apologies for absence – received from Pat Dawson
Present: Fr. Gerry, Don Lavery, Peter Barnes, Jacqui Lavery, Lucia McLean, Anne Lomas, Joan Matthews, Frank Frost, Barbara Hindley, Sue Thornhill.

3.) Minutes of the last meeting were approved and will be put on the website and on the noticeboard at the back of church. Walsingham pilgrimage was a great success with interest in doing another in 2026. Thanks were expressed to Don for his organisation. Don reported that the event went as well as could be imagined, with a particular positive being the opportunities for increased mixing between Chapel and Buxton parishioners, but certain aspects could be done 'smarter.' Financially the event effectively broke even.

4.) Finance - Peter provided a paper of funds reconciled to 31.03.25
Current account £11203.49, Set off £18517.61, Total £29721.10
Close of business 11.06.25 current account £5650.39, Total £24168.00.
Annual returns have been completed and submitted for independent evaluation. Reduction in offertory due to people leaving parish/dying.

Ukrainian accounting – Unsure yet whether new Reform-led council will continue to pay £700 per month as DCC had originally promised or whether they will pay the lower rate. When the government funding for Ukrainians ceases the diocese have confirmed they will want the presbytery to be let on a commercial basis using an agent. If let commercially funds become parish income.

5.) Safeguarding – Sue reported that we are currently up to date with safeguarding requirements. 24th/25th May was Safeguarding Sunday and Sue spoke at Mass about her role in the Parish, with forms and DBS checks for those volunteers requiring them. She also mentioned the aim for safeguarding to become embedded in the culture of the church and how important the role of all parishioners is in this. Fr Gerry then told us about the results of the first diocesan safeguarding audit last May which found good practice in all 8 of the national safeguarding standards across the diocese.

6.) Churches together – Pat reported, via Don, that the Songs of Praise evening went very well with contributions from all 3 ministers who attended. The Mustard Seed coffee mornings have now stopped for Summer but will re-start in September.

7.) Update on sale of Tideswell Church – Sale was completed on 25/04/2025. We will obtain our share of the sale from the diocese after i) payment of any debts we owe them, there are none ii) completing all work identified in the quinquennial report, est. £50450 iii) making our payment to the Diocesan Enabling Fund approx. £25000. To set against this Don and Peter will report our costs to date, for input to a diocesan spreadsheet used as a mechanism for dividing funds. We will also need to erect a fence between the property and the graveyard and organise maintenance of the graveyard and any necessary public liability insurance.

8.) Jubilee Year, Gaza. – Fr Gerry has invited the chief executive of the Friends of the Holy Land, Brendan Metcalfe, to come and talk about their work at Masses on 12/13th July. As discussed at the last meeting our IFM windfall of £2663 has been passed to Buxton along with cheques for £208.50, £96 and £145.96 from collections in March, April and May, a standing order and 3 or 4 cheques have also been sent to the Holy Family parish in Gaza.

9.) Fr Gerry's retirement and the arrival of Fr Greg Tobin – Fr mentioned how pleased he was with the bishop's letter to the parish about his retirement and how he had put this in the bulletin. He is planning to retire on either the 8th or 15th of September. It is not yet known what masses will be held in the different churches when Fr Greg Tobin is here.

11.) Hiring a gardener – maintenance of the presbytery garden is proving difficult in the light of there being fewer volunteers. Several proposals were put forward including hiring a gardener on a self-employed basis for a couple of days a month throughout the summer, making areas low maintenance – possibly seeking advice to do this, asking again for volunteers perhaps for specific jobs e.g. watering or adopting a particular flower bed – Tamila currently waters the pots near the door and may be happy to do more gardening and Sue and Caroline will do some watering on a Monday. It was suggested that Brian Ashton be thanked for cutting the grass. Brian also has a friend who would probably be willing to do a few hours gardening on a couple of days a week in summer.

12.) Any other business – we will plan a small 'leaving do' for Fr Gerry at his last mass with us at Chapel. Buxton are planning a Sunday lunch after his last mass there, to which we are invited.

13.) Date of next meeting Thursday 25th September