

SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 3rd April 2025 in the LOUNGE at 8pm

MINUTES

Rachel Purvis, Jude Mariadoss, Christopher Woodward (for the Finance Committee), Sr Dorothy Perrott, Teresa Engley, Maria Christopher, Deacon Julian Burling, David Hurst (in the chair), Primavera Moretti (taking minutes), Fr David Hunter, Canon David Gibbons, Rob Hitchcock (Faith Minister), Graham Kennedy. Observing were James Bush and Tanya Bastian from Sacred Heart School. Apologies were received from Siobhan Heffron, Fr Jackson Sebastian, Max Toone, Annette Campbell-Black, Nina Beltran and Jose Garibaldi, William Morris.

1. Welcome, opening prayer and apologies

Rachel opened the meeting in prayer at 20.05.

2. Minutes of last meeting

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

Canon David confirmed that we're getting two portable handheld card readers which can be used at Continental Breakfast, Reception etc. as discussed last month.

3. Updates from Canon David and Rob

- a) Parish Google account – Rob has managed to claim the Parish Google account so the church is now open on Sundays and Rob has added in times of confession etc. We have 4.8 stars over 227 reviews.
- b) Dementia group – a new leader has been appointed. We're just waiting for DBS checks etc. and that person will start. The director of Caritas Southwark will be their line manager.
- c) Halls committee – Maria has agreed to represent the PPC. Jesus Velasco will chair it.
- d) Youth groups – POD is still in early stages. Exam season (and nice weather) has arrived so attendance is dropping. Rob will start to invite the current confirmation group. Jude and his wife are very involved, but it would be good to have more people involved.
- e) Some Definite Service – we still need to find a replacement Parish Lead for Formation. Sycamore Lent group has just finished and has been very well received. Rob would like to see what other areas of formation people might be interested in. One idea is a course on church history.
- f) Be Well Hub – Have formed a steering group and held the first meeting and laid out what needs to be done to bring the hub to life. They need more resources/funding to be effective – progressing this. Piece in newsletter to ask for someone with an interest in wellbeing who is looking for work experience. [Graham to add Job Description to the minutes] Caritas might be able to put some funding towards it. Fr Jackson is enthusiastic about it. Graham and Fr J have been on the community organising training run by citizens UK yesterday and today. This explained how to really understand what members of any community (the parish) really care about and to build communities around the things they really care about. This could be applied to other fields e.g. it could be useful for Rob to bring formation to life. The training is free usually held at King's College London. But if there were enough people (4/5+) in the parish they'd come and do it here. There's a Be Well Hub training programme – Graham, Fr J and Anthony lee are booked on it – equip with skills to talk to people about mental health and become mental Health Champions. Aspirational launch date of 1st Sunday in May around Continental Breakfast (potentially a soft launch). Key thing needed to start with is to

understand parishioners' needs re: mental wellbeing. The bigger opportunity – we could ask what more they would like us to do e.g. evangelisation, catechesis, faith formation, pastoral care more broadly. We can understand who might be interested in forming groups and put together a programme to address those issues.

4. PPC matters

- a) Constitution -Canon David would like to see the PPC focus more on pastoral care, evangelisation and catechesis. There are some inaccuracies in the constitution for example the Parish Priest is the President, but not a member. It says 'one member of the parish team' should attend but we have most of them attending and this is helpful. The parish team are in attendance, not members. **Action: Canon David**
- b) Co-opting Nina Beltran, William Morris and Graham Kennedy. Canon David wants to defer any decisions until the PPC constitution is recast. It was agreed it would be helpful to clarify the handover from Max to William –we weren't clear whether Max is intending to stay on the PPC or William will be replacing him. **Action: Max**
- c) Mini retreat – now rebooked for 27th September 2025.

