

## East Hub Leadership Group

### Minutes of Meeting

- **Date:** 3 February 2026  
**Location:** John Fisher Room  
**Chair:** Fr Kevin Dring  
**Minutes Prepared By:** Elizabeth Fitch

#### 1. Opening Prayer and Reflection

Fr Kevin opened the meeting and reflected on recent diocesan developments following the appointment of Archbishop Richard and the current vacancy of the A&B Bishop.

The group reflected on Pope Leo XIV's message for World Mission Day, highlighting the importance of diversity within unity, cooperation across communities and creative evangelisation.

Members discussed the need to strengthen relationships across church communities and break down parochial boundaries.

The group recognised the pastoral challenges affecting St Mary Star of the Sea Parish.

#### 2. Attendance

- Present: Fr Kevin Dring, Fr Stephen O'Brien OLTR, Fr Richard Blythen IMSM, Fr Miceal Beatty POGS, Sean Harkins POGS, Sue Allen SMSS, Una Kane SMSS, Liz Fitch POGS, Sally-Ann Hart IMSM, Ursula Lucas POGS, Deacon Simon South SA, Haz Makwiramiti POGS, James Cosens OLR
- Apologies: Andrew Philips, Ghislane Cornford, Solomon Ezobi, Caroline Johnn IMSM

#### 3. Diocesan Update – Vacancy of Bishop

Fr Kevin updated members regarding a College of Consultors meeting to elect a Diocesan Administrator and then a meeting of Moderators and Deans with the Diocesan Team.

Fr Kevin asked Members for issues to raise at the meeting and all agreed that the possibility of becoming two parishes be raised moving forward.

#### 4. Moderated Parish and Hub Development

Members discussed allowing moderated parishes time to develop naturally and learning from existing models. The discussion included helping parishioners understand participation in the wider parish community. Members also highlighted the importance of engagement with parish schools.

#### 5.1 Communications

Following a recent meeting with Fr K, EF and Caroline to discuss the West and East newsletters it was agreed a consistent newsletter template will be introduced from March.

Individual communities may retain local content while maintaining consistent branding. Websites across communities will continue as will the newly introduced larger parish website. Fr Richard queried when the new website would be introduced by the Diocese. Fr K advised not for sometime, so we should continue with our local sites.

Fr K also advised open Forums will be organised across communities to share updates and encourage collaboration.

### **5.2 Pastoral Care**

S-AH advised that mapping of pastoral care and outreach services is ongoing and gave an overview on where we are as communities. See attached report for full update. The importance of coordinated pastoral support was recognised as was the need to explore Hub pastoral volunteers and volunteer training opportunities.

Fr R suggested the role of a Hub Safeguarding Coordinator.

### **5.3 Prayer and Worship**

HM & UL gave an overview of Prayer and Worship. The following were discussed:-

- Promotion of Eucharistic Adoration
- Faith-sharing groups and house groups.
- Encouraging youth engagement in digital prayer initiatives.
- Promotion of national and diocesan and online prayer resources.

### **5.4 Formation and Mission**

Short-term priorities include catechesis and teaching sessions on prayer.

Medium-term priorities include teaching on the Mass, youth ministry development and Lenten reflections.

Long-term priorities include residential opportunities and summer camps.

### **5.5 Stewardship**

In the absence of SE SH gave an update on the following:

- Collaboration on procurement and building maintenance continues.
- Discussion of potential property portfolio development.
- Appointment of a Hub Buildings Officer will not proceed at present.
- Parishioner concerns regarding financial transparency were acknowledged in particular restricted and unrestricted funds.

## **6. Next Steps and Agreed Priorities**

- Focus Groups will continue development of action plans.
- Consistent communications will be introduced across communities.
- Parish Open Forums will be organised.
- Collaboration between Stewardship Groups will continue.

**7. Any Other Business**

None recorded.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

3 March 2026 at 7pm

**9. Closing Prayer**

Prayers were offered for Archbishop-Elect Richard and for the appointment of a new Bishop for the Diocese.

