



Catholic Parish of St Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston
Incorporating the communities of
St Peter's, Bude and **Our Lady of Victories, Callington**

Annual General Meeting

at St Cuthbert Mayne Church, Launceston
Charles Langdon Room (Hall)
on Sunday, 19th July 2026 at 12:15pm

Minutes

Present: Fr John Deeny and twenty members of the parish.

In attendance: Clare Hartley-Mead (Parish Secretary), taking minutes.

Welcome and opening Prayer

Fr John opened the meeting and noted that Rita Taylor, the current chair of PCC was unable to attend due to ill health, as such he was starting the meeting. An opening prayer followed.

Election of new chair

Fr John explained that the current constitution means the chair of PPC is changed annually to ensure that in a three-year period each church takes a turn. This year it is the turn of Launceston. Fr John asked for nominations from the Launceston members of PPC and John Ashdown volunteered. There were no other nominations.

It was agreed that John Ashdown would be Chair of PPC.

He took over as chair for this meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

There were no matters arising.

Report from Fr John

Fr John thanked John for stepping forward to be chair. He also thanked Rita Taylor who did an excellent job despite ill health.

Thank you to everyone in all three parish communities, we are three communities but one parish and there is a shared burden of responsibility. It is a challenge to engage new members to be involved more as it may not always be easy for them.

We have welcomed the new Bishop three times in the nine months that he has been in post. He has been to St Cuthbert Mayne Church twice and was at the centenary celebrations at St Peter's Church in June. It has highlighted



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that we have a strong relationship with the Diocese which is important as we are a small community.

Last year was the Jubilee Year of Pilgrimage, highlights of which were our parish pilgrimages to Dorchester, Crediton and Plymouth. We also had a group who were the first people to do a walking pilgrimage of the new St Cuthbert Mayne Way from Plymouth Cathedral to St Cuthbert Mayne Church in Launceston. We also welcomed hundreds of pilgrims to our church in Launceston and continue to do so, on Monday over sixty young people will be visiting. Thank you to everyone who has helped to provide welcome and hospitality to all those visiting. On that note, hospitality in all three churches is great, so thank you to all involved.

Our parish was well represented at the De Lexi Te event at Buckfast Abbey. The Diocese do organise some wonderful study days and it is good to be able to take advantage of that.

We were awarded the Live Simply award by Cafod, thank you to everyone involved. Especially the Cafod reps in each church who are all dedicated and enthusiastic.

Bude and Launceston congregations continue to grow, Callington is a smaller community but warm and welcoming.

The new signing group at St Peter's has really lifted the liturgy. Veronica and Raymond continue to lead the music in Launceston with the music group every third Sunday. Thank you also to those at Our Lady of Victories who lead the singing and music especially Mary and Kevin.

The Thursday Welcome Club in Launceston remains an important part of parish life. While open to all it is mainly used by our parishioners.

The Children's Liturgy group in Launceston continues to grow and has really helped young families to be part of parish life.

We had a gathering of flower arrangers and cleaners at St Cuthbert Mayne which was a great success and an opportunity to say thank you and discuss practical matter. We are planning something similar with readers in August.

Looking ahead, next year is the 450th anniversary of the martyrdom of St Cuthbert Mayne. Bishop Nicholas and the Bishop of Truro will both be involved in the celebration and it will be an important moment in our history.

I'm very grateful to be your parish priest, this is a wonderful parish. As fewer priests serve larger areas the sense of community involvement is evermore important. May the Lord continue to bless our parish.



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Celebrating:

2027 St Cuthbert Mayne Pilgrimage: 16th May 2027

John Ashdown explained that he is chairing the organising the sub-committee responsible for organising next years pilgrimage to mark the 450th anniversary of St Cuthbert Mayne. As Fr John explained the two Bishops will be involved and Ben McGuire our MP has been invited and it is in his diary however, it cannot be confirmed until nearer the time. A brief outline of the celebration is as follows:

- 1:30pm meet at Launceston Town Hall
- Make way to the town square for an ecumenical service lead by Bishop Nicholas.
- Prayer walk stopping at Mary Magdaleine Church, the Castle Green, Launceston Priory and ending at St Cuthbert Mayne Church.
- Concluding Service at St Cuthbert Mayne.

For those unable to walk there will be a shuttlebus service kindly provided by Kevin Matherson, one of the parishioners in Bude.

Towards the end of the year we will be asking for volunteers as we will need ushers, refreshments, people at the church to welcome people.

We really need to get this known across the diocese. Historically Launceston was the diocese place of pilgrimage and events would attract thousands. We are aiming for 400, which is the maximum capacity of the town square.

St Cuthbert Mayne School in Torquay would like to be involved and keen to send a group to take part.

Launceston Information Centre are finding out if we need road closures for the walk from the town hall to the square and the prayer walk. They are hoping that it can be treated as an Ad Hoc event, but we are waiting for confirmation.

Living

PPC constitution changes

Clare explained that this was something that Fr John, Rita Taylor (as chair of PPC) and herself looked at as the current constitution is very formal, complicated and may put off potential volunteers. They looked at constitutions from other dioceses and put together a simple constitution that was taken to the Parish Pastoral Council for their consideration.

The new proposed constitution does exactly the same thing as the old constitution but it a more streamlined way. The PPC approved the proposals and have brought it forward to the AGM for approval.



