

PARISH COUNCIL – Coming Soon!

As you are all aware, every parish is now required by the Archbishop to have a Parish Council, to assist the parish priest in the pastoral care of the parish, and also to give their experience, advice and guidance to developing the life of the parish. It is a consultative body which is appointed by the parish priest. It has two officers, the chair and secretary, and the parish clergy are members as of right. After considerable thought and discussion, I have approached a number of parishioners asking them to join the council, and I am most grateful to them for their generous response.

Their names are given below, as well as a short profile giving details of their life and parish experience which they will bring to the Council. You may know some of them – others not. A meeting for you to “view” them and ask any questions pertaining to the Council will be held in January. They will meet Bishop Timothy in February when he comes for our Parish Visitation, and our first meeting will be held in March – all subject to agreement with our chairman.

The diocese’s suggested constitution has already been made available earlier in the year and can also be found on the parish website on the “Parish Council” Section.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to speak to me. I hope you will agree with my choices, which I believe offer a broad range of background, experience, parish involvement and expertise from a faithful and talented group of parishioners.

Fr Philip

OUR PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairperson - Chris Painter. A parishioner of Our Lady and All Saints since 2000. Professionally, formerly Head/Chair of a University Department of Public Policy and then expanded School of Social Sciences over a period of 14 years. Subsequently, in a voluntary capacity, Chair of Governors, King Edward VI College Stourbridge for 6 years, correspondingly involved in a further education Area Review as Chair of Black Country Colleges Chairs and Principals Group. Received a Governance Award for exceptional practice from the Sixth Form Colleges Association.

Secretary – Anna Morley has been a member of this Parish for about twenty years. For many happy years, she acted as Sixth Form Administrator at Hagley Catholic High School, looking after Years 12 and 13. Now retired, she enjoys voluntary work at church and elsewhere

Parish Finance – Fr Philip has been parish priest since September 2020. He converted to the Catholic Faith in 1994 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1997. He has served in a diverse number of parishes in North Staffordshire and Birmingham, Stourbridge being his 6th appointment in 27 years.

Liturgy – Fr Stephen is a retired priest living in the presbytery since January 2022, having served for 26 years in various communities since 1996, at Leamington Spa, Birmingham University Chaplaincy, Stourport and Bewdley, and Nechells and Aston.

Hospital – Deacon Tom was ordained in July 2011. As well as being a Deacon in our Parish he is Chaplain to Russell’s Hall Hospital. He is a member of the Third Order Franciscan Order, which has a small group in this parish, and organises an annual pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

Parish Centre – Sarah Price has been a member of the Parish since 1979. She was confirmed and married here. She has worked in insurance administration, as a PA, Pre-School keyworker, school office assistant and became Parish secretary in 2012. She has held the voluntary role as both St

Joseph's school PTA Treasurer and Chair as well as Parent Governor and Chair of Governors. As part of her role as Treasurer in the parish she is responsible for all Parish Centre bookings and lettings.

St Joseph's Primary School - Anthony Wilkes Is Principal of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, and he feels that he is privileged to be able to serve our Parish and local community. He qualified as a teacher in 2009 and has taught and held leadership positions across Dudley and Sandwell. He has always considered his vocation to be to serve others and nurture young people, to develop and use their given talents for the benefit of others with great pride. Since moving to Hagley in 2022, he has played an active part in the Parish and looks forward to continuing this as a member of the Parish Council.

Hagley Catholic High School and Sixth Form – Jo McCole, is a qualified teacher in Religious Studies. She taught at St John Wall Catholic High School in Handsworth for 18 years before becoming Vice Principal at St Joseph's Primary School. In September 2024 she joined the RE team at Hagley Catholic High School and is also head of Catholic Life.

Catechists – Patricia McGrath is a qualified primary school teacher and also gained the Catholic Certificate for Religious Studies from Newman university. She trained as a Catechist in her previous parish in Birmingham and prepared children for their First Holy Communion. In 2022 she joined the newly formed parish youth committee and was involved in the relaunching of various parish youth activities after the pause during lockdown. In the autumn of 2022, the Little Saints children liturgy restarted, and she has led this weekly during the Saturday 5pm mass for children up to year 3. Patricia is one of our parish catechists and alongside Anne Tudor, she leads the children's preparation sessions for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. She has close ties with our parish primary school as her 5 children have attended St. Joseph's. This means that she is able to liaise with parents and staff at the school to encourage good communication between the church, school and parents.

Pastoral - Ken Baker is a lifelong member of our Parish of Our Lady and All Saints, baptised, First Holy Communion, confirmed and married in our church. He attended St Joseph's Primary school and Hagley R C High School. He is currently a member of our Parish St Vincent de Paul Group (SVP).

Youth – Liam Thomas has been Parish Youth Worker since May 2023. He is also the Lay Chaplain at Hagley Catholic High School. He has responsibility for developing Youth Activities within the Parish including All Saints Youth Group and also delivers the Parish Confirmation programme. Before becoming Lay Chaplain at Hagley, he worked as a Youth Leader and Programme Director with the Kenelm Youth Trust, with whom he maintains close links. He has been on pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Archdiocese for many years.

Parish Safeguarding Representative - Paul Shannon came to the parish in 1980 then a teacher at Hagley RC High school, teaching PE, RE and was Head of Department and Head of Year. In 1997 he was promoted to a Deputy Head Teacher post at St Mary's School in Lugwardine, Hereford. He was in this post for 23 years before retiring at the start of 2020. In the summer of 2018, he moved back to Stourbridge and returned to the parish. His role in the parish, which started in 2020, is one of two Parish Safeguarding Officers. This involves working with the Archdiocese to make sure that all the work and activities in the parish are safe for all involved.

