

**SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday 6 February 2025 in the LOUNGE**  
**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome, opening prayer and apologies**

Present were: Jude Mariadoss, Sr Dorothy Perrott, Maria Christopher, Annette Campbell-Black, Teresa Engley, Deacon Julian Burling, David Hurst (in the chair), Primavera Moretti (taking minutes), Canon David Gibbons, Max Toone and Rob Hitchcock (Faith Minister). Apologies were received from Rachel Purvis, Siobhan Heffron, Christopher Woodward, Fr David Hunter, Fr Jackson Sebastian. Apologies were also received from Giovanni Peruzzo who has moved away from the parish and therefore resigned from the PPC. Observing were: Graham Kennedy, Nina Beltran, James Bush (Catholic Ethos Lead at Sacred Heart School), Tanya Bastian (Interim deputy Head at Sacred Heart School); Veronique Furse, Bridget Handley and Nick Furse.

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record and will be posted on the website shortly.

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

- a. Parish Google Account (Rob) – still working on it.
- b. Dementia Group (Canon David) – an ad has been placed in the newsletter for a paid post.
- c. Thanking Barbara Visy (for work on newsletter) – an official thank you of a bunch of flowers was sent.

**3. Be well Hub.**

Graham Kennedy explained that a 'Be Well Hub' is a safe place for people who want advice or to talk about their mental health. It is supported by Merton Citizens and NHS England as an initiative to make mental health services more accessible by signposting people to local services (GP, Wimbledon Guild etc.). Graham will present a proposal to the PPC in March asking whether the parish is interested in becoming recognised again as a Be Well Hub. There's a concern that we might not be able to find enough volunteers to sustain this, especially as the level of potential demand is unknown - an Anglican parish in Mitcham gets about 20 people a month. Volunteers would be trained by S London and Maudsley NHS Trust. **Action: Graham to present report on Be Well Hubs next meeting.**

**4. Family Mass Music**

Giles Kennedy and Rachel Marshall spoke to the PPC a year ago to talk about the children's liturgy and family mass and came to give an update. They are making progress on getting children involved. The choir is going well – last Sunday there were 12, 15 sometimes but sometimes only 3 turn up, which can be a problem in terms of continuity. There are new servers which is great and means the sanctuary is fuller. **Action: Rob to organise for Annabel would go and speak to the first communion children about becoming altar servers.** When Rachel invites children to join the choir at 9.50, it's very quiet – most people haven't arrived yet. Rachel and Giles would love to have a more formal arrangement where there would be time to practise with them. It was agreed this was a good idea and parents could be encouraged to sign their children up for it and bring them at 9.30 so they can practise. Badges or stickers, like the St Stephen's medals for altar servers would also be encouraging. Tanya suggested reinforcing this with house points etc. (for children at Sacred Heart School) if they

turn up – it's important that they earn it and these rewards would come from the church not the school. We could get some badges made. Sr Dorothy made a plea that children from all schools feel equally included. **Action: Rachel and Tanya to speak directly about formalising the choir and rewarding children who take part.**

Rachel pointed out how helpful it is when the homily is directed to the children is it really holds their attention. Canon David asked for the list of when the liturgy is on so he knows what to prepare each week. The Children's liturgy will be every week in Lent. Rachel made a plea for a bit of the sermon to be in child-friendly language that sparks their attention. It's great to see children welcoming and giving out hymn books, doing the collection. Offertory is happening on alternate weeks when they're not out. When the school comes, the children from the school do the offertory and also read (very well). **Action: Sr Dorothy to ensure that Canon David has the list of when the liturgies are.**

## 5. Sacred Heart School

Year 4 Group visited the church as part of the RE topic of Community. They've been learning about the Parish Groups and why they are important. Fr David, Paul and Rob spoke about their different roles. Tanya explained that the aim is for each year group to visit during the course of the year. Their last Section 48 RE inspection picked up that the link with the parish needed strengthening so this is a focus for this year. Tanya shared a handout about a Jubilee year plan. The school are keen to raise numbers as they have capacity for twice as many children in reception. The school choir will be singing in the church on 16<sup>th</sup> March. Cathy Roger does a singing assembly at the school, but she's cut down her hours so Tanya requested that she has a bit more autonomy in choosing the songs so she can use ones that the children have already had time to practise. Canon David said that the music during communion could be something that isn't in the hymn book. Rob is happy to sit in on the conversations around choosing the music and Tanya and Rachel will also liaise. **Action: Tanya to liaise with Rachel Marshall as above.**