(Action table page 4)

## Action Summary Table

Action	Responsible	Timescale
Promote collaboration across communities	All Hub Members	Ongoing
Provide updates from diocesan meetings	Fr Kevin	Next Meeting
Raise geographical hub considerations to make two separate parishes	Fr Kevin	Next Meeting
Explore engagement with parish schools	Hub Leadership Group	Ongoing
Implement newsletter template	Communications Group	March 2026
Review parish website consistency	Communications Group	Spring 2026
Organise Open Forums	Communications Group / Clergy	March 2026
Continue mapping pastoral services	Pastoral Care Group	Ongoing
Explore Safeguarding Coordinator role	Pastoral Care Group	Next Meeting
Develop volunteer training	Sally-Ann Hart / Pastoral Care Group	2026
Promote Adoration	Prayer & Worship Group	Ongoing
Compile online prayer resources	Prayer & Worship Group	Spring 2026
Explore house groups	Prayer & Worship Group	2026
Develop catechesis sessions	Formation & Mission Group	2026
Explore livestreaming feasibility	Formation & Mission Group	2026
Develop youth ministry	Formation & Mission Group	2026–2027
Continue Stewardship collaboration	Stewardship Groups	Ongoing
Provide clearer financial communication	Stewardship Groups	2026
Monitor Focus Group progress	Hub Leadership Group	Ongoing

## West Hub Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday 4 February 2026, 5.30 pm  
**Location:** Our Lady of Ransom Parish Centre, Eastbourne  
**Chair:** Fr Kevin Dring, Moderator  
**Minutes:** Cheryl Wood, West Hub Secretary

**Attendees:**

Paul Beverton	Shirley McCann, St George
Anne Bowe, St George	Gerry Palmer, St Wilfrid
Fr Neil Chatfield, CtK	Nick Price, St Gregory
Pauline Crunden, St Agnes	Mary Robertson, OLR
Martin Falkner	Caroline Rother, Hub Assistant
Stephen Gartzen	Graham Short, CtK
Chris Hamill, OLR	Virginia Short, CtK
Sandra King, St George	Br Neil Taylor, CtK
Andrew Leach, CtK	Samantha Vickers
	Nick Woodall, OLR

**Apologies:** Paul Barber, SRCC Fr Charles Ezejide, OLR

**Absent:** Monika Beaver Morgan Mukutirwa, St Wilfrid  
Marylou Cockshoot Amanda Rock

### 1. Opening Prayer and Reflection

Fr Kevin opened the meeting reflecting on the departure of Archbishop-Elect Richard from the diocese in readiness for his installation as Archbishop of Westminster on 14 February.

The group spent time meditating on the message of Pope Leo XIV for the 100<sup>th</sup> World Mission Day that would be celebrated on 18 October 2026 and sharing their reflections, which included:

- Active listening so that differences, cultures and opinions may be respected
- Travelling together on a journey to our shared destination, in the spirit of Pentecost
- Ecumenism – working with different Christian communities – stronger together, developing creative and concrete ways of co-operating
- Pastoral outreach, making Christ’s love visible
- ‘Being there’ for people approaching us and asking about our worship, our faith – our Lord put us together in that moment; what might we learn from them?
- Common themes – developing new activities across the new parish
- We are one Body, brothers and sisters in Christ, with different backgrounds bringing different gifts – identify what unites us and express and celebrate in diverse ways

### 2. Diocesan Update – Interregnum

The diocesan College of Consultors was responsible for the management of the diocese and would be choosing an Administrator from among their number.

### 3. Moderated Parish and Hub Development

Moderators and moderators-to-be to meet with the Administrator and Diocesan Team on 17 February to reflect on the journey and status of the pastoral plan. Fr K wished to take reflections

from the two hub meetings; simple, short, clear thoughts on the joys, hopes, challenges and frustrations:

- Wish list – employment of youth minister and estate manager
- Better communication – work in progress
- Focus on structural change at the expense of development of disposition of the heart – how better to capture the vision? Sharing of charisms, resources and what builds up the community
- New parish-to-be geographically split into two hubs out of necessity – consider becoming two separate parishes. Both hubs agreed on the logic of becoming two parishes and Fr K to raise this at the forthcoming meeting with the diocese
- Feedback from the new parishes would be very useful, sharing best practice
- Being alert and attentive; intentional disciples. We know who we are, what we're doing, and we're ready – and communicating to parishioners that they are part of this exciting journey

#### **4. Focus Groups' Feedback**

##### **4.1 Communications (CG)**

- Need to better support our interim website with participation from all the churches sharing their news
- Following a meeting to review the new-style Hub newsletter between Fr K, Elizabeth Fitch and Caroline Rother, and a subsequent meeting with Andrew Leach and Sandra King, it had been agreed that from March individual communities would produce their own church newsletters with a common branding. This was accepted by the group members.
- SK and AL to produce a quarterly, glossy parish magazine similar to the existing deanery newsletter, the first issue to be published in the first week of March. Focus on how parish and schools link together; encourage ownership by communities to share their news and articles via the email address, [news@eastbourne-stleonards.org](mailto:news@eastbourne-stleonards.org). SK to share email address with group members
- Next focus group to focus on comms strategy

