



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

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 11th June 2026

In attendance: Martin Foulds, Michael Gemson, Philip Martin, Christine Reilly, David Staiano, Oliver Wastell and Canon Philipp Ziomek (Chairperson).

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Canon Philipp.

2. Welcome to new committee member

A warm welcome was extended to Christine (Chris) Reilly, who was attending her first meeting of the committee.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Julie Blazewicz-Bell..

4. Minutes of the meeting on 12th March 2026

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment and will now be posted on the parish notice board and website. **ACTION 6/26:** Philip to action.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Parish finances 2025/26 update- it was confirmed that £33,313.95 had now been transferred to the parish, representing the balance of funds from the now defunct parish of Southwell and Calverton assessed as being attributable to St Anthony's. A new, interest-bearing set-off account has been established with the diocese for these funds which, as previously agreed by the committee, will be ring-fenced for expenditure relating specifically to St Anthony's Church.

b) Parish Centre- use of spare capacity- Oliver advised that he hoped to be able shortly to begin work on building the proposed database, linked to the parish centre calendar/ booking system, to enable the committee to be provided with management information about the use of the centre and the availability of any spare capacity.
ACTION 7/26: Oliver to action.

6. Parish Annual Return 2025/26

Consideration was given to the parish annual return for 2025/26 which must be submitted to the diocese by no later than 30th June 2026. It was noted that the draft had been

examined by Liam Radford from the diocese who had confirmed that no issues had been identified from the external audit perspective.

The draft return shows that in 2025/26 the parish achieved a net “surplus” of income over expenditure of £14,185: a reduction of 84% on 2024/25 levels. The total of parish income had increased by only £2,343 (0.9%) due to a decrease in certain income areas—for example, a one-off legacy of £10,000 from a late parishioner had been received in 2024/25 but not in 2025/26, and one-off donations from parishioners in 2025/26 were at a reduced level compared to 2024/25. These reductions had largely offset the increase in our offertory income, which reflected the increase in our Mass attendances and the full year of offertory donations received from St Anthony’s parishioners.

Expenditure in 2025/26, on the other hand, had increased by 44.7% -from £171,761 in 2024/25 to £248,465. This was due to various factors, including increased energy costs (including some disputed bills carried forward from 2024/25), the increase in the new diocesan Quota charges, as well as some initial capital costs incurred in respect of the Good Shepherd Church building project.

Canon Philipp expressed his concerns about the accuracy of the expenditure figure of £11,710 for 2025/26 identified in the draft return as being for payments “to and for the clergy”. It was noted that the corresponding (net) expenditure in 2024/25 was considerably lower than in 2025/26 owing to (a) the miscoding on OPAS of the Christmas and Easter offerings payments made to the clergy (which had been coded as debits against the donations income code in 2024/25) and (b) some credits, totalling £5,556, made to the parish (not the parish priest) in 2024/25 for the pastoral support the parish provided to St Anthony’s Church prior to the formal inception of our new parish. Additionally, a number of voluntary donations made to the parish by the parish priest in 2025/26 had not been shown as credits to help offset the expenditure shown for payments “to and for the clergy”, as they had been credited on OPAS to the separate, donations income code. Canon Philipp felt that this approach distorted understanding of the funds made available to the clergy and was open to misinterpretation. Consequently, he did not feel able to sign-off the return until this had been corrected.

It was agreed that Philip would provide Canon Philipp with a detailed breakdown of the relevant figures and how they have been treated on OPAS so that he can pursue these concerns with the diocesan accountant and seek agreement to record this income and expenditure in a way which provides a more accurate picture of practice. **ACTION 8/26:** **Canon Philipp/Philip** to discuss further and thereafter **Canon Philipp** to confer with the diocesan accountant.

As and when the above query has been satisfactorily resolved, the annual return will be signed off by Liam Radford from the audit perspective, by Canon Philipp, in his capacity as parish priest, and by Philip, on behalf of the parish finance committee, and submitted to the diocese. **ACTION 9/26:** **Canon Philipp/Philip** to arrange for the return to be signed off and submitted to the diocese in due course.

