

Minutes for the Community Open Forum, 13th October 2025

The meeting was chaired by Dominic, who opened with a reading from St Peter.

Update on items from the previous meeting

- BBQ – Agata reported there had been a very good turnout with necessary support from other parishioners. She mentioned we would need new volunteers in future, and to perhaps create network of people from different backgrounds. A good event to bring groups/communities together. (It was also discussed that often people do not come into the hall for coffee but group outside the church resulting in split groups. Aspirationally we would like better integration/mingling of different community groups.) Could consider repeating the event again in two years.
- Parish Retreat – this will take place on Sunday March 21st, 2026, and will be lead by Fr Tony Rogers
- Car park exit signage – many thanks to Bernie for sorting out the signs which are now in place.
- Live Simply – Dominic reported the Pledge Tree has lots of green leaves! There was a well attended Caford talk and a joyful Creation Mass. Thanks to Sarah for the integration of music and instruments.
- Tree Planting – ornamental cherry tree to be planted to commemorate the Jubilee Year / Pope Francis. We are awaiting advice on the best location for the tree from a tree surgeon, with the possibly of the tree being planted in November.
- Hall redecoration. The painting is complete, except the far wall which had not been painted so far due to access. It was agreed this wall should be painted if possible. The condition of the current carpet was raised, with it being in a scruffy condition with joins where the alter had previously been installed. It was agreed that we would seek cost estimates for replacement options.

Irish Tea

The Irish Tea is to take place on 18th October. Has been promoted on the website, bulletin etc.

Children's Christmas Party

It is expected that the Children's Christmas Party will take place early in the new year. Details to follow when known.

Hope Into Action

Kevin reported that he had been invited to make an application for money from the Caritas fund. The application would be to pay for extra curricular activities / support for the children of refugee families. The award would be £5000 over 2 years. The Hope Into Action Committee will make the application and arrange communication with the 10 schools in the catchment area of Sawston Village College.

Confirmation Teachers

There are currently 2 candidates for confirmation, although currently there is no teacher for the classes. It was mentioned that we could skip a year if the number of candidates was low and no teacher could be found.

50th Anniversary

Pat is the parish representative for activities relating to the 50th Anniversary of the diocese. There will be a mass in the cathedral on 26th, it is hoped parishes will also organise their own activities. Each parish has been requested to produce a small pamphlet setting out our own story and aspirations for the future. Photos etc will be required.

Parish Website

It was agreed that the Parish Website would benefit from being updated and out of date information removed etc.

Live Simply

Dominic reported we are now officially a part of the Live Simply programme. He proposed a Christmas Cake Sale to boost fundraising for Mary's meals as well as potentially sponsored activities for Children during Lent. The 2 year period of support for Mary's Meals will end soon and another charity will be selected for the next 2 years.

Parish Finances

Parish finances are currently healthy, a full report from Peter for the will follow at the end of the financial year.

Parish Quiz

Bernie reported he has begun planning for the next parish quiz, to be held in early Spring. Any questions please contact Bernie.

Christmas Bazaar

As no planning has yet taken place for a Christmas Bazaar this year it was decided that we would instead focus on planning for next year, with the Bazaar potentially becoming a biennial event.

AOB

Catherine raised that she had offered to pay for deep cleaning of the church floor and chairs. It was suggested that where this had happened at another parish the results had been poor. Further discussion needed as the church building would be out of action for a number of days should such cleaning take place.

Fr John mentioned there would likely be a request to lend money to the Cambourne community towards the purchase of a house. This would come from existing diocese investments and be repaid on a similar basis. General support for such a scheme.

Agata suggested holding an international cinema event. More details to be confirmed at the next forum meeting.

Agata suggested the reintroduction of a Mass on 11th February to celebrate Our Lady of Lourdes. To potentially be followed by drinks / wine afterwards. Planning would take place after Christmas.

The Corpus Christie Procession 2026 was raised again. Generally support was negative although there was positive support from others including Catherine who said she could potentially contribute to funding. We are still waiting for feedback from the Dean as to likely costs etc.

Kevin announced the Christmas Lunch for "older" parishioners would be at the Footprints Café on 13th December.

It was suggested that the Forum committee should put together a Calendar of Events to guide

Catherine would like to congratulate altar servers for their excellent service. She also suggested the Jubilee prayer be said at the end of each of the Sunday masses although Fr John said it would need to be dependant on the running time of each service.

The 2026 Forum meetings will be on Monday 2 February, Monday 8 June, Monday 5 October