St Vincent's Parish Council
"The parish council works with the priest to serve the people"

Meeting minutes 4 March 2026
Present: Russell Brynes (Chair), John Dempsey, Nicole Jones, Cath Livingston, Fr. Lee Marshall, Maria Mawson (Minutes), Jacquie Stacey, Michelle Wigfull
Apologies: Dominic Rice, Dominic Simon,

Opening prayer

Actions & matters arising from 12 November

- Feedback from St Francis about their crib service – CL is still waiting for a response
- Welcoming – guiding to seats. **Action: RB/Fr Lee** to compose an announcement

2. The Mass

- For those undertaking the 33 day preparation for consecration to Jesus through Mary, Fr Lee suggested that the final act of consecration on the 34th day could be made after masses at SVMH and St Vincent's on 24/25 March. Individuals can also do this privately if they prefer.
- MW alerted the meeting to a worldwide consecration for the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on 13 June
- The Easter Services times have been agreed and DR is arranging ministers.

3. The Church

- Screens in church. The provision of screens or projections to display images and words of prayers and hymns has been raised by some parishioners in the past few years, including at the recent parish session on disability.
- Projections would provide a visual aid for those with hearing impairment or those who have difficulty in reading smaller print. However, some parishioners may find them distracting or intrusive. Screens are used at SVMH, and Fr Lee explained that there is a huge amount of work involved in preparing the materials and managing the presentations during services.
- There was a wide ranging discussion of the advantages and disadvantages, with a slight majority of Council members not in favour. There was also some discussion about how best to take this forward. **Action: Fr Lee to consider further.**

4. Building the Community

- Parish retreat, Ampleforth Abbey 15-17 May. There is an opportunity for a parish retreat providing a minimum of 12 people (max 40) are willing to attend. The programme would include two talks each day, access to all the religious services in the community and the grounds, as well as accommodation and meals. The cost would be £220 per person, and there may be scope for discretionary bursaries if cost is a barrier. It is hoped that transport by minibus or shared cars can be arranged. **Action: CL agreed to liaise with Ampleforth, and Fr Lee will put something in the bulletin.**

- Discussion points from the parish session on disability in January, attended by around 20 people.
  - Sound in church. Fr Lee has arranged testing for the hearing loop and other aspects of the sound system.

- Use of buff coloured paper instead of white to assist with readability. **Action: Fr Lee** will ask the office team to look into the cost of buff coloured paper to provide a few alternative copies.
- Buddy system for those attending mass alone or as carers. It was agreed that the parish already does quite a lot to welcome people to mass and make them feel comfortable. Some parishioners living alone already come to Mass together, and the SVP can help with lifts. There are a number of parishioners who are unable to come to mass due to illness, and it was suggested that the eucharistic ministers team and the inclusion group could review arrangements for taking communion and visiting.
- Withdrawal space. There are already spaces that parishioners can use (including the narthex, hall and grounds.) If there was a particular need for a space for an individual this could be looked at. The inclusion group is producing some soft and quiet play packs that will help to occupy children during mass.
- Defibrillator. These are provided in some other churches but they cost around £8000. It was agreed that the parish could work with a local business to support one in a more centralised location in Crookes. **Action: RB** to investigate further.

5. Children and young people

- Children's liturgy. Some parishioners have come forward to help MW with this, and it is hoped that sessions will start on 22 March, initially for children aged 5-8

6. Live Simply and other parish group updates

- Live Simply solar panels proposal. Quotes have been obtained and these are being considered by the maintenance team and finance committee. Some questions have been raised and referred back to the companies, so the process is ongoing.
- St Justin update. The Society celebrates it's 50th anniversary this year. It is hoped that there will be a special mass one Sunday in September, followed by a celebration for all parishioners in the Hall.

7. Safeguarding – nothing to discuss.

8. Any other business

- The information board outside the church has the wrong time for Sunday evening Mass. **Action: Fr Lee** has asked the office team to change this.
- Bulletins have been running out at evening Mass. **Action: Fr Lee** to ask the office team to increase the number of copies.
- JS made the group aware that Fr Paddy had provided support to the Carmel Care Centre, and hopes that this can continue.
- MW asked about provision of a kneeler for those wishing to kneel when receiving Holy Communion. This will be discussed at the next meeting. **Action: MM t**o add to agenda.

Next meeting: 15 April 7pm.