

Parish Priest Report

10th September 2025

- New format to joint Parish Life Meetings - PP will present a written report. It's hoped this will keep information sharing at the meeting to a minimum and allow for increased dialogue, with ideas coming forward from parishioners. Minutes will consequently be a record of discussion / verbal reports at the meeting, thereby avoiding duplicating the attached written submissions.
- Congratulations to Lee Redhead on his acceptance for training as a Permanent Deacon within the Diocese of Hallam. In the first instance Lee will be assisting with the First Holy Communion programme with and continuing as Foundation Governor at Holy Rood Primary School.
- Safeguarding - Following the recent Safeguarding Audit at HR, the DBS list has been reviewed and consolidated in consultation with the Safeguarding Office. There are now 23 people with DBS checks on the list. the next updates are due in June 2026.
- Finance -

	Holy Rood	OL & SJ
Current a/c	£27,902.92 @ 1/9/25	£4,942.89 @ 31/8/25
Deposit a/c	-£171,664.01 @ Dec 2024	£123,540.84 @Dec 2024

- £75k at HR has been paid over to the Diocese against the parish deficit.
- Additional payments will be made from HR current a/c to the Diocese to cover staff wages thereby reducing the parish debt to the Diocese. That the debt burden is reducing will assist the parish when requesting future loans from the Diocese.
- £5k at OL & SJ has been transferred from the Deposit a/c to the parish c/a to ease cash flow (late payment of re-charges from HR to OL & SJ).
- Simplified statements of accounts will be published to the parishes once they have been accepted by the Parish Finance Committee.
- The next meeting of the Parish Finance Committee will take place on 29th October 2025.
- Fabric - The Q.I. for HR has been completed by Andrew Shepherd and the report is eagerly awaited. It will enable us to progress works to the rear of the church where the fabric is in poor shape. The design for metal gates to the front steps has been signed off at local level but permission and approval is required from the Diocesan HCC and Diocesan Building Committee as costs are likely to be in excess of £5k.
- Social - Thank you to those who have worked hard with a number of very different social events over the past few months. These are worthwhile in bringing our parishes together and in fostering community amongst parishioners. By way of a 'thank you' to our Altar Servers, it is planned to have a trip to the 'bowling alley' before autumn half-term.
- Catechesis & Pastoral Care - Thank you to Sharon Clarke, Sarah & Lee Redhead for kindly agreeing to take on the First Holy Communion preparation classes. Meeting for candidates and parents takes place in HR on 24th September, enrolment on 5th October. The next RCIA commences on 1st October and the Baptismal preparation course is on 16th November. The number of Eucharistic Ministers willing to take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound is steadily rising. Requests for Holy communion at home should be made to the Parish Priest in the first instance. Thank you to all those who volunteer in this capacity.
- A.O.B.- Parish Bulletin costs raises the supplementary question of whether or not we should be looking at wider usage of social media in the parish? Small steps are being made in this regard

with the First Holy Communion preparation classes. Due to local difficulties in the past, any step forward would need to be approached cautiously and closely monitored. Whatever is adopted must be a tool for good, communicating parish news, spreading the Gospel and not a destructive weapon.

Fr Damian Humphries