5. Parish Community initiatives (David Hurst)

- a) Merton Citizens issues update: see press release after 27 February 'Celebration'
- b) All PPC are invited to observe the next Merton Citizens Leader' Meeting to be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 1 April at Mitcham Parish Church. Please let David know if you wish to attend.
- c) Merton Citizens new members: St Matthew's Church, Rev Alistair Newman, and Merton Centre for Independent Living, Pippa Maslin
- d) Merton Citizens 'Be Well Hub' update by Graham Kennedy
- e) Citizens UK half day training attended by Fr Jackson and Graham Kennedy
- f) 6.00pm Wednesday 9 April: Faith & Climate Action, Merton Civic Centre
- g) 6.00pm Thursday 24 April: Faith & Belief Forum, Merton Civic Centre
- h) 7.00pm Wednesday 23 April: Merton Citizens Leaders' Meeting. Observers welcome
- i) Marymount School awareness building via Edgeways articles

6. Parish Social Life

- a) Social committee – progressing slowly. **Action: Canon David**
- b) New parishioners' welcome tea: 9th March at 3pm (debrief) – a few members attended. It was a nice occasion and some good conversations were had. Rachel was approached by Chris Barker who'd been to the event who asked would there be any interested in producing a visitors' guide to the church – he had produced one for another parish. Julian explained that part of the work involved in the fundraising initiative would be to update the existing one. **Action: Rachel to reply** Sunday 8th June at 3pm is fixed for date of the next new parishioners' tea. **Action: David will check the booking with Thelma.**
- c) Thank-you party for volunteers: Saturday 10th May Upper Hall after 6.30pm mass. Bring a plate. **Action: All**
- d) Sacred Heart Feast Sunday 29th June. Canon David has already had a meeting with Ruth and Thelma. 1pm start.

7. AOB

- a) Update on Parish Appeal – Diocese has finally been able to take over the premises/land – transfer from SJ to Diocese has been completed. The architect is now conducting a quinquennial inspection. Canon David wants to add in any repairs and redecoration and improve the lighting. This will all be costed and work out whether we need a big fundraising appeal. All those funds are still held in deposits. Teresa pointed out that the speaker system might also need looking at. Deacon Julian will probably chair a fundraising committee.
- b) Parish organisations booklet – Matteo has updated the parish organisations booklet. Graham questioned whether all group leaders have given their permission to use their contact details. He is checking/updating all the records and working with Paul to ensure that the details on the website match this information. Chris is officially handing it over to Graham. The list (in whatever format) must be kept up to date and sent out with new registrations. Graham suggested getting RCAOS email addresses for each group. If the leader changes, the email address would stay the same. The SH School children will put this information into a 'wheel of opportunity'. Tanya and James clarified with Graham and David what is required so that it can be ready for 29th June. The educational benefits are for the children to understand how the parish works and all the groups that make up a parish. Children to launch the wheel at SH Feast on 29th June. **Action: Graham, Tanya and James**
- c) Scams Talk on Weds 2nd April was very good but only six people came.
- d) James has worked out how to get funding for the prayer garden at SH School and children are keen to do prayers there. The school is trying to work out how to improve it (such as putting school values on the board and returfing it). James wondered if any parishioners would be happy to be involved. **Action: Tanya to write a piece for the newsletter.**
- e) Primi's last meeting. The PPC thanked Primi for her hard work and gave her a lovely clematis plant and a bottle of wine. Rachel agreed to act as temporary secretary. **Action: Primi to hand over to Rachel**

8. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 1st May in the Lounge – to be chaired by David Hurst.

A reminder that David's last meeting as chair will be 5th June.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thank-you party for volunteers: Saturday 10th May

PPC Meeting: Thursday 5th June

Sacred Heart Feast: Sunday 29th June

PPC Meeting: Thursday 3rd July

PPC Meeting: Thursday 4th September

PPC Retreat: Saturday 27th September

PPC Meeting: Thursday 2nd October

PPC Meeting: Thursday 6th November

PPC Meeting: Thursday 4th December