

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Anne Chapelle's Gift</u> – Teresa replied as requested. <p>The minutes were accepted and will be posted on the website.</p>	<p>DAVID</p> <p>RUTH</p>
<p>3.0 How can we support our Parish Groups?</p> <p>Patricia Turner from Flower Group spoke to us. She has been in charge for a few years now. There are 23 volunteers – any less than that can be tricky – and 7 team leaders / buyers. Each week there is a team of 3-5 depending on whether there are weddings / big feasts. Lent/Advent no flowers. 3-month rota done by Mary Kennedy. Eleanor has advertised volunteering opportunities to First Holy Communion parents which has provided 2-3 new volunteers. Being part of this is a ministry of the church and a commitment, although it can be hard to explain this and build up a cohesion because you don't get all volunteers in one place at once. Patricia organised a workshop last September and intends to do it again as they are trying to be more sustainable. Oasis/floral foam is non-biodegradable plastic which releases microplastics into the water system. The workshop in September enabled people to try going back to moss, chicken wire, vases of water. There was a note in the newsletter in October to explain how the presentation might change as a result. Could we ask florists who provide flowers eg. for funerals not to bring oasis into the church? Often the group has to tidy them up and then has the problem of disposing of it. The alternative substrates are trickier to use and take more time but it's worth it. <u>Action: PPC to consider this question. Primi to add to agenda for next time.</u></p> <p>One alternative is basalt-based material – takes a lot of heat to make it so it has quite a high carbon footprint and it can't go in the compost bin so this brings its own questions. They don't use much of it and have achieved a lot in moving away from environmentally unfriendly products. They no longer use any black sacks for waste – they have a plastic trug and there's a compost bin on site. Could the PPC look at this and put something more useful e.g. have two bins (to make good compost you need to have one being filled while the other is settling). <u>Action: consider this. Primi to add to agenda for next time.</u></p> <p>Seasonality and flower miles are all considerations.</p> <p>Can we increase size of shrubbery (on Darlaston Road) so we can use materials from the garden in the displays? Patricia has a list of potential shrubs. We probably can't grow everything ourselves but we can supplement. Patricia has struggled to find local flower growers who can supply us regularly. There's one in East Horsley which has been used a couple of times. In 2019 there was talk of developing the orchard into a prayer garden but this fell by the wayside with the pandemic. Primi mentioned that the Belderbos family who have a large gardening company had been involved with this. Patricia pointed out that the parish has achieved the CAFOD Live Simply Award. Eleanor was going to</p>	<p>PRIMI</p>

<p>lead an environmental group but it doesn't meet regularly anymore: she has too much to do. Should we say 'we'd like to restart the environmental group?' <u>Action: consider this. Primi to add to agenda for next time.</u></p> <p>The PPC agreed that the flower arrangements are amazing. Could we have one Sunday when the parishioners bring stuff from their gardens on a Thursday and the group do what they can with it as a way to raise awareness? Maybe in September – on a week with no weddings – with a harvest theme? <u>Action: consider this. Primi to add to agenda for next time.</u> Chris asked if some parishioners could actually commit to provide certain types of flowers at certain times of year? <u>Action: consider this. Primi to add to agenda for next time.</u></p> <p>There is a budget line – weddings bring in money.</p> <p>Ruth asked if Patricia feels there's any pressure to use particular kind of flowers? No, she doesn't. Everyone seems happy and she'd welcome more engagement.</p> <p>What's the gardening contract? <u>Action: Chris to pick up with the finance committee. Also ask about costing for compost bins.</u></p> <p>Fr Joe gets questions from couples preparing for weddings e.g. do they share the cost of the flowers if there are two weddings? No, because the flat fee doesn't cover the cost of the flowers but contributes to the upkeep of the church.</p> <p>The PPC asked Patricia to pass on to the group how much we appreciate all the work – including the watering and clearing. Some members said they hadn't realised how much planning goes into it.</p> <p>We also remembered that there was a flower festival in the past with parish groups exhibiting in upper hall. And one with other local churches.</p>	<p>CHRIS</p>
<p>4.0 Updates from the clergy</p> <p>Fr Joe reported that the ongoing formation programme for priests organised by the diocese is helping a lot. The priests follow the programme in pairs and go on retreat for their own spiritual development so they can support others. Fr Joe has noted that at we are getting many families from abroad, especially Korea (every Sunday a new family from Korea turns up) at mass. Baptism is increasing – they do four on Sundays (apart from the first Sunday of the month).</p> <p>Fr Michael Barnes has been of great help to the Parish and we should thank him. He travels from Stamford Hill. He's happy to keep helping.</p>	

Deacon Julian is going to do a lot for funerals and also weddings outside mass as he can preside when there's no eucharist at a wedding.

