



Christ the King
CATHOLIC WINDSOR & ASCOT



Parish Handbook

CONTENTS

Parish Team 5

Finance 6

Safeguarding 6

MASS AND EUCHARISTIC SERVICES:..... 7

SACRAMENTS 9

 Baptism 9

 Reconciliation 10

 Sacrament of the Sick..... 10

 First Holy Communion..... 11

 Confirmation 11

 Marriage..... 12

 Funeral planning 12

 RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 12

 Adoration 14

 Bible studies/Mass readings explained..... 14

 Children’s liturgy 14

 Choir/music..... 15

 Foundation Masses 15

 Live streaming 15

 Mass Intentions..... 16

 Morning and evening prayer 16

 Mothers’ prayers..... 16

 Receiving Communion at home 16

 Remembrance services 16

 Rosary..... 17

Holy Hour	17
MINISTRIES.....	18
Altar Servers	18
Bereavement support group	18
Church cleaning.....	18
Collection counting/finance/gift aid	18
Communications team	19
Eucharistic Ministers	19
Flowers	19
Hospitality group.....	19
Liturgy Group	20
Offertory collectors	20
Parish Outreach.....	20
Readers.....	21
Welcomers/stewards	21
YOUTH	22
Faith in Action programme	22
Junior Leadership Team.....	22
Mini Vinnies/Youth SVP.....	22
Youth catechist	23
Men's group	24
UCM (Union of Catholic Mothers)	24
Taking Communion to the sick and housebound.....	24
CHARITIES.....	25
APF (Association for the Propagation of the Faith).....	25
Catenians.....	25

CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) 25

Churches Together in Windsor (CTW) 26

HCPT (Hosanna House and Children’s Pilgrimage Trust)..... 26

Knights of St Columba 26

SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society) 27

Windsor Christian Action (WCA) 28

USEFUL INFORMATION 29

History of St Edward’s, St Marks and St Francis 29

INTRODUCTION

A warm welcome to the parish of Christ the King in Ascot and Windsor.

Father Phillip and I hope that this website might be a doorway for you to enter and receive a warm welcome and assurance that here is a place that you will be given dignity and hospitality. Perhaps you are looking for a time of Mass or the possibility of booking a Baptism or Wedding. The Catholic parish of Christ the King, Windsor and Ascot has 3 churches and a strong faith community.

You may be new to the area and thinking of joining our community of faith. Whatever the reason, I hope and pray that your needs are met and that we will be able to help and welcome you.

Canon David Hopgood

This booklet provides information about the Parish's prayer life and organisations. If you are new, we hope it helps you feel part of our family. Please take this booklet home for reference. If you can offer your time and talents, please contact group organisers directly. Your involvement in the parish community is welcomed and we look forward to building our community together.

Contact Details

Church Name	Address	Telephone
St Edward the Confessor	44 Alma Road, Windsor SL4 3HJ	01753 865163
St Marks	Dedworth Road, Windsor SL4 4JS	01753 865163
St Edwards and St Marks Parish office can be contacted via email: parishoffice@catholicwindsor.org		
St Francis of Assisi	Coronation Road, South Ascot Ascot, SL5 9HG	01344 620 591
St Francis Parish office can be contacted via email: stfrancisascot@portsmouthdiocese.org		

The Windsor parish office is in St Brigid's room in the Parish Centre, and the Ascot office is next to the church. Please phone or email first if you need help with anything.

Parish Team

Name	Role
Canon David Hopgood	Parish Priest
Email: canondavidh@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	Tel: 01753 865163
Fr Phillip Harris	Priest in Charge, Ascot
Email: ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	T: 01344 620 591
Rev George Young	Parish Deacon
Email: dyoung@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	Tel: 01753 865163
Rev Stephen Patterson	Parish Deacon
Email: spatterson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	Tel: 01753 865163
Sr Teresina Fingleton CSB	Parish Sister
Patricia Brown	Parish Secretary
Richard Flisher	Finance Manager
Sharon Cole-Blows	Youth Coordinator
Pat Burke	Safeguarding Rep
Vacant - Ascot	Safeguarding Rep

The team can be contacted via the Parish offices

Leadership Team

The leadership group is established to assist the priests in the day-to-day running of the parish – it enables us to seek advice and views on a variety of topics.

