



“Our mission is to provide opportunities for each person to grow in their Catholic faith and to share that faith with others.”

MINUTES OF THE PPC MEETING

Tuesday 20 January 2026 – in Bourne

Present:

Gill McIlhagga (GM), Fr Paul (Fr P), Sandra Buck (SB), Jane West (JW), Sarah McIlhagga (SM), Jo Currier (JC), Searle Clark (SC), Mark Currier (MC), Rob Paige (RP), Anne Bostock (AB).

1. Apologies: Angela D.

Prayer: The meeting opened with a prayer lead by Fr P.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters arising

Advertising Christmas services - Christmas cards advertising Christmas services to be organised for next Christmas and delivered door-to-door locally (Bourne and Deeping). JC noted that it is difficult to recruit volunteers for the task and feels social media and local advertiser is a better way to promote events. SM suggested using the display board outside church to show the Christmas schedule ahead of time. This could also be done for Easter services. Diana will need to know in advance. Such posters are eye catching and in Bourne, are in a prime location by the bus station. (An error was noticed (JC) in the Churches Together advertising for our Christmas services, regarding the Family Mass location and 'Midnight' Mass time (MC). SC checked archives of Deeping Advertiser after the meeting and found that the location for the Nativity was shown as Bourne with the Family Mass at Deeping, though times correct. Reminder set for checking this next time.)

Christmas Fayre and Morton House meal – Very successful, enjoyed by all and good fundraiser. Thanks all round.

Confirmation – Fr P announced the date will be **9 July 2026 at 7.00 pm in Bourne**. 5 candidates. They have an 'attendance record card' to encourage regular Mass attendance. To be signed by priest wherever they attend weekend Mass.

Foodbank – Our parish is now able to issue vouchers and training has been given.

4. Organisation (including property issues and finance)

Diocesan Mission Plan – Fr P announced that the Bishop will publish this following next weekend's pastoral letter. It is a 5 year plan to be discussed at the forthcoming Diocesan Pastoral Plan Roadshows. Fr P read out the introductory letter. It is a 'work in progress' with the aim to develop a more missionary diocese. He needs to recruit 3-4 parishioners to accompany him to one of the roadshows and also to develop a Missionary Leadership Team going forward. He is looking for people who can reflect and think strategically. GM suggested that he approach suitable people in the first instance and ascertain if they are willing to take part. MC can accompany Fr Paul to the roadshow in Newark on **Tuesday, 27 January**.

Quinquennial subcommittee – MC recommended that a meeting be set up in order to follow the recommended schedule in quinquennial reports for both churches. This will take place on **Friday, 30 January** at Deeping (10.30-11.30 am) then at Bourne, 12.00-1.00 pm. It will be useful to be on site while going through the reports. (Edward Kendall, our Deanery Administration Manager, will attend the meeting at Deeping.)

Costs indicated in the reports will help to prioritise issues. Some already completed such as the ramp at Deeping, and MC has already looked into extending the exit signs there, recommending photo-luminous rather than electrical. A decision needs to be made about the door by the sacristy as this is no longer an official fire exit. Also, extra slabs are needed for the path at Deeping, especially for wheelchair access. These and other matters can be investigated at the meeting.

Fr P noted that no invoice has been received from Burmor yet for latest work done. AB to chase (actioned, and invoice now received; MC to contact). MC noted that a snagging list was identified with Burmor (nothing too significant). (Arrangements now being made (29/01/26) by MC with Darren Green at Burmor to meet and attend to the snagging list in the next 2 weeks.)

GM mentioned the leak at the front of Bourne Church. Fr P said it only leaks after particularly heavy rain. The flat roof needs attention.

MC highlighted problems with the flat roof at Deeping and dripping water at the front. He met with the roof company (Storm Secure) and there is a problem with draining at the far end of the gutter with the sump hole running through the electrical cupboard. This is because the front of the church roof does not slope, causing water to pool. An estimate of £21000 given to rectify. Decision needed whether this is necessary as water can be 'brushed off'. A better solution would be desirable and sump holes need to be protected with wire guards.

Carpet in Bourne to be replaced after Easter. GM obtaining a quote from Lambourns. JC suggested that GM ask for volunteers to help paint radiators rather than do it all herself. Note to go in newsletter. The new partition will be installed after the carpet has been fitted. Money for these projects raised through social functions and Christmas Fair.

