St Bonaventure's Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

16th September 2026, 6.30pm

Where: The Presbytery, St Bonaventure's Parish Church, BS7 8HP

Present: Angela Parry, Mary Moore, Joanna Adamek, Karen Nelson, Veronica Swann, Sofia Kalfopulos and Canon Tom

Apologies:, Deacon Bart, Oliver Royance-Smith, Rob King

	Note:	**Action by:**	**By Date:**
1.	We opened the meeting with Prayer.		
2.	**Thank you to Deacon Andrew** We record our thanks to Deacon Andrew for all he has done for the parish, and our very best wishes for the future as he starts his training for the priesthood. A generous donation from the parish has been passed on to him.		Closed
2a	**Deacon Bart** Deacon Bart sent an email to the Parish Council on 16 September 2026 saying that following discussions with Mgr Liam Slattery, Dean at the Cathedral, because there is only one deacon at the cathedral at the weekends, with Bishop Bosco's blessing and Canon Tom's understanding and generosity, Bart will now be a deacon at the cathedral at weekends. He will remain at St Bon's during the week in his CAFOD capacity, so school masses, men's group, church opening etc as usual. This means that there are now no deacons at St Bon's at the weekend. Canon Tom said an additional Eucharistic Minister will be needed on Sundays.		
3.	**Minutes** After minor corrections were made, Minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2026 were agreed as a true record	All	
4.	**Matters arising from April Meeting** **Re-imagining Pastoral Councils** – decided to park this for the time being. **Prayer Tree**- Angela provided a cross from her old school that could be used for now until Canon Tom has a chance to find a tree to fulfil the original concept of a prayer tree. Tony will be asked to make a stand for it. Angela will make prayer cards to hang on it. **Retreat Day** Canon Tom confirmed that Sacred Heart are having a retreat day on 17th October that is open to St Bons and St Antony's. It will be advertised on a first-come basis. Capacity of 30 people and details were in last week's newsletter.	Canon Tom & Angela	TBC

	Parish Celebration A great day was had by all and thanks to all those who organized it. With H&S rules from the school a lot of work was made for the volunteers. Future events are much more likely to be held in the church grounds / hall. **Parish website** Phil (from the diocesan team) will be contracted to redesign our website, to go live when the current contract expires in April 27. **Fundraising**: end of bench plaques Mary G is to take Rob's idea to the F&P committee for discussion. Concern was raised about having name plaques on a bench as an intent of "ownership" was not wanted. Possible alternative locations to be discussed at the F&P Committee meeting.	Mary G & Canon Tom	Closed Next F&P Mtg
5	**Parishioner Comments Box Items** Two suggestions in the box First one concerning seats of parents who have taken their children to children's liturgy being occupied by others when they return. Decided to produce laminated reserved seat signs for parents to leave on the bench when they go into the children's liturgy. Joanna to action. 2. (emailed after the meeting, as Angela didn't have details with her) *I would welcome a little bookshelf of holy books as a library free to borrow and contribute to.* To be discussed next meeting.	Joanna	ASAP
6.	**Safeguarding** **First Aid Training** – Guy C has advised that Scott Crump (a parishioner) is willing to offer a level 2/3 first aid course for up to 12 people. This would be an all day course on a Saturday or run over a couple of evenings. This is aimed at the parish volunteers rather than parishioners in general. Canon Tom has put his name down and encouraged others to do so. Parish volunteers to be circulated.	Joanna	TBC
7.	**St Francis 800th anniversary /Season of Creation Events** Showing of the film **Bother Sun, Sister Moon**, all about St Francis, will be shown on 24th September 2026 7.00pm at St Bon's for parishioners. Sunday 4th October is the feast of St Francis. **On 3rd October** **Animal blessing** outside of the church at 11.00am. **Flower Festival** in the church throughout the day. Families and parish groups to be invited to bring in flower arrangements, and children to make vegetable creatures. These should be brought to the church by 2 October so they can be placed. Angela contacted parish groups to invite them to participate. Joanna to put this in the newsletter at beginning of September.		

