



Diocese of Nottingham: The St John Paul II Nottingham Parish Finance Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12th March 2026

In attendance: Julie Blazewicz-Bell, Martin Foulds, Michael Gemson, Philip Martin, Oliver Wastell and Canon Philipp Ziomek (Chairperson).

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Canon Philipp.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from David Staiano.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 15 December 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment and will now be posted on the parish notice board and website. **ACTION 1/26:** Philip to action accordingly.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

- a) ***Parish finances 2025/26 update-*** Canon Philipp advised that he remains in contact with the diocesan accountant, Jonathan Gamble, about the transfer of the balance of funds from the now defunct parish of Southwell and Calverton which it had been agreed would be attributable to St Anthony's. The proposed percentage split in the funding has also been queried, given it differs from that which Canon Philipp thought had originally been agreed. Concern was expressed by the committee about the delay in the transfer being actioned given our new parish has been operational for over a year now.

ACTION 2/26: Canon Philipp to advise when the transfer has been finalised so that feedback can be provided to St Anthony's parishioners.

- b) ***Parish Autumn and Christmas Fairs 2025-*** Martin reported that he had been in touch with Bernadette Carter at St Anthony's and that in future the prior agreement of the parish finance committee will be sought regarding the proposed use of any profits from the St Anthony's Autumn Fair.

5. Parish finances 2025/26-update

Philip provided an update on the parish's current finances:

- There was a credit balance of £26,506.42 in the parish's current bank account as at 11th March 2026. This however does not reflect several recent, as yet unrepresented, cheques drawn on the account- including £1,113.64 for the recent collection on

behalf of Cafod, £2,468.08 for pipework/boiler work relating to a leak in the Good Shepherd Church and £1,920.00 for architectural design work relating to the Good Shepherd Church building project.

- It was also noted that monthly deductions of £3,253.86 are made from the parish's current account as its assessed contribution to the diocesan quota for 2025/26.
- The parish's separate interest-bearing set-off account, held by the diocese to fund the Good Shepherd building project, is currently in credit to the sum of £351,300.25. Regular transfers of £3,950 into the set-off account continue to be made from the parish's current account.

6. Analysis of income 2025/26

Consideration was given to Philip's report circulated with the agenda.

It was noted that Mass attendance at our churches continues to increase- at Good Shepherd total attendance at the four Masses each weekend is currently averaging 783 (a 9.5% increase on 2024/25), whilst at St Anthony's the average attendance is 60 (an increase of 11.1%).

Current projections suggest that the parish's income for 2025/26 from the measurable sources covered by the report will total £185,581- a net increase of £20,885 (12.6%) on 2024/25. When annual inflation (currently running at 3.0%) is factored in, the increase in real terms is estimated at about 9.6%. If correct, that represents a significant improvement on the two previous financial years, when real terms reductions were experienced.

It was agreed that the position should continue to be monitored and to that end reports should continue to be brought to each meeting of the committee. **ACTION 3/26:** Philip to action.

7. Parish Pastoral Plan

Philip reminded the committee that the Bishop's recently published 5-year Mission Plan for the diocese, titled "Go, make disciples", provides a framework for its parishes to become more outward-looking and evangelical. The Plan includes a priority to "Align diocesan and parish infrastructure and resources to serve mission" and it was suggested that the committee needed to be mindful of this in terms of its future resourcing considerations.

By way of further background, Canon Philipp explained that, informed by the Plan and a recent event for our parish led by Joe Hopkins, the diocese's Director of Adult Formation for Mission, the parish pastoral team is currently leading work on producing a parish pastoral plan which will seek to translate the Bishop's vision into practice in the parish. The Bishop and/or the Vicar General will be visiting the parish later in the year to check on progress with regard to the parish's response.

It was also confirmed that the parish had, to date in 2025/26, received a total allocation of £6,410.68 from the diocese's Enabling Mission Fund, representing a proportion of the donations pledged by our parishioners. There is also scope for the parish to apply for support from the Fund for any projects designed to support the parish's response to the Mission Plan.

8. Parish Centre- use of spare capacity

Consideration was given to the report from Oliver that had been circulated with the agenda.

Oliver explained that he proposed that a database, linked to the parish centre calendar/booking system, should be developed to enable the committee to be provided with regular, systematic management information about the use of the centre. Such data will provide better visibility for the committee in terms of how the parish centre is currently being utilised and could be used to inform future marketing strategies in order to maximise use and income generated by the hire of the centre, notwithstanding that parish use would still normally be accorded primacy.

The committee agreed in principle to the proposed approach and Oliver volunteered to build the booking database on behalf of the parish. **ACTION 4/26: Oliver** to action.

9. Good Shepherd Church building project – update

Canon Philipp provided an update on the Good Shepherd building project. The project has now effectively been split into two phases: phase 1 will involve repair work on the church spire and bell tower with the support of grant funding secured from the National Churches Trust (£25,000) and the Wolfson Foundation (£10,000) and Heritage England (approx. £40,000). Phase 2 will focus on the repair and restoration work on the mullions and transoms and, as previously reported, as part of this consideration is currently being given to the feasibility of replacing the clear glass in the mullions by stained glass which would accord with the original design plans for the church. **ACTION 5/26: Canon Philipp** to keep the committee informed of progress.

It was also explained that the government has decided to discontinue from the end of the current financial year the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme under which VAT could be recovered for approved building projects. The scheme is being replaced by a £92 million four-year fund called the Places of Worship Renewal Fund. Details of how this fund will operate are awaited- meanwhile, the government is not accepting any new applications for VAT relief under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

10. Any other business

Nothing was raised under this agenda item.

11. Date of the next meeting

It was confirmed that the committee's next meeting will be from 7.00-8.30pm on Thursday, on 11th June 2026 and will mainly focus on the Parish Annual Financial Return for 2025/26.

12. Closing Prayer

The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Canon Philipp.