Fr Joe has a focus on wedding and family life as there are lots of weddings to do. They come at the last minute and put pressure on the priests to get all the paperwork done. Paul is helping with this. Canon John has put Fr Joe and Fr Matthew through a formation programme so they're more confident now about what to do to prepare couples for marriage, especially as secular and canon law require certain documentation. Fr Joe noted that the parish should think about how to provide more pastoral support to couples after their wedding. Sr Dorothy pointed out that married couples need to be involved in this and that we did have a team who used to do the engaged couples day so people who got married here would already know the pastoral team but now it's just one day run by the Diocese but you have to book in advance and there's quite a high fee. We need to follow our pastoral plan for married couples and other sacraments (for examples supporting parents after baptism etc.) Sr Dorothy reiterated that we need to get the lay people involved, otherwise the burden becomes too heavy for the clergy. Action: to revisit when new PP arrives; Primi to add to schedule for meetings

Fr Joe also mentioned the relationship with other priests in the deanery regarding confession. He noted that because we have a proper schedule many people from surrounding parishes come here so we do ask the other parishes to have a clear schedule and reduce pressure on our parish priests. In addition, Hospital at Parkside are now going to fall to our priests, in addition to Kingston. These duties can include urgent calls in the middle of the night.

Fr Joe wants to revisit the At Home programme – maybe in June – but admitted that he hasn't had a proper day off for a year and the PPC was quick to stress that he must ensure he respects his days off, especially now there's more pressure on him as he takes on the role of Acting Parish Priest following the retirement of Canon John. There is no news on the new PP and might not be until September. Chris emphasised that Fr Joe should ask for the help he needs to keep things going until September. We can get supply priests but it's expensive so Fr Joe has tried to communicate with other parishes who might also need a supply for a month so we can share the costs. Canon John agrees it's necessary to get someone and Chris agrees we should find the funds. If Michael Barnes can do 2 masses on Sundays, then Sunday will be covered but if he can't we'll need to get a supply priest. It was suggested that we don't need two weekday masses during this period, but Fr Joe said he thought he and Fr Matthew could manage to maintain the current schedule between them. Action: Fr Joe to speak to Fr Michael Barnes and Vicar General, Chris to speak to PPC.