	Several groups have already confirmed they will participate, including the Brownies and the Guides. Social group to draw up rota for people to be at the church on Saturday to welcome people.	Karen	ASAP
	Canon Tom advised that Paul Spillsbury of SH parish is an expert on St Anthony of Padua and St Bonaventure. We could ask him to run a study group. This would have to be a daytime event. Look at this once the year of St Francis is over.	Canon Tom	Ongoing
	Photo competition – Mary advised not a lot of entries so far. She will ask Rob if some are expected from the school. Closing date for the photo entries is not until 4th October.	Mary	Ongoing
	Parish Actions Flip charts to be placed at the back of church after Mass at all three churches for parishioners to post notes on how they think the parishes could take action on climate change and take responsibility for protecting the Earth. CAG to collect responses and give to the PC.	Mary	4/10/26
	Joanna has been approached regarding collecting and recycling ink cartridges. Looks like a good idea for recycling but not sure if this option is right for St Bon's. Karen asked Joanna to send her a copy so she could investigate further.	Joanna / Karen	Next meeting
8.	**PPC Focus for 2026 – Discussion on Progress** **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** Prayer time and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on each 3rd Saturday of the month will not be taking place now Andrew has moved.	Closed	
	Adoration also takes place before some meetings of the Men of St Joseph on first Fridays of the month. This should be advertised to the rest of the parish via the newsletter.	Joanna	Ongoing
	More EMHC are needed to take Holy Communion to people in their homes. Each volunteer will need a DBS check. It will be up to the EMHC and the person they are visiting to arrange a day and time for the visit. EMHC shouldn't be keeping the Blessed Sacrament on their person or in their cars for unnecessary lengths of time. Joanna to put message on the EMHC WhatsApp	Joanna	
	Marriage and Families WhatsApp group for families in the parish – plan needed to advertise this group. Mary to speak to C McM.	Mary	
	Discipleship – Implementation currently on hold.	Oliver	
	Laudato Si Climate Action Group have considered asking Raymond Friel to do a talk about Catholic Social Teaching on Care for the Earth – this would be advertised to nearby parishes.	Mary	CAG Meeting 2.11.26.
	Parish Information Folder of information about parish groups to be made available at the back of the church and included on the parish website.	Closed	

	Large print copy of the newsletter available at the back of the church each week. Timetable of regular groups to be posted on the noticeboard, to avoid repeating it each week in the newsletter. **Welcome Pack/Weblink** On hold until new parish website is design is discussed. **The Live Simply Award.** New plaque awaited. **Fair Trade Awareness Raising** Ongoing **Recruitment of new altar servers** Introductory session to be arranged in October	Joanna Mary Canon Tom	ASAP Ongoing Ongoing
9.	**Daytime Parish Activities** (Soup Group, Coffee Mornings, Art Group) Veronica was concerned that the numbers attending these daytime groups were declining. This is mainly due to the age of the attendees. Details of these groups are now at the back of the church. Possibly use an A frame advertising board to advertise these events taking place? A number of churches advertise their activities in Bishopston Matters – need to investigate whether a "News from St Bon's Church" could be included (free of charge). The Teddy Bears Picnic was well supported – could some of the groups be aimed at the younger mums and dads of the parish maybe once a month? Will need to ask the various groups. More volunteers will be required.	Karen & Veronica	Ongoing
10.	**AOB** **Food Pantry** Donations to the food pantry are not as good as they used to be and could it be discussed what could be done to improve things. It was acknowledged that a number of users were not following the guidelines, with some taking large quantities at a time thus leaving little or no items for others. Canon Tom advised that at the SH they do a shop and give it to the Bristol Food Bank for distribution. Discussions need to include Egerton Road residents, who run the Food Pantry in partnership with the parish, and so Mary will discuss it with Cecilia before any further action or discussion. **Christmas Plans** Canon Tom stated that services over the Christmas period will follow the same pattern as last year.	Mary	ASAP
11.	**Dates of future meetings** 11th November 2026. Future dates to be advised		
	Meeting closed with a prayer		