Candles

GM suggested battery operated Easter and altar candles for safety purposes. Fr P suggested a 'cone' design. JC noted that candles are too close to altar cloths at Deeping and also come into proximity with vestments, posing a fire risk. Votive candles could also have a glass 'sleeve' to prevent wax dripping. SB described a 'wine glass' shaped plastic flame guard that could be suitable. AB suggested battery operated votive candles for the holder at Bourne that was removed; this would then not present a risk from the nearby fire extinguisher.

Fr P would like glass coverings for the Paschal candle to prevent it from being extinguished by wind. AB to source candle options.

Ash Wednesday ashes need to be ordered, though JC queried using old palms to burn. Appeal for palms to go in newsletter.

Next PPC meeting will be on a Wednesday instead of Tuesday to accommodate the RCIA meeting which takes place on a Tuesday. The RCIA programme will conclude soon after Easter.

5. Development of faith (including liturgy planning)

Feedback, GM.

1. Nativity/Family Mass and 'Midnight' Mass

Nativity/Family Mass

One parishioner felt that 4.00 pm was too early and claimed that not enough families attended. While being promoted as a 'family' Mass, they thought it was not child-friendly with a lack of music. RP however, noted that the church was absolutely packed and there were lots of children there. He felt it was perfect for young children and that it had always worked well in previous years. SM felt that more organisation, with people in charge of different aspects such as readers or music, would be beneficial. This should begin a month or two in advance, assigning roles to people who will communicate with each other. A planning meeting should take place in October. MC agreed it should not all be left to Fr P while JC felt there should be a two-tier system of organisation for these events.

Fr P had contacted the diocese for guidance on the family Mass and felt that the conditions had been met in terms of liturgical requirements. When he first came to the parish, the Nativity was part of the Mass, replacing the Gospel and the correct text. This is not permitted by the diocese. With the Nativity just before Mass, it is a narrative drama with no rehearsal. Last year, Fr P just read out the Nativity story. MC thought that timings could be planned carefully with some sort of transition from the Nativity to the Mass. Fr P thought this could be possible. Some time was also taken up with present giving of a Nativity book to each child.

JC added that all members of the family should be involved and not just children, because it is not a 'Children's Mass'. It could include teenagers and grandparents

and be more 'generational' (MC). RP however, pointed out that encompassing the whole family and starting later with more music would make the service much longer and therefore not family-friendly after all.

GM suggested the Nativity could be performed completely separately especially as it overran on this occasion. Having this on another day or during the carol service was another suggestion (JC), but MC felt that it would be hard to arrange for yet another event and that things should be meticulously worked out. Next Christmas this will be held at Deeping and all agreed it would start at 5.00 pm instead with the Mass at 5.30 pm. It is hoped that this will be well attended as there are very few children at Deeping (JC).

Fr P has ordered the publication, 'Planning and Celebrating Prayer & Liturgy with Young People: A Diocesan Guide', which makes the liturgy requirements clear and is 'a practical and pastoral expression of The Prayer & Liturgy Directory for Nottingham Diocese'. He is happy to share the resource which can also be downloaded. JC and GM felt there should be a balance between a liturgy which neither too simplistic or too academic.

'Midnight' Mass.

MC said there was a decent turn out in Deeping with parishioners from Bourne in attendance. JC noted that there were some non-Catholics as well as people who saw this advertised in the local advertiser. This shows there are still people who want to attend Midnight Mass. Carols began at 9.30 pm, but there were few people to sing them and no strong singers/choir to lead. MC regarded Bourne as a 'cosier' environment for Midnight Mass. After a discussion over timing, it was agreed that next Christmas Midnight Mass would start at 11.00 pm with carols at 10.30 pm. MC advised forward planning for the carols ensuring there are enough musicians/singers available, or even a choir to build up volume (MC).

SC noticed that there were fewer elderly people at Midnight Mass in Deeping, possibly due to unwillingness to go out at night. MC explained that there is a generational gap at Deeping with hardly any teenagers/young adults. JC reminded about the need to offer lifts to those who cannot drive, especially the elderly, if needed. The turn out in Bourne on Christmas morning was down on numbers (many had attended one of the other Masses) (GM).