Name	
Canon David Hopgood	Brigid Dent
Fr Phillip Harris	Kim Grieg
Deacon George Young	Sharon Blows
Deacon Stephen Patterson	Richard Flisher

Pastoral Council

The role of the pastoral council is to see beyond the immediate day to day business of parish life – the council is to have a vision – what and where the parish might or should be in five or ten years – and then find ways to bring this about with the help of the leadership group.

Finance

There is a Parish Finance Committee, which meets regularly to monitor income and expenditure and to prioritise future spending plans.

Safeguarding

Parishioners ensure that we as a parish comply with all diocesan and national requirements concerning the protection of our young and vulnerable people in the life of the community. The coordinator for Windsor is Pat Burke who can be contacted on 01753 865163 Email: safeguarding@catholicwindsor.org

MASS AND EUCHARISTIC SERVICES:

Day	Church	Time	Service
Saturday	St Francis	10:00	Mass
Saturday	St Francis	17:30	Vigil Mass
Saturday	St Edwards	18:00	Vigil Mass
Sunday	St Francis	08:30	Mass
Sunday	St Francis	10:00	Mass (live streamed)
Sunday	St Edwards	11:00	Mass (live streamed)
Sunday	St Marks	09:30	Mass
Monday	St Edwards	10:00	Eucharistic service
Tuesday	St Francis	18:30	Mass
Tuesday	St Edwards	18:30	Mass
Wednesday	St Francis	10:00	Mass
Wednesday	St Edwards	10:00	Mass

Tea and coffee are served after the 11am Sunday Mass at St Edward's in the Parish Centre, the 10am Sunday Mass at St Francis and after the 9.30am Sunday Mass at St Mark's on the first Sunday of the month.

Holy Days of Obligation:

St Edwards Mass 12 noon or 6:30

St Francis Mass 10:00 or 6:30

Please check the website for intentions and to confirm mass times

Children's Liturgy

During the 9.30am and 11.00am Masses, children aged five years and over are invited to share in their own liturgy of the Word. A simplified version of the Gospel is read and children are encouraged to reflect on its main theme in a variety of ways relating to their own lives and experience. Younger children are welcome if accompanied by an adult and all parents are welcome to join us.

Family Mass

St Marks

The first Sunday of the month: 09:30

St Edward

11:00 during term time

The Parish Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter is produced weekly by the Parish Office and is the principal source of information to all parishioners. It is distributed via email, on the website, and a printed version is available at each weekend Mass. It contains details of all current activities taking place in the Parish. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you, please contact the parish office.

Christ the King Parish Website

To access the Website, go to <https://catholicwindsorandascot.org>

The Parish Website is to provide users with up-to-date information about the many activities that take place throughout the Parish of Christ the King. It is targeted at both providing prayers and news to regular long-standing parishioners and also to providing parish information to new parishioners moving into the area and people interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church. The Website is usually updated weekly on each Friday, particularly with details of the weekend Masses and readings, and Diary of Events due in the week ahead. The Website contains links for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals plus the many active groups in the Parish.

SACRAMENTS

We have an active preparation programme for the Sacraments. The website has more information and further information for the application process.

Baptism

Baptism is the first sacrament of initiation. Baptism is the gate to all other sacraments and is the purifying and sanctifying sacrament of rebirth. Those Baptised become a part of the worldwide church.

To have a child baptised in one of our churches, at least one parent must be Catholic and should either live within the parish of Christ the King or regularly attend Sunday Mass here.

St Edwards and St Marks

Preparation is usually held once a month in the Parish Centre at St Edwards at 12:15 on Sundays. Classes run for around 45 minutes. Parents are invited to begin this process even before the birth of any child to be baptised.

Adults normally attend RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), with meetings in the parish as part of their preparation, with the individual gaining a sponsor from the within the parish who would support them in their journey towards Christ.

Baptisms in the parish usually take place at:

St Francis: Saturdays at 12:00 & Sundays at 10:00 Mass

St Francis

Preparation is held on certain Sundays of the year at 11:15. For further details please contact Deacon Stephen Patterson

spatterson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

For more information please contact:

St Francis: ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

St Edwards and St Marks: canondavid@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Please see page 5 for contact details

Reconciliation

Reconciliation, also called Confession or the Sacrament of Penance, is one of the seven sacraments Catholics believe were instituted by Jesus Christ himself. In the case of Confession, the institution first appears on Easter Sunday when Christ speaks to the apostles after his Resurrection.