## 6. Updates from Canon David and Rob

- a. Small Groups (Parish) – Ann Waldron is going to start a pilot group in Lent.
- b. Called to Bear Fruit – Veronique Furse asked how we can help the parishioners to form groups. Canon David said it was fine to put something in the newsletter suggesting people in a particular area might like to get together and give a contact name. Bridget also added that we need to be more active about it as she feels this is an important opportunity. There is not much time as it has to be in for 6<sup>th</sup> April. Canon David explained that the parish priests have been explicitly told not to form the groups or to comment. Canon David has put something in the newsletter. Primi suggested doing something through the school and pointed out that we also want to hear from people who aren't that involved in the church. Rob knows one or two groups have already formed and are having discussions. David pointed out the groups can still continue after the deadline so long as they submit their answers by 6<sup>th</sup> April. David agreed to be a point of contact to put people in contact with each other. It was noted that these groups could be known as a 'fruit group' or a 'bunch'. **Action: David to put note in the newsletter offering to coordinate anyone who wants to join a group**
- c. Some Definite Service – Rob is in meetings about this. Giovanni was the parish lead for formation.
- d. Youth Groups – The 'Pocket of Disciples' Youth Group, or POD is now in its third week and has five members so far. Rob is looking for more manpower. Primi pointed out that if the group is for 14-18 it might appeal more to teens to advertise it that way, involving sixth formers in the running of it, rather than 'year 9 and above' which will be a turn off to anyone over 15.

e. Halls Committee – following from John Paul De Quay’s comments on some of the issues he found in using the hall, Canon David is keen to set up a committee including Thelma, George, someone from PPC, someone from finance and a hall user, to meet 4 times a year to discuss any issues and help with the smooth running of the hall for example, if a hall user needed to collect the key, one of the committee might be available. Chris circulated some draft Terms of Reference (see Appendix).

## 7. PPC succession planning (co-opting new members etc.)

Primavera Moretti offered her resignation as from 1<sup>st</sup> May. David Hurst offered his as from June, but offered to chair until June (apart from March when Rachel Purvis has already offered). Following the Christmas lunch, Graham Kennedy has a list of ten people who would like to get more involved. Veronique Furse pointed out that people need to be asked. **Action: Graham to approach the ten potential volunteers. All to think about people who could be encouraged to join.**

## 8. PPC Mini Retreat

The PPC retreat was due to happen on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February but several people now can’t make that date. It was felt that it would be more productive once we had co-opted some new members onto the PPC. **Action: David to contact Kairos to postpone it and find a suitable date before June with Canon David**

## 9. Jubilee 2025

One group of pilgrims from the Jesuit Missions is booked in so far on Weds 26<sup>th</sup> Feb as part of a wider thing involving Jesuit schools. Canon David will suggest a Deanery Pilgrimage to Sacred Heart.

David H explained that John Paul de Quay, who lectures at parishes about sustainability, has suggested creating a jubilee prayer garden with a trail laid out with leaf-shaped signs communicating in simple language about Pope’s encyclical *Laudato Si’*. Ursuline Prep have funds arising from sale of the school and are inviting applications for funding for ‘Catholic Education’ before 25<sup>th</sup> March. Tanya agreed that the school could get involved, for example, children from Sacred Heart School could design it (or bits of it). The Papal Nuncio is visiting on 29<sup>th</sup> June for the Parish Feast and could be invited ceremonially to dig the first spadeful. **Action: David H to apply for funding and liaise with JP de Quay**

## 10. Parish Community initiatives

Merton Citizens are having a celebration (including food and music) on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at Trinity Church on the Broadway and David has twelve invitations. Members of the PPC were strongly encouraged to attend. **Action: ALL to check diaries and let David H know if they can come.**

## 11. Parish Social Life

a. Christmas Lunch. There was a mixture of about 80 people including families, people on their own etc. It was worth doing. The mayor didn’t come this year. There were some people from outside the parish. Graham was impressed with the sponsors and how much they give the parish e.g. the caterers (who work in an old people’s home) paid for the food and gave a donation for drinks as well. Waitrose also gave £1k. And there were other donations as well. In future we should be clear about who it’s really for and who we’re targeting as it should really be for people in need (who either can’t afford it or are alone or have other problems). David H wondered if we should go out to people to specifically invite them. Teresa said the organisers had contacted everyone who’d been the year before. Tanya says the school has a family engagement officer so they

would know which families might not be able to afford a decent Christmas dinner and would welcome an invitation. David suggested approaching Christian Care and Merton Citizens. Canon David was concerned that we shouldn't over-reach our capacity - 80 was capacity this time, but others recalled that numbers had been over 100 in the past.

