

SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 4th JULY 2024 in the LOUNGE
MINUTES

<p>1. Welcome, opening prayer and apologies</p> <p>Rachel opened the meeting in prayer at 8.05pm. Present were: Ruth Naylor (Chair), Rachel Purvis, Jude Mariadoss, Christopher Woodward (for the Finance Committee), Sr Dorothy Perrott, Maria Christopher, Deacon Julian Burling, David Hurst, Primavera Moretti (taking minutes), Giovanni Peruzzo, Rob Hitchcock (Faith Minister). Apologies were received from Max Toone, Canon David Gibbon, Teresa Engley, Annette Campbell-Black, Siobhan Heffron, Fr Matthew Donnelly, Fr Jackson Sebastian. The PPC offered congratulations to Siobhan who had her baby last Thursday.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of last meeting</p> <p>With two minor amendments, the minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record and will shortly be posted on the website.</p> <p>Status on actions which will not be picked up in agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Website working group (Ruth) – Adam who hosts the website offered the opportunity to meet him to discuss how we could get more out of the website. Ruth is meeting him on Monday July 22nd at 2pm on Google Meets to see what is being offered and will then report back. Others are welcome to join if they wish to. Action: Ruth – and anyone who wants to attend the meeting who should ask Ruth for the link ● Updating fundraising messaging (Ruth) – Ruth has asked Thelma to print out the posters etc. and they will shortly be displayed around the church. There was a point about using stories in Edgeways to highlight generosity and parish giving, with an emphasis on people’s time and also what giving money achieves, moving away from ‘give us your money’ to ‘here’s what your money can achieve’. Action: Ruth. ● Church Parades for uniformed groups. Action: Parish Office to write to the leaders proposing the last Sunday of October before half term (20th October - or 13th October if that isn’t possible). <p>With reference to last meeting’s minutes, concerns were expressed by the whole PPC about the new parking arrangements. There was a suggestion since the system is necessary and probably can’t be changed, to set up a flashing sign at the car park exit saying ‘have you registered?’ The PPC would welcome the opportunity for a review at some point.</p>	

<p>3. Some Definite Service</p> <p>Feedback and comments on the SDS plan circulated by Primi were received from some people prior to the meeting. The document needs to go to the Diocese and they will have a meeting with the PP and the SDS volunteers. Rob said that it doesn't go far enough in expression our missional intention and we need to tie it more into where ++John is trying to lead the Diocese. For example, there is probably a lack of knowledge amongst parishioners about our faith and also about this programme. Primi asked if it is more a lack of manpower rather than ambition/understanding? It was agreed that the people of the parish do need more formation. Ruth pointed out that the aims of this document are quite 'granular' and 'specific' and could be greater. For example, it comments on hosting Youth 2000 events and maybe we should make this more about the YA community in Wimbledon, grouping the commitments together into related aims. Rob thought home/cell groups will start to bridge some of those gaps. David pointed out that we have been sharing information on the process with the parish through Edgeways and the newsletter. Primi asked how we could make this accessible for the average parishioner who might not be interested in the technical workings of the church/diocese. We agreed that we needed to have more conversations with individuals about what they're really interested in, while also tying it Action: hand it over to Fr David for final presentation to the Diocese.</p>	
<p>4. Parish Small Groups</p> <p>Referring back to Adrian Pinington's presentation and the SDS plan, we discussed what is required to trial small groups. We agreed that we should let the parish know what we're planning to do. It needs to be launched from the pulpit with a backup document, inviting people who'd like to get involved, and also approach people who might be suitable. The steering group should be pulled together by Canon David / the pastoral team and have a limited specific task of getting the pilot going. Action Canon David.</p>	