Confessions are heard:

St Edwards	
Saturday	11:00 - 11:30 and 17:30 - 18:00
Tuesday	18:00 - 18:30
St Francis of Assisi	
Saturday	After 10:00am mass

Our priests visit the sick and housebound during the course of the year so that they may avail themselves of this sacrament. For those in hospital, please contact the Hospital Chaplain. Alternatively, please contact the Parish Priest if you wish to have an appointment at another time.

St Francis: ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

St Edwards and St Marks: canondavid@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sacrament of the Sick

The Anointing of the Sick is available at

Church	Time	Details
St Francis	10:00	Mass on the first Friday of the month
St Edwards	12:00	Mass on the second Friday of the month

The Anointing of the Sick can only be carried out by a priest. If you would like to arrange for a priest to make a home visit, please e-mail or ring our priests.

St Francis: Father Phillip

ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Tel: 01344 620 591

St Edwards and St Marks: Canon David

canondavidh@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Tel: 01753 865163

Please see page 5 for contact details

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion preparation for both children and adults also incorporates the necessary preparation for a first Reconciliation.

St Edwards & St Marks

Applications for the 2024/2025 First Holy Communion programme are now closed. Details of the 2025/2026 program will be posted here in summer of 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact the First Holy Communion team at fhc@catholicwindsor.org

St Francis

The Holy Communion programme usually runs from January – May and uses the programme “I want to make my home in you”. For further information, please contact Sue Roche via the Parish Office:

stfrancisascot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Confirmation

Confirmation completes the Sacraments of Initiation and takes place when the Candidates are in year 9. Preparation with a team of Catechists takes place on Saturday afternoons, at 16:00, usually twice a month.

Confirmation takes place at the Cathedral in Portsmouth, as part of the Pastoral Area, once every two years.

St Edwards & St Marks

For further details please contact Sharon Cole:

youthcoordinator@catholicwindsor.org

St Francis

For further details please contact Sue Roche via the Parish Office:

stfrancisascot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

You can find further information and registration forms on the Parish website

Please see page 5 for contact details

Marriage

There are various Civil and Church Requirements to be fulfilled before a marriage, including firstly contacting the Priest to arrange the date. There are also two very useful booklets that give details of the various statutory requirements and suggestions for appropriate readings and music.

Your first point of contact for marriage in the parish will be the relevant priest who will meet you both and advise on preparation and dates. Please email:

St Francis of Assisi: ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org

St Edwards and St Marks: canondavid@portsmouthdiocese.org

Funeral planning

We in the Parish of Christ the King want to do everything we can to help you through this difficult and sometimes painful time.

There is further information and support guides on the website. We also have a Parish Bereavement Group, who will not only pray for you but are ready to help in any way on the day of the funeral and afterwards.

To make arrangements for a funeral at St Edwards or St Marks churches in Windsor, please contact the parish office on:

01753 865163 or email parishoffice@catholicwindsor.org

To make arrangements for a funeral at St Francis Church in Ascot, please contact the parish office on: 01344 620 591 or email stfrancisascot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

If the office is unattended you will be contacted by the Parish team as soon as possible.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

This is for anyone wishing to explore the possibility of becoming a Catholic, being received into the Church, or being confirmed as an adult. It consists of discussion of various topics relevant to joining and participating in the Church, including the Bible, the Sacraments, prayer and the Church's year. Selected Tuesdays (not every week) at 7.15pm in St Brigid's room. Adult baptisms and Please see page 5 for contact details

confirmations usually take place at the Easter vigil. For more information, contact Deacon Stephen Patterson:

spatterson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Masses with children's liturgy

Church	Service Time
St Francis	Sundays 10:00 during term time
St Edwards	Sundays 11:00
St Marks	Sundays 09:30

To find out more information;

Church	Contact Person	Contact Email
St Francis	Sue Roche	stfrancis@portsmouthdioceses.org.uk
St Edwards	Triona Chakraborty	parishoffice@catholicwindsor.org
St Marks	Mandy McGovern	parishoffice@catholicwindsor.org

Choir/music

Singing and music are integral to the Masses and major celebrations of the year. Many masses in the parish include the presence of a dedicated group of cantors and singers who accompany and augment the sung praises of the congregation.

