

Way Forward meeting held on 2nd February 2026 at 7.30pm in Charlbury Memorial.

Draft Minutes with Fr Clive's comments.

Attended by Brek TT, Alison O, Peter C, Anne C, Trevor H, Sharnalee F  
Apologies from Elena P, Mike F, Hugh S and Suze M.

We agreed that the Parish Meeting of October 2025 (mainly attended by all those present at this Way Forward meeting together with Fr Clive) was progressive i.e. Coffee in winter and parish activity. It was also noted there were shared frustrations at the lack of communication between the Archdiocese clergy and the lay parish, despite our efforts to meet and share.

**SHARNALEE IS GOING TO EMAIL THE ROTA ROUND AGAIN TO KICK START COFFEE AFTER MASS AS WINTER HAS BEEN CHALLENGING**

Shortly after the Parish meeting we had a positive email response from Fr Clive on the Way Forward group and its' future role, confirming its' status and requirement. See appendix below. The group has been energised by this invitation and we are keen to keep moving forward and invite more of our parish community to join our activity.

**FR COMMENTED THAT HT NEED TO START THEIR OWN WAY FORWARD/ COMMUNITY GROUP**

Following the Decree from the Archdiocese to amalgamate Holy Trinity (HT) and St Teresa's, announced 24 hours earlier but dated the 7th January. Individuals in the Way Forward meeting were invited to give their own response to the news and any ideas they had. The following bullet points capture the range and tone of feedback:

- upset at the continued lack of consultation between Diocese clergy and the lay parish; the listening and trusting relationship that the Holy See has asked to grow between clergy and parishioners has been ignored to the point of incitement, it felt a very sudden action
- we as a Community at St Teresa's have a loving and active culture and this must not be damaged by the disrespectful process. Instead we must use our strength to keep building and deepening our community and faith, nourishing ourselves
- this is also an opportunity to grow, we want to effectively build a relationship and share skills with HT to be a stronger, richer and bigger parish. We want to create meaningful events that create genuine connection and sharing so all benefit
- we are wary HT are big group and we are a small community and in the future we could be easily sidelined, but if we share what we do, and do not keep it to ourselves, instead growing and deepening what we have - we will be vital

- we cannot make a group response to the Bishop on the matter of the amalgamation as we cannot speak for the parish, but we can encourage individuals to send in their thoughts so that they are logged by the Diocese

To enable the above as active strategies we would like to suggest the following activities:

- To call ourselves the community at St.Teresa's church as we can no longer call ourselves the parish of St Teresa's, this could help us to distinguish ourselves and enable us to act on our own within the parish when appropriate **AGREED**
- A bring and share Parish picnic for all to meet each other and eat **AGREED, FR COMMENTED THAT HT ALSO WANT TO HOST A SOCIAL TO HELP US BUILD RELATIONS BETWEEN HT AND ST**
- To action a faith/prayer group for our community at St Teresa's to be hosted at parishioner houses, starting with a Lenten course February 25th (week after Ash Wednesday?) hosted by Peter. **AGREED, COURSE CONTENT TO SHARE WITH FR, ANNOUNCEMENT TO FOLLOW**
- Document any and all community activity through the website, through Charlbury Chronicle, a Facebook page **AGREED**
- Return to an annual/ bi-annual parish magazine to enhance and deepen our community spirit **AGREED**
- Consider our energy and act wisely as to what we can and cannot undertake to ensure we are effective **AGREED, FR HAS EMPLOYED A CLEANER AND A GARDENER**
- For individuals who send their response to the Bishop, perhaps we can encourage them to CC in emails / send a copy to our community secretary of their response to help create a recorded file of evidence for future use? **THIS HASN'T HAPPENED, INDIVIDUALS SEEM TO BE KEEPING REPSONSES TO THEMSELVES**
- Ensure we are represented on the Parish Pastoral Council - encouraging a balanced or proportionate number of members are able to represent our views **WE DISCUSSED AND ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT IT NEEDS TO BE PROPORTIONATE RE: NUMBERS AND GOOD BALANCE OF FEMALE/ MALE, THIS IS AN AREA THAT MAY NEED REGULAR CONVERSATION WITH FR, PARTICULARLY AS MEMBERS COME AND GO AND WE NEED TO MAINTAIN REPRESENTATION**
- A Prayer tree for individuals to add names or intentions so that members of the parish can pray for them - to grow an active and loving parish **AGREED**
- Print out photos from the website and share on the notice board inside the church to grow awareness of our activity and energy **AGREED AND WE'RE GOING TO MOVE NOTICE BOARD FROM BEHIND ORGAN TO EXTEND OUR DISPLAY SPACE**
- To meet every 6 weeks as a group to support activity, progress and encourage greater community participation **AGREED**

- Meet with Fr Clive to discuss this document and also visit the points from our previous meeting **DONE**

Areas that discussed at our Way Forward meeting back in May 2024 but not yet addressed include:

Volunteering skills and time **THIS HAS BEEN LEFT TO THE NEXT MEETING DUE TO MORE PRESSING MATTERS**

Making a conversation happen with the diocese about our future options **THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PURSUED**

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to take Holy Communion out to the sick and housebound would benefit further discussion **CURRENTLY THIS DOESN'T NEED A LOT OF ATTENTION, BUT GOOD TO KEEP AN EYE ON**

Bidding prayers coming from the parish would benefit discussion with Fr. FR SUGGESTED WE DO A ROTA AND SEND IN BIDDING PRAYERS WRITTEN BY US TO HELP HIM WITH THE WORK LOAD. HE ALSO AGREED TO INVITING SPOKEN BIDDING PRAYERS DURING MASS PROVIDED WE HELP KEEP INDIVIDUALS FROM OVERWHELMING THIS SPACE, BREK SAID SHE WOULD.

**PROPOSED NEXT WAY FORWARD MEETING DATE:**

**MONDAY MARCH 9TH AT 7.30PM IN THE CHARLBURY MEMORIAL HALL**