<p>5. Encouraging volunteering and PPC membership</p> <p>We had a review of recent discussions on how to encourage volunteers and current volunteering needs and how we can co-ordinate advertising these, including finding new members for the PPC. Ruth pointed out that this is a good moment to refresh/review PPC membership. There is an ad on the website with an open invitation but might be a good moment to have an ad in the newsletter. Action: Ruth to write role description for chair and deputy chair. Ruth has now been chair for 18 months and will have been for 2 years in December (when she originally said she'd do it for a year) so it's time to step down. The idea of the Deputy Chair position is to facilitate a handover period.</p> <p>Sacred Heart school has a priority of building links with the parish. James Bush has responsibility for this, which will include bringing the children to visit the church. Action: David Hurst to encourage James Bush to come to the next convenient PPC meeting.</p> <p>We discussed general volunteering. Chris will ask which organisations need new volunteers and then we can have a specific Sunday with an appeal from the pulpit so they can sign up people after Sunday masses and meet people physically (not just an ad in the newsletter or having an open day that they have to make an effort to go to). 13th October? Action: Primi add to September agenda. Chris will contact groups (in September) about turning up to the recruitment day. Primi to approach the groups re: DofE as per last meeting.</p>	
<p>6. Update from the Finance committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chris has a meeting with Praetorium (hall letting company) at the end of this week to discuss further possibilities. Action: Chris to report back at the next meeting. ● Upper Hall screen will cost £5-6k to replace. The Wimbledon Arts Groups (NADFAS) are the main users (they donated this one but it's getting quite old and tatty). It's not very safe either and can only be raised/lowered by George. Action: To be revisited. ● We are looking at installing solar panels on the upper hall roof which would run presbytery electrics and by storing the extra power in batteries can provide emergency lighting for the existing lights without having to put in another system. The cost of the emergency light system alone is similar to the cost of the solar panels, so this is quite an ingenious money and carbon-saving scheme. ● One of the Merton mental health groups would like to run a drop-in centre and the PPC have accepted this for a small contribution. ● Giovanni asked whether the finance committee could discuss sound insulation / acoustic improvements for the Lower Hall as it's really hard to hear in there. 	

<p>7. Parish Community initiatives</p> <p>Community Outreach - Merton Citizens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thu 25 Apr Citizens UK Mayoral Assembly at Methodist Central Hall attended by over 2000 citizens ● Mon 1 Jul Citizens UK Election Assembly at same venue + audience with Angela Rayner (Lab), Lord Newby (LibDem) Sara Gedzari (Con) ● Tue 2 Jul Citizens UK hosted Catholic Social Justice conference for 11 schools and 120 students (including Wimbledon College) with Cardinal Nichols and Raymond Friel (Caritas) ● summary of both events will be in July Edgeways <p>Parish Environment Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JP de Quay will host a meeting in September to attempt to revive this group, based on winning the 'Live Simply' award ● possible showing of the film, 'The Letter', about Laudato Si' ● RCAOS Peace & Justice group are planning events for Pope Francis's initiative, 'The Season of Creation' <p>Edgeways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dominic Cunliffe and James Potter (school chaplains) are asking the Duke of Edinburgh teachers for youth editor from each school ● Ursuline Prep School closes 11 July and the chair of governors has agreed to an article in September ● August Edgeways proposes Summer Fair photographs of three parish primary schools 	
<p>8. Parish Social Life</p> <p>(a) Fr Matthew's leaving do – date to be confirmed – Action: Ruth to follow up with Max/Thelma</p> <p>(b) Feast of the Sacred Heart (debrief) – Ruth has sent a comment form to the volunteers. They're 75% happy to do it again next year. The Headteacher of Sacred Heart School was very happy that the children got involved.</p> <p>(c) Christmas Lunch – Thelma was going to check in with the family who did it last year – Action: Ruth/Thelma – check with Canon David at meeting end July</p> <p>(d) Marriage enrichment day the question of whether we could offer a creche is with the parish office. No volunteers came forward in response to a request in the newsletter.</p> <p>(e) New parishioners' welcome tea – 29 September 2024 and 9 February 2025, both at 3pm in the Lounge – will also include people who didn't respond / couldn't make it. Action: Ruth and Chris to discuss before next PPC meeting. All to put in their diaries and do their best to be there to meet new parishioners.</p>	

<p>9. AOB</p> <p>(a) Ruth mooted the idea of a mini-retreat for the PPC and Chris pointed out it's a requirement. It will be a Saturday morning 9-1pm with a sandwich lunch in Sept/October ACTION David will look at dates when the Kairos Centre is available.</p> <p>(b) The PPC expressed thanks to Rob and Sr Dorothy for all the work they've done this year particularly making First Communion and Confirmation programmes so successful.</p> <p>(c) Julian reported that The Archbishop has decided that he wants a permanent deacon in every parish and has instated a Permanent Deacon day (14th July)</p> <p>(d) Could we have a leaflet / guide for how to do confession to help those who are less familiar or haven't been for a while. Action: Rob/Dorothy to find something suitable.</p>	
<p>10. Date of Next Meeting Thursday 5th SEPTEMBER in the Lounge (no August meeting)</p>	