If you enjoy singing and would like to use that gift to help enhance the liturgy, you will be very welcome to join us - we always welcome new members. Please contact the Parish office or speak to the choir at mass.

Foundation Masses

An annual Mass for the donors' intention will be offered in the diocese for a period of 25 years for an offering of £100.00 or more to the Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocese.

Live streaming

Masses, Funerals and Weddings from St Edwards and St Francis are live streamed on YouTube. The camera is normally switched on about 15 minutes before the start of each service and the link is available on the newsletter and the Live Streaming page on the website.

Mass Intentions

If you wish to arrange for a Mass Intention, please give the details to the Priest or the Parish Office. Alternatively, use the envelopes that are provided in the Church.

Morning and evening prayer

A small group meets in the Lady Chapel at St Edward's on Tuesdays for Evening Prayer at 6pm before Mass at 6.30pm, and on Wednesdays at 9.30am for Morning Prayer before Mass at 10am (except when there is a funeral). We use the prayers from the Divine Office (Liturgy of the Hours).

Anyone is welcome to come along – no prior experience is necessary and we can guide you through the short service of hymns, psalms and scripture reading. For more information please contact Stephen Patterson.

Mothers' prayers

This is a small group of mothers who meet monthly for fellowship and to pray for our children. We meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month, from 19:30-21:00 in St. Brigid's Room at St. Edwards. All are welcome, please come along or contact Kim Grieg via the Parish Office.

Receiving Communion at home

Ministers are commissioned to share in the distribution of Communion at parish Masses and to take Communion to the sick and housebound. If you know anyone who would welcome Communion at home, please contact Fr David on 01753 865163 or Sr Teresina on 01753 859529 or the Parish Office on: parishoffice@catholicwindsor.org

Remembrance services

These are services of prayer, hymns and readings, held twice a year, once in May and once in November, to remember those who have died (recently or at any time in the past).

Rosary

Rosary comes from the Latin word for “rose garden,” an image used for the Blessed Virgin Mary in Latin hymns. Using the rosary, we pray traditional prayers while contemplating sacred mysteries of our faith.

The Rosary is prayed together:

St Edwards	Fridays following the 12:00 mass
St Francis Church	Saturdays 09:30 before mass
Online	Monday to Friday at 13:30 on Zoom

To find out more contact Tony Berkeley via the Parish office: stfrancisascot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Holy Hour

There is a Holy Hour held at St Edward's at 15:00 on the second Sunday of each month.

Please check the website for details of St Francis

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

Philippians 4:6

MINISTRIES

Altar Servers

Serving at the altar allows, in a privileged way, young and old alike to draw closer to Jesus, to be open to him and to others. Through this ministry, the altar server journeys together with others. Altar servers represent a long liturgical tradition, carrying out their ministry within the Parish to enhance the quality of celebration, ensuring that everything needed for the services are available at the appropriate moments. If you would like to serve at Mass, please contact the coordinators below via the offices:

St Edwards -Andrew Mullan

St Marks - Vincent O'Horo

St Francis - Stephen Poulston

Bereavement support group

We meet on the first Thursday every other month, at 11:00am in St Edward's Parish Centre. We pray for the deceased; visit the bereaved; support funerals; and plan remembrance services. For more information, please contact: Rev George Young: bereavement@catholicwindsor.org or 01753 865163

Church cleaning

This is one of the less public ministries of the Church but provides a valuable service. We have a good band of helpers who diligently keep our Churches clean and welcoming to visitors. St Edward's.

If you would like to join this group, please contact the coordinators via offices:

St Edwards - Mohan and Maureen Chandramohan

St Marks - Maggie Waddington

Collection counting/finance/gift aid

If you pay income tax, we can claim this back (25 pence for every £1.00 you contribute). All you need to do is fill in and sign a Gift Aid Declaration form, which only includes your name and address. We do not know and do not

need to know anything about your income or tax. Contributions are either in weekly envelopes or by Standing Order.

