

SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 6th June 2024 in the LOUNGE
MINUTES

1. Welcome, opening prayer and apologies

Chris Woodward opened the meeting in prayer at 8.03pm.

Apologies were received from Fr Jackson Sebastian, Fr Matthew Donnelly, Maria Christopher and Siobhan Heffron. Present were: Ruth Naylor (Chair), Rachel Purvis, Christopher Woodward (for the Finance Committee), Sr Dorothy Perrott, Annette Campbell-Black, Teresa Engley, Julian Burling, David Hurst, Primavera Moretti (taking minutes), Giovanni Peruzzo, Max Toone, Rob Hitchcock (Faith Minister), Jude Mariadoss. Also present were Richard Starke, 9th Wimbledon Scouts and Sam Axbey, 28th Wimbledon Guides.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Status on actions which will not be picked up in agenda items.

- Edgeways subscriptions/print copies. David explained that he is now receiving assistance from a young volunteer who is laying out Edgeways in Canva which saves £192. Sean Jones has offered £250 per quarter towards print costs saving approximately £83 per issue. Net costs £192 + £253 – £192 – £83 = £170 per issue. David is thinking of applying to Archbishops' Fund for funding for Edgeways. **Action: David**
- Praetorium (hall letting company) discussions are ongoing about maybe asking them to manage daytime lettings only. **Action: Chris**
- New screen for upper hall. Rob spoke to George and has found some options either replace the screen or the mechanism. This is now a finance committee matter. **Action: Rob**
- Website working group. Ruth is trying to schedule a meeting with Adam. **Action: Ruth**
- Updating fundraising messaging. Ruth will progress this next week. **Action: Ruth**
- DofE Volunteering: have group leaders been approached? Updates to website? Primi has not yet done this. David H is inviting Youth Editors for Edgeways. **Action: Primi add as agenda item for next time.**

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the chair. They will be uploaded to the website shortly.

SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 6th June 2024 in the LOUNGE
MINUTES

3. Parish Groups – Uniformed Organisations

We welcomed Richard Starke, 9th Wimbledon Scouts and Sam Axbey, 28th Wimbledon Guides. Sam explained that she is Headteacher of Malden Oaks School and has been a guide leader for 38 years, the bulk with the guides here. She is County Commissioner in Merton, Sutton, Kingston and Richmond. Guides are girls aged 10-14 (48 girls) and Rangers age 14-17 (38 girls). They meet here on Friday evenings and come from a range of local schools. It's important to have a single-sex space where girls can develop their confidence. Focus is on outdoor activities (e.g. camp this weekend, all-season camping, night hikes) and building resilience through being independent. A patrol is led by a 14-year-old and each year they move on and the next girl will move up into a leadership role. Big focus on Duke of Edinburgh (DofE). Girls can do Bronze in year 9 (final year of guides). For Silver, they do canoe expeditions. Gold qualifying expedition is in Sweden with 4 nights wild camping and canoeing down a river. The Mayor of Merton came to the most recent DofE presentation evening. There have been more Gold DofEs in this unit than in the whole of London. Sam has lots of help at camps. She runs the programme and planning. Some of the Rangers are Young Leaders. The patrol leaders run the first part of the meetings and the Young Leaders run the other part so there's not a great need for adult leaders for the meetings. Chris asked about the Guides changing the wording of the Promise to exclude the word 'God'. Sam explained that faith is still important and the wording in the Promise has changed to 'beliefs'. The Guides used to invite the Parish Priest to come to camp and say mass but this can be logistically challenging with the different camping locations, so now they find the nearest Catholic church and try to go there. Sam said, you can't feel a sense of achievement unless you've had to overcome challenges; building resilience, independence and helping others are priorities for Guides.