Fr P reminded about having a Service of Light this year to divert attention from Halloween. SB hopes the candle situation will be sorted by then.

2. Carol Service

Many thanks indeed to SM for all her hard work in organising the Carol Service which was greatly appreciated. 50 attended and it is hoped to encourage more attendance in future. SM is happy to organise it again, while JC felt it should be in Bourne next time because it is physically warmer and feels more sociable. MC agreed it was a lovely event and hoped for a higher attendance in future. Fr P has

suggested a religious poem could be a focus next time together with subdued lighting in church. JW suggested battery operated electric candles along the aisle.

Christmas tree. There was no Christmas tree in Bourne this year which disappointed some parishioners (GM). SM recommends there should definitely be one next Christmas, and it is hoped an artificial one can be purchased plus tasteful lighting and a star on top. Deeping has a tree but could do with more lights and a star (MC).

3. Lent and Easter Plans

MC emphasised the need for planning, with liturgy meetings and details of services in advance. SC suggested this take place in early Lent. JC suggested first week in March and Fr P agreed to this on either Wednesday 4 or 11 March, whichever suits most people. AB to email the people involved for date preference. With regard to music, SM recommends asking Gabrielle (violin) and Kirk (guitar) to participate. Fr P to ask them. There will be a visiting priest here for the first week of Lent (Fr David Marsden), Sunday Masses only, who will also preach.

All are in agreement for the following Lenten schedule:

Ash Wednesday Mass - both churches, 18 February

Maundy Thursday Mass – Deeping, 2 April

Good Friday Mass – Deeping, 3 April 3.00 pm (since the altar would have been stripped here the day before). (JC)

Stations of the Cross – Bourne, Friday evening 3 April 7 pm.

Easter Vigil – Bourne, 4 April 8.30 pm.

SC queried whether the Polish Blessing of Food would take place on Holy Saturday morning. JC noted that this should be advertised in the newsletter to try and attract more people, not just Polish people. Fr P explained the ceremony.

Penitential Service

This was poorly attended at Deeping. Will be held at Bourne this time.

6. Social and Community

JC to discuss social calendar with GM including planning a Quiz Night.

Flower group Bourne concerns

A parishioner queried whether the collection made for flowers was fully used to fund the displays for Christmas, as they felt there were not enough flowers on display for this important occasion. JW has confirmed the finances involved, with receipts and calculations available and assured the committee that the fund was fully used, with a small amount being spent on brass cleaning and a new water jug. Every penny has to be recorded and any flower money left over will be used moving forward for

flowers. JW also emphasised how very expensive flowers are and how difficult to source sometimes. Fr P to monitor issues over church flowers and rotas.

Printed material

A parishioner has taken issue with the printing out of texts, such as pastoral letters and homilies, when Fr P is also reading them out to the congregation. They felt that this is a waste of money and paper and shows lack of concern for the environment. SC felt that it was probably not necessary to both read and print out, but that the material was interesting.

It was agreed that next weekend's pastoral letter, which must be read out by Fr Paul, would not be printed out, but a copy would appear on the website for parishioners to reference after the weekend (or emailed by request, AB).

7. Youth and Young People

See points 3 and 5. Further updates next meeting.

8. AOB

Fr Paul proposes a parish trip to Walsingham in the summer, preferably to take place mid-week to fit in with the school summer holidays and general availability (Saturdays unsuitable due to 6.00 pm Mass). All agreed this is a good idea; SM also suggested Whit week. AB to investigate booking possibilities. Departure time 9.00 am. Note to go in newsletter to assess general interest.

MC suggested transport could be provided by coach hire, subsidised by the parish, though would be expensive. Alternatively, could hire 2 or 3 people carriers with willing and licenced drivers. GM thought that people could give lifts in cars too. MC to confirm DVLA requirements for drivers and get quotes.

Lifts to church. Please let Fr P know of anyone who needs a lift to church so that we can find/appeal for help.

Medjugorje pilgrimage 13 – 20 May. Fr P and SB going. Organised by pilgrimage travel company.

No one has claimed the bike left at church in December. Suggestions welcome.

9. Close

The meeting closed at 9:35 pm with a prayer.

Next meeting: Wednesday, 29 April 2026, Deeping, 7:30 pm.