For forms or envelopes please contact Chris Sowinski via the Parish office: giftaid.asc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

If you would like to help with counting the offertory collections or other finance tasks, please contact Richard Flisher: finance@catholicwindsor.org

Communications team

The Parish Communications Team is responsible for the circulation of the Parish Newsletter, the Parish Website, various event communication and the live Streaming of Mass, funerals and weddings. The Team consists of Canon David, Michael Brooks, Anne Dowling (co-ordinator), Becky Flisher, Richard Flisher, Steve Ward, Mike Wyld, Becky Young. Please contact us at Communications@catholicwindsor.org

Eucharistic Ministers

If you would like to become a Eucharistic Minister, please contact Sr Teresina on 01753 859529 or via the Parish Office on 01753 865163.

If you would like to become a Eucharistic Minister, please contact Sister Teresina via the Parish Office:

Flowers

Flower Arranging takes place behind the scenes but would be noticeable by its absence. The flowers reflect the liturgical year; they enhance worship and prayer and bring joy to the liturgy of our Church. If you would like to volunteer, please contact your Parish Office.

Hospitality group

To offer hospitality is a strong message contained in the gospels. Our hospitality group of men and women ensures that on occasions during the year, good hospitality and welcome is ensured after Masses or for parish celebrations. Teas and coffees are served after the 11am Sunday Mass at St Edward's in the Parish Centre, and after the 9.30am Sunday Mass at St Mark's

on the first Sunday of the month. Linda Mullan is the coordinator of this team and can be contacted via the Windsor office.

Liturgy Group

A Liturgy Group embraces many of areas involved to create a good Liturgy for Mass or services in both our Churches such as the leaders of: Choir, Children's Liturgy, Altar Servers, Flowers. The group meets about 3 times a year and plans the liturgical seasons.

Offertory collectors

If you would like to help with the offertory collections, please contact Richard Flisher on 07443 044720 or via the Parish Office on 01753 865163.

Parish Outreach

The Parish Outreach Group is a dedicated team committed to connecting with our community, including those who may not be Catholic or have lapsed in their faith. We achieve this by distributing postcards to homes in our area. Each postcard contains useful information and a contact point for those in need of support or guidance.

Every week, we offer prayers for the residents of Windsor and Ascot, lighting a candle for a specific street. If you would like your street to be included in our prayers, please feel free to make a request. Father David will personally review and respond to each request.

Readers

If you would like to read at Mass, please contact Sr Teresina on 01753 859529 or via the Parish Office on 01753 865163, or Sr Patricia on mpmulhall@yahoo.co.uk

Welcomers/stewards

Stewards welcome people to Mass and can also be asked to open and lock the church, as well as being present for other services and functions that happen during the course of the year. Mohan and Maureen Chandramohan coordinate this group and can be contacted via the Parish office.

*“People should use their gifts to serve, teach,
encourage, give, lead, and show mercy”*

Romans 12:6-8

YOUTH

The Youth Committee was established in September 2023; the aim is to support the parish youth, families and the Parish Youth Co-ordinator. This includes clubs, trips, ministries for the children, youth and families etc. This Committee will also be made up of members from St Francis, Ascot. They will meet once a term in the Parish Centre. Contact: Sharon Cole, email: youthcoordinator@catholicwindor.org

Faith in Action programme

The CYMFed Faith in Action Award rewards young people's active service in helping to build the Kingdom of God on Earth. Many young people are doing so much to follow Jesus' example in serving others in their schools and parishes. The Faith in Action Award encourages young people to take that service into their wider community and accept greater responsibility for their faith in action. The programme facilitates an exploration of scripture and church teaching, with an emphasis on translating this into action. It encourages young people to shine the light of faith upon their experience of service, through guided and personal reflection and a short monthly session. There are four levels of award: Pin, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Participants accrue credits of service in their parish/school and wider community.

Junior Leadership Team

This is a group that was created at the request of the newly confirmed young people from the 2022 Confirmation Group. They meet termly and have been supporting parish projects, helping with youth activities such as Mini Vinnies, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, and singing at the Parish Party. They arranged for a group to go the Flame event, and all took on the challenge to attend and fundraise for World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon. They have lots of exciting ideas so please keep reading the newsletter.

Mini Vinnies/Youth SVP

Mini Vinnies are young members of St. Vincent de Paul for students in Year 4 or above. Mini Vinnies meet to pray, discuss and support by doing whatever

they can to help make a difference in our communities. They work on the slogan 'See, Think & Do'

SEE: The young people look to see where action is needed in the community.

THINK: They then come together to talk about what they can do to help in the area they have identified.