- b. Social committee – there was nothing to report at this point.
- c. New parishioners' welcome tea 9<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm. Annette can help with the catering. **Action: As many PPC members to come as possible. Please bring cake and let Annette know and make sure you bring them before 3pm!**
- d. Thank-you party for volunteers Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May Upper Hall. 7.30pm after the 6.30pm mass. It will be a bring and share event. The parish will provide the drinks to say thank you. Tanya has suggested that the school staff can bring children to help (as part of their mission week). **Action: Annette to liaise with Thelma and with Tanya**
- e. Sacred Heart Feast Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Ruth Naylor has agreed to organise it this year. We are going to be better at taking donations this year. This is also the feast of St Peter and St Paul and the Nuncio will come to celebrate mass.
- f. YOUTH 2000 Retreat Day. Max reported on the retreat which happened on 25<sup>th</sup> January. It was a pleasant day with 200 people there. Talks from various different speakers. The Archbishop presided at mass and gave a great homily. A lot of young people from further afield asked to live in the house at no.9. We want to encourage more local parishioners to come. It's hard to know who is actually from the parish. Maybe 30-50% were from Southwark Diocese and others from further afield. Thank you to Canon David for allowing the event to happen. Youth 2000 offers peer-to-peer ministry. The event had talks followed by small groups. The people from no.9 enabled it to happen. It helps people who are thinking more about their faith to consider going deeper. The Archbishop asked if it could be an annual thing. He's a patron of the charity and very supportive. Sr Dorothy said it gave a very good impression to the rest of the parish being reminded that there are lots of young Catholics getting involved in things. A number of parishioners came to the mass and adoration in the evening. The PPC Congratulated Max on a successful event.

## 12. AOB

- a. Sacred Heart primary school news – Lorraine Dolan-Walsh has resigned as she needs to spend more time with her family. Interviews for the new head will be on 5/6 March.
- b. Night shelter is on at the moment.
- c. Teresa said someone messaged her about mentioning the Jubilee Year in bidding prayers. **ACTION Sr Dorothy will put a mention of the Jubilee Year in the bidding prayers from time to time.**
- d. Teresa also mentioned that she'd been messaged about the prayer for the spiritual communion which is no longer recited at the 10am steamed daily mass. Canon David explained this is because you would be denying the real presence. It was allowed to be said during Covid as a special concession. Max suggested putting the prayer on the website so people can find it while they're watching. **Action: Max to contact Paul Davis to ask him to put the prayer on the website.**
- e. Max has been leading the house at no.9 for a while and the average age of the house has changed so Max is now stepping down. William Morris will be taking over it – he's a teacher at Wimbledon College. The new leader should be in attendance at the PPC. David H has offered to talk to the house about what the Parish needs in the way of volunteers. Max explained that once the committee has reformed they might have capacity to think about this.

- f. David H has been approached by Care for Calais who need some things (trainers, joggers, oyster cards) and asked if it would be possible to do a collection on just one Sunday. Canon David agreed to this so long as there was no requirement to store any of the items collected as storage space is becoming in a issue. Tanya said the school could also do this as a mission activity. **Action: David H to send Tanya details of what Care for Calais need.**
- g. Graham Kennedy explained that he had been thinking about ways to raise awareness of all the groups that people can belong to as there are so many different ones. He wants to produce a 'wheel of opportunity' showing all the groups and the volunteering/social opportunities they provide. He asked fi the school would like to be involved in the design. Canon David said we need to check what info people receive when they register currently. **Action: Graham to produce the 'Wheel of Opportunity' in consultation with groups**

### 13. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March in the Lounge to be chaired by Rachel Purvis (Thank you)

#### APPENDIX

#### DRAFT

#### SACRED HEART CHURCH WIMBLEDON HALLS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. MEMBERSHIP
  - a. Executive Assistant for managing lettings
  - b. Caretaker
  - c. A representative from regular users of the halls
  - d. A member of the Finance Committee
  - e. ? a member of the Parish Pastoral Council
2. DUTIES
  - a. To support and advise the Executive Assistant and Caretaker on issues arising from day-to-day matters by email exchange.
  - b. To make recommendations to the Finance Committee on major maintenance items and equipment and furniture purchases.
  - c. To undertake an annual review of the Halls' Letting regulations and arrangements.
  - d. To investigate maximising the use of the halls to aid parish income.
  - e. To suggest to the Parish Priest other areas of activities in which the Committee could be of assistance.
3. MEETINGS
  - a. Formal meetings to be held as needed but at least 3 times a year.
  - b. Agenda items to be sent to the Executive Assistant for circulating 5 days in advance of a meeting.
  - c. The chair to be either a member from 1 c, d or e above, serving by rotation a year at a time.
  - d. A brief minute of recommendations arising from meetings to be sent to the Parish Priest and Finance Committee.