PRIMI

CHRIS/ FR JOE

<p><u>Action: David will let Fr Michael know how much his work is appreciated.</u></p> <p>Ruth thanked Fr Joe and said we much we appreciate everything he's doing to keep the parish running in the interregnum.</p>	<p>DAVID</p>
<p>5.0 Canon John's Leaving Gift and Party</p> <p>The PPC meeting on 4th May will have a short agenda, followed by a small social for Canon John. <u>Action: Fr Joe and Sr Dorothy to make sure he comes.</u> There will be an online depository of messages for parishioners to express their thoughts and wishes and upload photographs etc., rather than a physical card. Ruth to investigate the format as Canon John doesn't want to take anything physical with him. <u>Action: Ruth to investigate.</u> The collection will just be a monetary gift. Thelma has set up an organising committee for the leaving party; it's all in hand. Parishioners are bringing a plate to share. There will be mass at 6.30pm and Fr Joe will preside. They're looking for a priest of Canon John's age group who knows him to give the homily.</p>	<p>FR JOE, SR DOROTHY</p> <p>RUTH</p>
<p>6.0 PPC Commissioning Mass</p> <p>This is scheduled for Pentecost, 28th May. Some asked whether we should wait for the new parish priest. Fr Joe thought we shouldn't defer everything as we could be waiting some time and the parish should keep progressing even if we don't have an official parish priest. Ruth said the commissioning mass would be a good opportunity to advertise and promote ourselves. We can have up to 14 people on the PPC and there's technically a two year turnover so this could be a good time to call for more members. Fr Joe wants to contact Mgr Gerard Bradley to ask him if he'll do the mass that day. There's a commissioning mass set down in the booklet about the PPC. <u>Action Ruth to put notice in newsletter nearer the time saying it's happening and invite potential new members. Draft before next meeting. Fr Joe speak to Mgr Gerard.</u></p>	<p>RUTH</p> <p>FR JOE</p>
<p>7.0 Parish Community Initiatives</p> <p>Merton Citizens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● re-arranged date TBC invited to meet Siobhan McDonagh, Labour MP ● Mon 17 Apr leadership meeting for now 15 members on Zoom ● Wed 26 Apr in person meeting with leader of LBM Labour council, Ross Garrod ● <u>Action: Primi to circulate manifesto with minutes .</u> <p>Merton Winter Night Shelter - under Faith in Action</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mon 21 Mar review meeting for 14 venue co-ordinators including St Winifride's ● Tue 25 Apr TBC review meeting in the lounge for all SHP volunteers <p>Defibrillator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has now been delivered. location to be agreed by PPC: needs to be outside where it can be reached 24/7. With signs showing where it is. Available for the community not just the church. ● optional 5 year contract payable annually: replacement pads, replacement battery, annual service, 3 yearly training for 12 –<u>Action: David to check about training</u> <p>Hillside Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel (SNP) – includes Edge Hill residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sept 2023 enquiry re SHP hosting the first Hillside Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel AGM FOC? <p>EHARA (Edge Hill Area Residents' Association)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8.00pm Tue 13 Jun DH invited to present SHP community work to next meeting 	
<p>8.0 AOB</p> <p>Parish Planned Giving Appeal – Ruth and Primi explained they were working on a campaign with Cathy Lynch and Ed Coombs from the Finance Committee to put a campaign together. They were reminded that they should explain in the leaflet that there's a deficit. <u>Action: Ruth and Primi</u></p> <p>SAFEGUARDING – We no longer have a safeguarding team as they stepped down due to an unpleasant dispute with safeguarding team in the Diocese which may be still unresolved, so we need to get a new team together. The Diocese team are professional and as far as we know they're still in place. The old team are content to brief/train the new team, but not necessarily do the actual recruiting. Amy can process the DBS applications. The training is important as the parish safeguarding team put on training sessions for all volunteers in all parish groups who are required to have DBS checks. We must at least have a representative. They deal with the quality/policy side rather than day to day processing. It's crucial to replace them as soon as possible. Ask the existing team if they know people we might approach as you can't advertise for something like that. <u>Action: Ruth to do fact finding with Jenny Cairns of the previous safeguarding team.</u></p> <p>Church renovation - Chris's thinks we're at the last stage of the legal process involving a detailed plan to show where the boundaries</p>	<p>RUTH & PRIMI</p> <p>RUTH</p>

<p>between the college and the parish lie. The College want to own the bank of trees and we need to clarify where it ends behind the presbytery.</p> <p>Sr Dorothy reported that a few people approached her on Easter Sunday saying they found the old web page and it had wrong times. Primi said it was probably on Catholic Clocks as it's the first hit you get when you search for mass times in most parishes, but it was created ten years ago and hasn't been updates since. Ideally we want to be off that site completely so that when they Google Sacred Heart they get our website not that one. We may need to improve our SEO and also check there isn't some ghost page sitting on our website. <u>Action: Ruth to ask Paul Davis to look into this.</u></p> <p>Fr Joe said we had received a message of appreciation from the Polish community for enabling the blessing of Easter Baskets on Easter Saturday. They hope the tradition can continue.</p> <p>Fr Joe said we've been trying to prompt Paul to always ensure he puts the streaming on immediately after the 10am mass as it has to be done manually.</p> <p>Mass attendance was down by 40 percent for Easter. There are fewer masses now. Primi asked if we can please have proper candles at the Vigil as the LED tealights don't have the same symbolism and are bad for the environment but Chris pointed out that we have had letters from the insurers about the use of naked flames which is why we switched.</p>	<p>CHRIS</p> <p>RUTH</p>
<p>9.0 Date of next meeting Thursday 4th May at 8pm</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>10.00 Closing Prayer Jude closed the meeting in Prayer.</p>	