



Sacred Heart Wimbledon Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of PPC Meeting
Thursday 4 December 2025 at 8pm

Members in attendance

The PPC members present were William Morris (*in the Chair*), Canon David Gibbons (*Parish Priest*), Fr Edwin Raj (*Assistant Priest*), Deacon Julian Burling, Sr Dorothy Perrott, Rob Hitchcock (*Faith Minister*), Jerric Chong (*PPC Secretary*), James Bush, Maria Christopher, Teresa Engley, Jose Garibaldi, Henry Gates, Siobhán Heffron (*attending virtually*), Graham Kennedy, Jude Mariadoss, Rachel Purvis, Peter Taylor and Chris Woodward.

Tom Rolfe attended as an observer.

1. Welcome and opening prayer

The PPC met at 8:03pm in the Lounge.

William, as Chair, thanked Rachel for her contribution to the work of the PPC, latterly as Secretary. A gift and card were presented to Rachel on behalf of the PPC.

Jerric was introduced as Secretary of the PPC, succeeding Rachel.

The opening prayer was said by William.

2. Attendance and apologies

Apologies were received from Fr Peter Mudu Frank and Nina Beltran.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous PPC meeting, held on Thursday 6 November 2025, were accepted as an accurate record, to be uploaded on the parish website.

4. **Updates from the Parish Priest (Canon David)**

The mission with the Redemptorists has been booked for 20 to 24 September 2027 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the parish's establishment.

Copies of 'Called to Bear Fruit', the archdiocese's consultation on mission, was distributed to PPC members.

A meeting with the architect has taken place. A scheme for minor works has been drawn up, mostly involving external things, such as restoring the pavers outside the church that have come loose, replacing missing railings, etc. This is currently looking to be fast-tracked, and there are funds available. The architect is also drawing up a programme for all necessary repairs, including cleaning the stations, the rood, and the St Ignatius paintings. A new sound system and lighting scheme has been proposed, which has been costed at £100k. Maintenance work was costed some years ago at £1.7m. The total cost is now about £2.5m to £3m. There are funds, but fundraising will be needed.

Doing the maintenance work in one big bundle is better so that people can notice the difference more easily, and so that the architect can draw up a programme so that scaffolding can be used for multiple projects in a cost-effective way. Regulatory approval needed from various bodies, but there is no clear start date at yet. The idea is to get most of the work done by December 2027, so that a celebration can be held on 8 December (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception). Fr Peter Gallagher SJ has expressed a possibility of the Jesuits contributing financially to the maintenance work.

5. **Updates from the Faith Minister (Rob Hitchcock)**

Catechesis is going well. There are 60 candidates for confirmation at present, with another 20 to 25 expected to sign up. The number has been steady in Rob's time at Sacred Heart, but used to be higher in years past. Rob has also received enquiries from first-year university students about the faith. Applications close in January, with a view of starting classes in January going to summer.

Prayer & a Pint is popular – one attendee comes all the way from Uxbridge every month.

Rob is helping with charity fundraising, with information in next weekend's newsletter.

Rob's school work going well. Confirmation applications are not widely advertised in schools, but it has not usually been necessary because there is already a large cohort. Wimbledon College's catchment area extends beyond Sacred Heart's parish boundaries, so this might impinge on other parishes. The chaplains of Wimbledon College (James Potter) and Ursuline High School Wimbledon (Dominic Cunliffe) are aware of the problem of Sacred Heart seeming to 'pinch' children from other parishes – deanery joined-up thinking is needed. Sister Dorothy noted that other parishes have

different arrangements for confirmation programmes, e.g. for different year groups, and that many Catholic children do not attend Catholic schools.

A Merton Deanery clergy meeting will occur on Tuesday; Canon David agreed to bring up this matter at that meeting, with Fr Edwin reminding him to do so.

6. **Be Well Hub** (Graham Kennedy)

The report on the Be Well Hub received from Graham (cf. email dated 3 December). The aim is to relaunch Be Well activities on Sunday 11 January around continental breakfast, starting with once a month.

The plan is rather dependent on volunteers getting enhanced DBS checks, but only four enhanced DBS checks would be needed to relaunch. Volunteers have asked for a space in the parish lounge to hold well-being conversations, etc. Chris Elliott, a retired GP, has agreed to review the guidelines for correctness and be part of the Be Well steering group.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School has designed a new logo for the Be Well Hub (cf. Graham's report).

7. **Planned Giving Appeal** (Chris Woodward)

There was a proposal to add candles to donation tablets at the rear of the church. Antonia (the Dona AI assistant) has suggested increasing default donation amounts, as well as adding ten (!) more tablets in light of the size of the congregation. It was suggested that the placement of the tablets could be reorganised, as queues of donors form after popular Masses.

A suggestion was made to pass around a card-reader collection plate during Mass, but this might be unhelpful for children who already struggle with handling offertory baskets. According to Antonia (Dona AI), each of our donation tablets is used 484 per cent more than the average. There is already a card reader at breakfast after Mass – it has taken in three times more than it normally would.

William noted that paying by QR code at the parish fête was very helpful re donation opportunities.

