



St Mary's Knaresborough Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

7 December 2025



Present: Canon Gerard, Emma Tolan, Carmel Wake, Katie Bleasdale, Charlotte Burrell, Stephanie Blevins, Jeff McGillan, Sharon Keelan-Beardsley, Angela Smith, Anna Dimond

Agenda Item	Notes	Action(s)
Welcome	Canon Gerard	
Opening Prayer	Canon Gerard	
Apologies for absence	Janet	
Minutes of the last meeting for approval	N/A	
Matters arising	N/A	
Notification of AOB	Christmas Eve Mass - Charlotte	
Safeguarding update (ET)	Training completed by Emma. All roles within the parish require DBS - aim to move people to the update service as this is more efficient. DBS lasts for 3 years	Identify gaps – outstanding DBS's and safer recruitment for readers etc - ET Check who is responsible for DBS checks with SVP - GK
Parish communications	Need to improve systems - example of how current communications systems have impacted on Canon Gerard and smooth running of two parishes. Also need to update the website Need communication structure to be clear and transparent. Newsletter Has now been separated into St Mary's and St Aelred's Need parishioners to contribute to the newsletter	Carmel to contact Anthony Evans
World Day of Prayer update	Nigeria - Friday 6 March 2pm-3pm. All Christians to pray for the people at the same time. Yr 6 St Mary's attending.	20 Jan - next meeting for reps- Angela attending 28 Feb - Full music rehearsal

	<p>Will read 3 of the prayers Wider school will focus on Nigeria Carmel leading the music Nigerian parishioner will be involved. Other info Anglican Church - Discussion Booklets have been produced and delivered to businesses across Kna - suggestion for us to be involved in distribution.</p>	<p>Parish hall to be booked for world day of prayer. Tea and coffee to be organised. Notice on Newsletter for volunteers/</p>
Lent 2026	<p>St Mary's will host Good Friday and Easter Vigil Suggestion to hold stations of the cross directly after mass to encourage those who are already there. CAFOD and school discussion Suggestion to give people a rough stone to put in their pocket - to remind us that life can be rough/challenging, but to be replaced by a smooth stone at Easter Formation groups during Lent</p>	<p>Share any ideas</p>
Garden	<p>Opportunity to form a gardening group. Paddy will continue to cut the grass Emma volunteered to work on the garden. Suggestion that this could be a community event a few times per year.</p>	<p>Laurel at the front needs a tree surgeon ET will produce a rota</p>
Hall way and carpets and decoration	<p>Canon Gerard has sourced someone to replace the carpet The Chapel has been completed as looks lovely and welcoming</p>	
AOB	<p>Christmas Eve Mass - need volunteers</p> <p>Flowers in church look good - trying to consider environmental sustainability by not using oasis.</p>	<p>Katie to ask for volunteers</p> <p>Ask for volunteers to help clean the church</p> <p>Children can come in costumes</p>

		<p>List for people who need support to get to church.</p> <p>Turn chairs round in the chapel to be used in Christmas Mass.</p> <p>Parish event - St Patrick's Day - 14th March - book Hall. Quiz, pie and peas and music.</p> <p>Produce a you said we did flyer in the future once events are up and running.</p>
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