

**Sacred Heart PPC Meeting**  
**8.00pm Thursday 7 April 2022**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Canon John  
Father Matthew  
Father Joe  
Deacon Julian Burling  
Sr Dorothy  
Eleanor Bowman (Youth Minister)  
Maria Christopher  
Ruth Naylor  
Rachel Purvis  
Chris Woodward (for the Finance Committee)  
Guest – Vitória Russo Gaino (Merton Citizens)

**Apologies:**

Annette Campbell-Black  
Siobhan Heffron  
David Hurst  
Jude Mariadoss  
Anne Waldron (Chair)

**1.0 Minutes of 3 March meeting**

- Ruth Naylor chaired the meeting and the minutes from the 3 March PPC meeting were approved.
- There was a reminder that all PPC minutes need to be uploaded to the website following approval. This has now been actioned and will be a priority going forwards.
- Previous actions discussed as part of our Ukraine response have been actioned.
- Father Matthew updated the PPC regarding a note that has gone into the Parish Newsletter, inspired by the Archdiocese of Southwark's active encouragement of parishes welcoming Ukrainian refugees under the Governments Sponsorship Scheme. Fr Matthew and Alain van West are considering how to integrate this into the work already done on the community sponsorship programme, the Heart Project.

**2.0 Synod update**

- Rachel updated the PPC on the recent meeting with the Archbishop and other Synod delegates in March. A 15-page synthetic document (a synthesis) of all the reports submitted by other Southwark parishes has been compiled and is now available to read on the Archdiocese website.
- The SHC parish report will also be made available on the parish website. Some discussion was held around whether this document should be condensed to make for easier reading.
- PPC members agreed that another meeting was required to look specifically at the Synod report alongside the Parish Communications survey results, as there are common threads running through both. An additional meeting would aim to discern action points and confirm the means to disseminate the information gathered throughout the parish.
- Ruth Naylor to send round a Doodle poll to find a suitable date for a dedicated meeting.

### **3.0 Merton Citizens**

- Ruth Naylor introduced Vitória Russo Gaino from Merton Citizens, who was invited to join the PPC meeting to give an update on their work.
- Merton Citizens have completed a series of listening events which identified key areas of concern for the local area: refugee welcome, mental health, housing and a living wage.
- On 21 April at 7pm, there will be a Merton Citizen's Assembly. This is an opportunity for local Merton Citizen organisations to present their concerns to councillors ahead of the local elections in May. Vitória explained that they would like local church communities to attend to share their voices.
- The Assembly will take place at Mitcham Parish Church Belgrave Road and Vitória will circulate a flyer invitation to be distributed to the PPC and all parishioners via the newsletter.

### **4.0 Parish charitable initiatives**

#### **4.1 Heart Project**

- Fr Matthew gave an update on the Heart Project, the community sponsorship programme.
- Owing to the pandemic, and the fact that resettlement flights were paused for a long period of time, our application previously prepared for the Home Office has expired.
- The UK government has added support for Ukrainian refugees to the community sponsorship programme and Fr Matthew is working with Alain van West to consider if supporting a Ukrainian family may be an option with the planning we have already undertaken as a parish. Fr Matthew explained that this may be a more suitable alternative with the volunteer support we have.
- It was agreed that any project progress should be clearly communicated to the parish, particularly to those who supported so generously.
- The Finance Committee are scheduled to discuss the project at their next meeting.

#### **4.2 Soup Run**

- Ahead of the meeting, Damian Finlayson who has organised the Sacred Heart Soup Run, provided a written update.
- The Soup Run team have been exploring options of either restarting the Soup Run that used to take place in the evenings up to Victoria, or instituting a local Soup Run in Raynes Park or Wimbledon.
- As part of this exploration, Damien has been in touch with Faith in Action and the YMCA but both are no longer short of volunteers.
- Maria Christopher explained that she has discovered a soup kitchen that is being run by the English Martyrs church in Streatham on the last Saturday of every month and she suggested the possibility of the parish supporting them.
- Damian has confirmed that he plans a Soup Run meeting to decide a course of action.

### **5.0 Parish social events**

- To celebrate the Queen's Jubilee on 5 June there will be an open door for tea and coffee.
- On 26 June, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, there is a desire for a big parish celebration. Suggestions for this included an International Food Fair.
- Volunteers are needed to organise both celebrations, with the 26 June event being the focus and it was proposed that a small planning group is formed.
- Eleanor suggested she could put a call for volunteers in the newsletter and sound people out after mass.

### **6.0 Parish communications survey feedback**

- Ruth presented the findings of the recent communications survey.

- There were 139 online responses and 2 paper responses.
- The majority of survey respondents are happy to receive information from the newsletter by email, and are happy with the amount of communication they receive.
- Ruth to circulate the findings among the PPC to feed into the Synod discussion.

#### **7.0 AOB**

- Deacon Julian Burling reported that there had been sound issues in the church the previous Sunday. Eleanor responded to say that these have been investigated and corrected.
- Ruth flagged that this was the time of year to think about roles on the PPC and whether we wanted to recruit any new members. For discussion at the next meeting.

#### **8.0 Date of next meeting and roles**

- Thursday 5 May, 8pm.
- Chair and Secretary roles to be decided.