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There were no questions.

It was agreed that the new constitution would be accepted.

Parish Financial Report

Rita Edwards, the Parish Treasurer, gave her report.

The full report and figures will be available in each church.

The floor was opened for questions:

What are the rents received shown in the figures?

This is from the Presbytery at St Peter's Church in Bude which is let out through Kivells.

**Caring
Safeguarding**

Stephen Winders, PPC Safeguarding rep gave a brief report. Key points raised were:

- We're very lucky that we work closely with the Diocese Safeguarding Office, who are all safeguarding professionals and very experienced.
- There is a Safeguarding Rep in each church, they are
 - Stephen Winders in Our Lady of Victories.
 - Hannah Cadden in St Cuthbert Mayne
 - Tom O'Sullivan in St Peter's.
- As part of their role they are in contact with everyone in the parish who needs a DBS check and there are different levels depending on how people volunteer.
- All volunteers need to complete online training. Most people have now completed this and the feedback has been that it has been helpful.
- Modern Slavery is the focus for this year.
- There were some IT problems with the safeguarding system but these are now resolved.

The floor was opened for questions.

There were no questions, but Fr John noted that Safeguarding has been an important journey for the Catholic Church and as time has gone on everyone has realised how important it is. It has become much more accessible and is now running really smoothly. Thank you to all our safeguarding reps for the work they do.

It was agreed that the three reps will do a safeguarding talk at each church, to make themselves visible and to highlight that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.



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CAFOD

John Ashdown explained that we have very active Cafod reps in each church community, who all do a fantastic job and fast days are always very well supported.

Last year as part of the cancel the dept campaign John went to London & met with Ben McGuire's staff and wrote to the government to ask what they are going to do about world debt. This year there will be a follow up campaign as the UK is about to become the president nation of the G20 and it is important to get global debt cancellation on their agenda. UK law governs most of the loans so it is important to try to stop companies making huge profits because of the interest rates charged.

John thanked Margaret, Cath, Rita and Elizabeth for their support.

Parishioners questions, comments and queries

Parish newsletter

Fr John explained that we are currently producing the parish newsletter every two weeks. This is partly about how we use our resources as the newsletter is posted to 15 household parishioners and must be sent 1st class after the changes to 2nd class post. There is often a lot of repetition when the newsletter is produced every week and anything urgent can be mentioned in church.

Margaret asked if more copies could be sent to Bude, especially during the summer. It was agreed that this would not be a problem.

It was agreed to continue with the two-weekly newsletter. This can be reviewed later in the year.

Churchyard at St Cuthbert Mayne

Pamela noted that she has been receiving complaints from parishioners and visitors to the church about the long grass on some of the older graves as they think it looks too messy. Fr John explained that Peter, the gardener, has had ill health this year which has impacted what he has been able to do.

Action: Fr John to talk to Peter to arrange which areas wildflowers are encouraged to grow.

Clare explained that there have been two landslips onto St Stephen's Hill from our boundary. Because the church is grade II* listed, the boundary is also listed so any repairs must be both structurally sound but also fit within the constraints of the listing. A structural engineer came out after the first landslip and estimated repairs to cost between £25,000 - £50,000. They have been out again to look at the whole bank, as the latest slip was at the other end and we are still awaiting their report. However, it is safe to say it will be extremely expensive.



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The property department in the diocese highlighted that the National Lottery Heritage Grants can now be used for boundaries and you can apply for up to £250,000. To be eligible for a grant your project must meet four key criteria:

- Saving Heritage
- Protecting the Environment
- Organisational Sustainability
- Inclusion, Access and Participation

Just repairing the bank would not meet these so it would have to become part of a much bigger project. Clare has put together a rough project outline which is being discussed with Chloe, the grants assistant in the diocese. It would develop the green spaces by the two car parks as you turn into Mayne Close for wildlife and to provide a place for the local community to stop and rest. There would be information boards explaining the biodiversity of the site and how that fits into catholic teaching and the history of the site and its importance as the national shrine of St Cuthbert Mayne. This is still in the early stages, and it would be amazing to have the input of our church community. Clare confirmed that Chloe would write the final application as this is one of her areas of expertise.

Any Other Business

Monica Soby: St Peter's facilities

Monica noted that while the centenary celebrations were excellent there are still the unsolved issues of space, especially in the sacristy, toilet and confessional at St Peter's. She explained that she often get other parishioners complaining to her.

Fr John agreed that the sacristy is small, however it is no smaller than the one at Our Lady of Victories Church. One of the things that can be done is to look at how we manage the space, who uses it and when. It would be good to have a meeting in Bude to work out how we can use the space and make the most of the resources we have.

It was noted that the path to the church can be very slippery in icy weather. Clare explained that this as an issue highlighted at the recent secretaries meeting and that she is currently looking at how we best provide salt at each of our churches. Something will be in place by the time the weather changes.

Veronica Jones: Hymn board in St Cuthbert Mayne Church

Veronica noted that a bigger hymn board is needed.

Action: Fr John to look into this.

Cath Butland: Outside Toilet at St Cuthbert Mayne



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Cath noted that next year is a big year for the church and it would be good if we could get a small group together to paint and refresh the outside toilet. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

Fr John closed the meeting with a prayer and asked to keep those who have recently died in our prayers.

Thank you to John for chairing the meeting and thank you to everyone who has attended.