Richard Starke then spoke, explaining that the 9th Wimbledon Scouts meet on a Monday. 10 Beavers aged 6-8, and 20 Cubs aged 8-10, 36 Scouts aged 10-14. There are no Explorer Scouts at the moment. There are about 5 adult leaders over 18, and several Young Leaders, who are 14-18. There are close links with local schools. Tom Causton is a senior teacher at Wimbledon College. Sean Maher (who has now left) is Head Teacher at Richard Challoner school. Michael Orbell was a governor and Francis Corrigan is now Chair of Governors at Richard Challoner. As in the Guides, the oldest scouts become patrol leaders. They meet at start of each term and plan a programme with the adult leaders and say what they want to do. The adult leaders then meet to work out how to make it happen; this can include wide games, acting competitions, cooking competitions, crafts as well as badge work and skills sessions, working through awards schemes. Some Young Leaders are doing DofE. Each one has a record sheet showing how they're working towards the Chief Scout Gold Award. They have camps throughout year. Including the main summer camp (1 week). The 9th Wimbledon has a strong history with Sacred Heart Church – it was founded and led by priests initially. They meet in the Parish Hall and both Richard and Sam agreed that having access to the store rooms is very helpful. Richard described the tight training programme for leaders including health and safety, CRB checks, First Aid. He commented that children have the most fun when they know what they're doing and things are strictly run. They do a leadership weekend for the older ones at Kintbury (La Salle brothers retreat house). They're open to new members – they took a hit in Covid and numbers haven't fully recovered.

Both leaders agreed that the admin is huge – health, consent, permission, DBS, training, etc.

SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 6th June 2024 in the LOUNGE
MINUTES

Ruth asked if there are there any Parish activities that could dovetail with work the Scouts/Guides are doing e.g. Environment Group, church parades? The St George's Day parade for the whole Scout District was mentioned. The 9th Wimbledon is a Catholic troop and have prayers and mass on camp. Primi asked if it was possible to have church parades to increase visibility and Chris pointed out that the 5pm mass tends to be for younger people. It would lovely to register the Scouts' and Guides' presence as part of the parish, perhaps once a term.

David has agreed to put an article in September Edgeways.

Richard showed some photos of Camp.

The PPC thanked both Sam and Richard for their enlightening talks.

4. Some Definite Service

We need to look at the plan created by SDS team. **Action: Primi to send round by email and people to make comments on it before next meeting.**

We need a couple of people to start a pilot group. Jude explained that there was a group that came out of the Synodal process who looked at formed.org and have planned to go further ahead with it. Jude volunteered to be one of the coordinators because he's been doing this for a number of months and he thinks it's workable. **Action: Primi to add to July meeting agenda.**

5. Updates from the clergy

Corpus Christi went well. It's the first time in a long time we've had an actual procession and were blessed with the weather. Max thanked Fr David and said it was really enjoyable and put a nice stamp on the day.

Rob said the First Communions went well and it was great that it tied in with Youth 2000. People commented on how good it looked to have lots of young adults practising their faith so families inside the church saw what was happening.

Youth 2000 are thinking of doing another event in January. This time, most of the event will be in the church and they will only use the hall for breakout and eating.

6. Parish Community initiatives

On Wed 26 Jun the National Election Assembly of Merton Citizens will present Citizens Manifesto Angela Rayner and Oliver Dowden at Methodist Central Hall. There are likely to be over 2,000 people there. all are invited to attend but please advise David if interested. Those interested should also register here:

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/citizens-uk-general-election-accountability-assembly>. **Action: all**

7. Parish Social Life

(a) Welcome for "New Fr David"

Drinks and nibbles at the first PPC in September. **Action: Primi to add to agenda.**

(b) Fr Matthew's leaving do

Max has found a coordinator (Annette) and a few people in the YA house will take the lead on it. Any Friday night in September 20/27 **Action: Max to liaise with Annette and Thelma.**

(c) Feast of the Sacred Heart – this Sunday -

Ruth has sent an email round to 30-40 volunteers and there was a discussion about the setting up on Saturday and Sunday.

SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 6th June 2024 in the LOUNGE
MINUTES

(d) Christmas Lunch

This could be mentioned to Thelma after the Sacred Heart Feast and perhaps the team who did it last year might do it again. **Action: Canon David will discuss with Thelma after the feast.**

(e) Marriage enrichment day – creche

There's been an ad in the newsletter requesting volunteers. Canon David is not aware of any replies.

(f) New parishioners' welcome days –

Sunday 29th Sept 3pm has been confirmed. Ruth will shortly confirm the February 2025 date.

8. AOB

- Parking fines. Primi asked where the money goes. Canon David explained that it all goes to the company that runs the scheme to (Creative Parking) cover the cost of hardware (cameras, notices etc.) and administering the scheme. There were some comments about it being challenging for some parishioners who really struggle to remember to register their cars.

- It was requested that Primi add in "Finance" as a standing item in the agenda. **Action: Primi**

- Fr David explained that he has a meeting next Friday with the Jesuits' solicitor regarding the transfer of the premises to the Diocese.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 4th July in the Lounge.