DO: They then work together to do what they have planned to help in the identified area.

Youth SVP is for young people over 11. It runs along with Mini Vinnies and the older youth mentoring/supporting/leading the younger ones. We also encourage the older ones who are undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh to come along and volunteer with us as part of the DofE award.

Youth catechist

Could you contribute to this ministry and help support the young people of our Parish? We are looking for people to join a bank of Catechists. We want people with a wide range of gifts and talents to join our Youth Catechist team. We don't want you to feel tied to one ministry and appreciate that it isn't always possible or realistic to be able to come to every session of a course as a helper.

We have created the 'Youth Catechist Bank' to give us and you the opportunity to help as much or little as you are able to, working across all Youth Ministries. This includes First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Mini Vinnies, Faith in Action, PJII Award, Youth outings and other ad hoc events.

If you would like to join or find out more information about any of the youth activities across the Parish please contact Sharon

Cole: youthcoordinator@catholicwindor.org

Proverbs 22:6

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

PARISH GROUPS

Men's group

This is a small group of men who meet monthly to connect, pray and learn from one another in a Catholic context. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, from 18:30-20:00 in St. Brigid's Room at St. Edwards. All are welcome. To find out more contact Ryan Grieg via the Parish office: parishoffice@catholicwindsor.org

UCM (Union of Catholic Mothers)

Meetings take place on alternate Tuesdays and are advertised in the Church Newsletter. The venue is in St Edward's Parish Centre unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are serious, spiritual, light-hearted - often engaging a speaker. Fundraising supports causes such as: H.C.P.T. (Hosanna house Children's Pilgrimage Trust), CAFOD and Macmillan. For more information contact the Parish Office.

Taking Communion to the sick and housebound

If you would like to become a Eucharistic Minister to take communion to the sick and housebound, please contact Sr Teresina at the Parish Office on 01753 865163.

CHARITIES

APF (Association for the Propagation of the Faith)

The APF and Mill Hill missionaries support the work of spreading the Gospel throughout the world. It is Britain's own missionary society of Priest, Brothers and associates. Please support this work by prayer, devotions and by having APF red box in your home. For further information please **contact: Vic Mullan (01753 867029).**

Catenians

The Catenian Association is an organisation for Catholic men to meet together for mutual friendship in a relaxed atmosphere. The Association was founded in Manchester in 1908 and today has approximately 10,000 members worldwide. They meet at 19:15 for 19:30 on the second Monday of each month at the Parish Centre Dorset Road, Windsor SL4 3BA. This consists of a short meeting (usually about 30 minutes) followed by a dinner.

To find out more contact Philip Reynolds via the Parish office

CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development)

CAFOD is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church for England and Wales (Registered Charity No: 1160384).

CAFOD raises money from the Lent and Harvest Fast Days and through other fundraising events during the year, such as the Big Lent Walk. The money raised will enable CAFOD to continue fighting global poverty and working through expert local partners to bring real life change to communities overseas.

To find out more, contact the Secretary, Jacoby Patterson via the St Edwards Parish office

Churches Together in Windsor (CTW)

The Catholic churches in Windsor are members of CTW, which aims to encourage local churches to work, worship and pray together. The Core Group prays together and plans joint activities between the member Churches, including the World Day of Prayer service (on the first Friday in March); Good Friday Witness (a walk between the churches ending in the town centre); Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (services in each church open to others); a joint service at Pentecost; the Annual Assembly in November; and Carols on the Hill (a service of lessons and carols at the statue of Queen Victoria, supported by the Band of the Household Cavalry). CTW also links the churches by newsletters and publicity of events taking place at various churches but not specifically run by CTW (e.g., Christian Aid events, concerts, quiz nights, harvest supper, messy church, talks, walks, etc). To find out more, contact the Secretary, Jacoby Patterson via the St Edwards Parish office

HCPT (Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust)

HCPT is a registered charity offering pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes in the south of France, for disabled and disadvantaged people from around the UK and further afield.

Every Easter around 1,000 disabled and disadvantaged children enjoy a fun and safe week in Lourdes, staying in hotels with their volunteer helpers.

Each Summer over 1,500 people, many of them with disabilities or life limiting conditions, enjoy a week at HCPT's Hosanna House in Bartrès near Lourdes.