Thereafter, a synopsis of the accounts will be produced for our parishioners as required by the diocese. **ACTION 10/26:** **Philip** to confer with Canon Philipp and produce the synopsis in due course, including an explanation of the major differences compared with 2024/25.

7. Parish finances 2026/27-update

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

- There was a credit balance of £27,941.63 in the parish's current bank account as at 11th June 2026.
- It was noted that monthly deductions of £3,504.63 are being made from the parish's current account as our assessed parish contribution to the diocesan quota for 2026/27, which totals £42,056 per annum. This includes the 2.5% levy on total of the parish balances exceeding £150,000. The diocese has recently advised that the quantum used to determine our levy payment in 2026/27 has been mitigated by an adjustment of £102,699 for projected expenditure relating to phase 1 of our building project. **ACTION 11/26: Philip** to ask the diocese to clarify the calculation underpinning the adjustment of £102,699.
- The parish's separate interest-bearing set-off account, held by the diocese to fund the Good Shepherd Church building project, is currently in credit to the sum of £413,535. This includes an initial grant of £44,208 received from Historic England and £5,385 interest for 2025/26 attaching to the account. Regular transfers of £3,950 into the set-off account continue to be made from the parish's current account.
- Additionally, as previously explained, there is now a separate interest-bearing set-off account for St Anthony's, currently in credit to £33,316. This reflects the transfer of funds attributable to St Anthony's from the now defunct parish of Our Lady of Victories, Southwell and Calverton.

8. Analysis of income 2025/26

Consideration was given to Philip's end of year 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 in 2025/26 averaged 795 (a 11.2% increase on 2024/25), whilst at St Anthony's the average attendance was 61 (an increase of 13%). Mass attendance at both churches thus far in 2026/27 are at an even higher level.

The parish's income for 2025/26 from the measurable sources covered by the report totalled £185,581- a net increase of £20,885 (12.6%) on 2024/25. When annual inflation (3.0% for the 12-month period ending in March 2026) is factored in, the increase in real terms is 9.6%, representing 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 in 2026/27 and to that end reports should continue to be brought to each meeting of the committee. **ACTION 12/26: Philip** to action.

9. Parish Friendship Group-accounts 2025/26

The accounts for 2025/26 for the Parish Friendship Group, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were received and noted.

10.Places of Worship Renewal Fund

It was explained that this new fund has been established by the government to help support capital works for listed places of worship. Works eligible for grants from the fund

include urgent repairs and conservation projects that help to keep listed places of worship safe, open and in active use. It replaces the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme under which VAT was recoverable for approved capital works, but which was discontinued by the government at the end of 2025/26. It was confirmed that our fundraiser lead for the Good Shepherd Church building project, Sarah Benedeck, is aware of this new funding source.

11. Good Shepherd Church building project – update

Canon Philipp provided an update on the Good Shepherd building project. As previously reported, 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 Historic England (£44,208). Quotations for the work are currently being considered. The estimates received for the scaffolding required for the work are very costly and alternative approaches are currently being explored. It is anticipated that the phase 1 work will begin before the end of the year.

Phase 2 of the project will focus on the repair and restoration work on the mullions and transoms and, 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 13/26: Canon Philipp to keep the committee informed of progress.

12. Any other business

- a) **Lloyds Bank-** It was reported that Lloyds Bank in Arnold may be closing in due course. Michael Payne MP has expressed his concerns about the proposed closure and has requested a meeting with Lloyds to discuss the options. If the closure is confirmed, the parish will need to rearrange its banking elsewhere, with the Halifax Bank (part of the Lloyds Group) in Arnold a possible alternative to be explored. The parish will need to link with the diocese about this as and when the closure is confirmed.

13. Date of the next meeting

It was confirmed that the committee's next meeting will be from 7.00-8.30pm on Thursday, 17th September 2026.

14. Closing Prayer

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