8. **Halls Committee** (Maria Christopher and Chris Woodward)

The Finance Committee has agreed to work to take place in the Upper Hall kitchen and to replace the curtains in the hall. The Edge Hill Players have agreed to contribute to replace the curtains. The floor would cost about £15k to replace – it used to be resealed annually but this no longer takes place. The previous caretaker treated the floor with water, which was detrimental.

9. **Some Definite Service** (Nina Beltran)

Nina has agreed to become the Parish Lead for Formation. Rob has agreed to be her point of contact.

10. **Parish social life**

A subcommittee has been formed for the Parish Dinner to take place on Friday 13 February 2026, with notices going in the newsletter. More contributors would be welcome. Donations have been solicited from restaurants. There is the possibility of buying a whole table. The ticket price has not yet been agreed, but will be in the range of £80.

Chris noted that an alternative to raffle could be an auction, provided that a suitable auctioneer is found and there are high-stakes prizes. **Agreed:** that a notice be placed in the newsletter to contribute prizes.

11. **Sacred Heart School**

Sacred Heart School has created a logo for the Be Well Hub.

Sarah Norville, the new headteacher of Sacred Heart School, has agreed to join a PPC meeting in the new year. **Agreed:** that Rachel write to Sarah to invite her formally to attend a PPC meeting.

12. **AOB**

The PPC mini-retreat has been confirmed for Saturday 21 March, beginning with Mass at 10am and concluding by 1pm.

William raised the matter of the parish's social-media presence. Having spoken to Matteo Baccaglini (editor of the newsletter), we need to substantially increase social-media presence and update the church website, making it a better-updated service. It was noted that 'Called to Bear Fruit' asks us to contemplate what the 'front door' to the parish will be. It was further noted that cathedrals are now employing full-time social-media managers; for example, Nottingham Cathedral sees more than two million monthly views. **Agreed:** that Matteo and William form a 'mini subcommittee' to come up with ideas and present by the February PPC meeting in time for Lent and Easter.

Canon David remarked that more subcommittees could be created, in a similar vein to subcommittees of boards of governors. In addition to PPC members, these subcommittees could also co-opt members and report back from time to time (e.g. on Some Definite Service). This would further the PPC's role in supporting Canon David as parish priest. Graham remarked that there has been lots of action coming from

subcommittees, which is an improvement. **Agreed:** that ideas for subcommittees be sent to William.

Jude raised the matter of the existing PPC WhatsApp group chat, of which Teresa is the admin. The WhatsApp group chat includes some but not all PPC members. Although email is the main channel of communication for the PPC, WhatsApp might be an easier platform to use than email, and communities can host multiple channels for possible subcommittees and can be used to communicate urgent matters. There is, however, a danger that information is split over multiple channels. **Agreed:** that the status quo be maintained, with email to remain the main channel of communication, but PPC members may join the WhatsApp group if desired.

Henry introduced the parish evangelization heatmap (cf. attachment in email dated 3 December). The idea is to 'segregate' the congregation into different demographic categories, and look at CFE (catechesis, formation, evangelization) strategies for each group and evaluate the effectiveness of those strategies. The heatmap allows an at-a-glance overview of what we are doing for each group and inform next steps for evangelization. Versions of the plan can be sent to PPC members to start populating squares, with a simplified version initially shared. Henry will convert this into a questionnaire to inform populating the heatmap. The PPC will populate heatmap collectively, unless the PPC is not thought to be a demographically representative sample of the parish. **Agreed:** that PPC members look at the simplified version for discussion at the next meeting.

Siobhan raised the matter of the parish appeal for Christmas hampers – there have been a couple of meetings, and 25 hampers have been put together.

Chris remarked that, as president of the SVP group, most referrals used to be from regular visitations in the parish, but this is no longer the case. An item could be placed in school newsletters to reach out to families in need.

Graham has had various conversations with the Alexandra, the pub next to Wimbledon station – they offer a free Christmas lunch to people who live alone. People in need could be referred to them as an alternative in light of the cancelled parish Christmas lunch. Rob remarked that there have not been many calls enquiring about the lunch, but there have instead been offers of help to organise it.

13. Closing prayer and date of next meeting

The closing prayer was said by Canon David. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 8 January 2026 at 8pm in the Lounge.

Forthcoming meetings and events

- **Thursday 8 January 2026 at 8pm – PPC meeting (Lounge)**
- **Thursday 5 February 2026 at 8pm – PPC meeting (Lounge)**
- **Friday 13 February 2026 at 7pm – Parish Dinner (Upper Hall)**
- **Thursday 5 March 2026 at 8pm – PPC meeting (Youth Room)**
- **Saturday 21 March 2026 at 10am – PPC mini-retreat**
- **Thursday 2 April 2026 at 8pm – PPC meeting (Lounge)**
- **Thursday 7 May 2026 at 8pm – PPC meeting (Lounge)**
- **Thursday 4 June 2026 at 8pm – PPC meeting (Lounge)**
- **Thursday 2 July 2026 at 8pm – PPC meeting (Lounge)**
- *No PPC meeting in August 2026*
- **Thursday 3 September 2026 at 8pm – PPC meeting (Lounge)**
- **Thursday 1 October 2026 at 8pm – PPC meeting (Lounge)**
- **Thursday 5 November 2026 at 8pm – PPC meeting (Lounge)**
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