Group 128 are one of the family groups based in our Parish. Helpers pay their own fares, and the group fundraise to pay the children's fares. Children from the parish have travelled with HCPT a number of times.

If you would like more information or would be interested in becoming a helper, please contact Pat Burke (Group leader) through the Parish office or by email group128@hcpt.org.uk

Knights of St Columba

The Knights of St. Columba is an order of Catholic men whose motto is Charity – Unity and Fraternity. As we celebrate our 100th Anniversary, we champion

Please see page 5 for contact details

FAITH – FAMILY – FRATERNITY which highlight the catholic faith, the family life and fraternal support.

Our prime local function is the support of our parishes and clergy. We have ongoing links with all the local schools who participate in Nativity and Easter scene competitions, prayer and essay competitions. We support local and national charities – HCPT, Comboni Missions, Mary's Meals, Thames Hospice, Burma Orphanage and more.

Our Council, 984, covers Ascot, Windsor, Maidenhead, Staines, Wokingham and Bracknell.

We are always looking for new members and if you would like to find out more please visit our website or contact Tony Berkley:

council984@hotmail.com

SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society)

The Society was founded in 1833 and has members throughout the world. We aim to combat poverty, isolation and loneliness, particularly among the elderly, where families have moved great distances from their parents or the elderly do not have any family help. We simply "Love thy Neighbour" by visiting, chatting, befriending, shopping or taking someone shopping, going on trips outdoors, and helping with trips to medical appointments. Make someone who is lonely or in need feel part of our society!

Meetings are held every 4th Monday at 18.30, in St Brigid's Room in the Parish Centre in Windsor. A meeting starts and closes with our Society prayers. We have updates on our visits to beneficiaries and discuss any new requests for help to see if we have sufficient resources to assist. Our treasurer presents a short statement regarding finances and further discussions might take place on Society matters and requests, training, DBS qualifications, and planning for any events such as afternoon teas or our Christmas Day lunch.

We are very keen to find new members to help with one or two hours of your time each week, fortnight, month, or whatever you can spare. We need

befrienders, drivers, and individuals who enjoy administration to help with running the local group – thank you.

Please contact the President, Barry Thompson: presidentb170321@svp.org.uk

Windsor Christian Action (WCA)

Our Parish actively supports local charities and has a long association with Windsor Christian Action (operating name Alma Beacon). WCA was founded as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2013 to provide assistance and ongoing support to the vulnerable of Windsor. The Charity (registered number 1154308) includes Windsor Street Angels, Windsor Foodshare, Windsor Homeless Project and the Night Shelter.

These projects have continued to grow each year and are a key part of our community. They were recently brought together in a very tangible way when the Charity first took possession of and then extensively refurbished a new building: Alma Beacon, 73A Alma Road, Windsor SL4 3HD. This fully equipped building enables the Charity to support and improve the lives of those in our community who are experiencing night-time vulnerability, homelessness, loneliness or food poverty.

For more information: the WCA website is: <https://windsorchristianaction.org>

Contact for WCA: Geoff Hudson (Chair) geoff@windsorchristianaction.org

Peter 3:8

“Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble,”

USEFUL INFORMATION

Catholic Schools

St Edward's First School

Parsonage Lane, Windsor, Berkshire. SL4 5EN

Tel: 01753 860607

Website: www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk

St Francis Catholic Primary School,

Coronation Road, Ascot, SL5 9HG

www.stfrancisprimary.org

St Edward's Royal Free Ecumenical Middle School

Parsonage Lane, Windsor, Berkshire. SL4 5EN

Tel: 01753 867809

Website: www.sterf.org.uk

History of St Edward's, St Marks and St Francis

Ascot, Windsor, and their surroundings boast a rich history spanning over a thousand years.

The Catholic Church has a significant and varied history in this region. Historians have extensively studied the local churches, iconography, and unique parish histories.

Records of Catholic presence around Windsor and Ascot are sporadic until the late 18th century when part of a house at Frogmore was used as a chapel. In 1810, John Riley converted a room of his Windsor home into a chapel, and his son later built a larger chapel at Clewer Green in 1844.

Charles Joseph Stonor and his wife, founders of St Francis of Assisi in Ascot, had previously built a chapel at their house, Llanvair. After meeting French Franciscans from Aquitaine, Stonor brought them to Ascot to introduce missionary friars. A more comprehensive history of our churches can be found on the website.