##### **4.2 Pastoral Care (PCG)**

- Strong commitment with clear emphasis on sacraments, relationships, care of the elderly
- Create summary of each church community's practical support; who and where
- Identify gaps, strengths and weaknesses
- Variation in capacity and resilience (volunteers); opportunity for greater collaboration – easy-to-join activities and community partnerships; welcome directory, city sanctuary, prison fellowship, church action on poverty
- Provide visible named support for parents on the edge of crisis; especially to those attending non-Catholic schools

##### **4.3 Prayer and Worship (PWG)**

- How to involve families and young children on the periphery?
- Adoration to be extended across our churches and also available for young people
- Develop a digital platform with and for youngsters, aligned with Catholic schools' provision, supporting one another; especially for families whose children were not in Catholic schools
- Conduct a survey for house and prayer groups
- Fr K on the late Cardinal Archbishop Cormac's perception: the Church's future was reliant on networks of small faith communities.

- Fr K – East hub meeting – we should make easily available online prayer resources e.g. Jesuit *Pray as You Go* – for the Communications group

#### 4.4 Formation and Mission (FMG)

- Work closely with praise and worship group to put formation in place
- Identify target audience of each initiative
- How to incentivise – age group, online, physical presence
- House groups – Graham and Virginia keen to set up
- Youth group – wonderful idea although who would set it up and run it?
- Ongoing short seasons of prayer/reflections
- Consider summer camp (longer term goal – 2027) for youth
- Identify and create faith-based activities for the years between FHC and LC
- Address ‘Hot Topics’, enabling adults better to understand their faith, e.g. Real Presence.

#### 4.5 Stewardship (SG)

Questions for the diocese:

- What happens to the stewardship group once the financial group is sorted?
- Estates/buildings – who and how many would be responsible; managing budget; economies of scale?
- Expenditure: review current parish limit of £7,500?
- Review procedural rules or guides – ideas to be put to Chief Operating Officer
- Create register of local approved contractors
- Quinquennial reports due – NP looking to appoint someone to carry these out
- H&S Officer – twelve hours per month at OLR – take on the role for the other four church communities. Job description
- Co-ordinated fund-raising appeal

Meet with East Hub, working as one until the decision is made about a possible split

Fr K – three new parishes up and running; we can watch and learn from them.

#### AOB

- Request for retreats to be considered by Formation and Mission Group – see Action Points
- Fr K – access to spiritual direction – week of guided prayer in the parish – one-to-one daily
- SK – 125 years’ celebration of OLR (consecrated 8 July 1926)
- SK offered thanks on behalf of everyone to FR K for his guidance, leadership and patience. Fr K, in turn, thanked everyone for their aspirational contributions

#### Prayer

The meeting closed with prayer

#### Next meeting

Wednesday 4 March, 5.30-7.30 pm (SK apologies)

## Summary of Actions

Action	Responsible	Timescale
Consider becoming two separate parishes	Fr K	College of Consultors' meeting
Improve communication across all communities	CG/Hubs	Ongoing
Focus Group (FG) strategy	FG	Next meeting
Production of new quarterly magazine	SK/AL	For beginning of March
Share new email address with hub members	SK	ASAP
Web support from diocese	?	?
Pastoral Care Group (PCG) strategy	PCG	Ongoing development
Summary of existing practical support	PCG	Ongoing
PCG conclusions to be circulated to all	PCG/Fr K	Earliest opportunity
Focal point for parents in crisis	PCG	Earliest opportunity
Develop digital platform with and for youngsters	PWG	Ongoing
Liaise with PWG to put formation in place	FMG/PWG	Ongoing
Set up house groups	FMG	Ongoing
Youth activities, including consideration of summer camp in 2027	FMG	Ongoing
Liaise with diocese regarding estates	SG	Ongoing
Liaise with diocese – review of financial limits	SG	Ongoing
Create list of local approved contractors	SG	Ongoing
Arrange quinquennial reports	SG (NP)	Earliest opportunity
H&S lead across the church communities	SG	Ongoing
Meet with East Hub	SG	Earliest opportunity
Retreats; spiritual direction; guided prayer	FMG	Ongoing
Celebration of OLR – 125 years (8 July 1926)	All	Ongoing
Pastoral Plan update	Fr K/Group leaders	Earliest opportunity