



Sacred Heart Wimbledon Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of PPC Meeting
Thursday 7 May 2026 at 8pm

Members in attendance

The PPC members present were Will 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*), Graham Kennedy, Jude Mariadoss, Peter Taylor and Chris Woodward.

1. Welcome and opening prayer

The PPC met at 8:05pm in the Lounge.

Will, in the Chair, opened the meeting with the Prayer for Generosity attributed to St Ignatius of Loyola.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Fr Peter Mudu Frank, Nina Beltran, Annette Campbell Black, Maria Christopher, Teresa Engley, Jose Alberto Garibaldi and Henry Gates.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft minutes of the previous PPC meeting, held on Thursday 5 March 2026, were accepted as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising beyond those discussed under the items below.

5. Parish website

Subsequent to a PPC motion brought last year by Will, on updating the parish website, Rob has formed a small committee to consider the matter. The committee consists of the parish's Some Definite Service team (Rob, Jude and Nina), Will as the chair of the PPC, and Chris as a representative of the Finance Committee, with Rob and Will taking the lead.

Three organisations have been identified and approached:

- Peter's House (a Catholic media agency)
- Hubb (our current provider)
- Glow (who have recently done the Archdiocese of Southwark website)

Having met with all three organisations, the committee discarded Peter's House for reasons of cost. They quoted a price of £32,000, which would include lots of add-ons that the parish may need, but could source through other means if needed.

The committee are in long consultations with Hubb and Glow, which have each proposed ideas for the website. The committee intend to present a plan to both organisations and ask each organisation to create a mock-up based on the plan, then decide which organisation to choose based on the mock-ups.

The committee met with Hubb this evening and Glow about three weeks ago. Although the meeting with Hubb was impressive, they are nonetheless the parish's current provider, and it was felt that the website has not been in an ideal state so far. Hubb would be able to employ drone videography to make the website feel as if you were walking into the parish, and provide in-house services instead of a third-party database-management system like ChurchSuite. Even though the committee have not formally asked Glow, there is no reason that they could not also use drone footage for the website, and they are more open about integration with ChurchSuite. Working with either Hubb or Glow would be significantly cheaper than with Peter's House.

The aim of the project is to have a redesigned website in place for the parish's 150th anniversary in 2027. Having it done professionally would be a robust long-term solution, and the organisations approached are Christian organisations that understand the nature of parish life.

Chris stressed the importance of having a document to record ideas and objectives for what the parish wants in a website, so that the same specification can be presented to both organisations and to solicit a clear response from them. Graham seconded Chris's point and raised the possibility of adding other points of view to the website, e.g. from a Be Well perspective.

Will said that it has been raised in meetings with both organisations that Sacred Heart is a dynamic parish, and parish groups would want to have access to the website. Both organisations have offered training on updating the website, and also warned that

there ought to be a select few webmasters accountable to a single person, to ensure that the website does not deteriorate and continues to run well – analogously to how a bookshelf needs a librarian to ensure that books are being replaced where they are meant to be. The webmaster would be in charge of updating the website possibly on a weekly basis.

One consideration for whichever organisation is chosen is that the parish should develop a close relationship with them, and they could check in every six months or so to see e.g. how the website is working or whether there are any challenges. This would help keep the website as up to date as possible.

A benefit of going with Glow is that they have an established relationship with ChurchSuite, and integrating ChurchSuite with the website would allow updates to be applied automatically. Canon David noted that Glow consulted very widely when they developed a new website for the Archdiocese of Southwark, including with him when he was then director of formation for the Archdiocese. Glow has also developed the websites for St George's Cathedral and Nottingham Cathedral, and they understand the diocesan vision of missionary disciples and parish renewal. Will noted that the Diocese of Nottingham in particular is experiencing a renaissance in terms of their online presence.

Rob asked PPC members to pass any further thoughts regarding to the parish website to the committee, and agreed to create an online form to allow members to submit ideas.

Jude highlighted the importance of an active communications team in the parish moving forwards. This team could include Matteo Baccaglini (newsletter editor) and other interested parishioners.

Jerric enquired about whether the parish would definitely be moving forward with using ChurchSuite. Will answered that ChurchSuite would not necessarily be something that the parish will adopt, but he had personally found it reliable and user-friendly; many parishes (both Anglican/Protestant and Catholic) already use it, being specifically designed for Christian communities. Integrating a third-party system like ChurchSuite from a different provider, instead of Hubb's in-house system, could be better for resilience (e.g. we could still retain database access even if the website is down).

The 'absolute deadline' towards which the committee are working is the parish's 150th anniversary in 2027, especially the Pontifical Mass on 8 December with the Archbishop.

6. Pastoral care (including update on the Be Well Hub)

Rob reported that the young people's First Holy Communion Masses are this weekend and next, and asked for prayers for the children, as well as his team of catechists.

Sr Dorothy reported that the RCIA programme is going well, and the sessions will carry on until the end of June (with July and August off).

Graham reported that the Be Well Hub continues to grow steadily. Just under 20 parish staff and volunteers have been trained as Be Well Champions. A programme of talks to launch in June has been circulated; he is working with Matteo to promote these talks through the parish newsletter.

The Be Well Hub has been noticed outside the parish, and has received an invitation to the South West London Mental Health Conference on 19 May, to be part of a panel on faith and mental health. Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster, has invited Graham to a collaborative meeting on 12 May to explore how others might learn from what Sacred Heart are doing – there could be some useful ‘cross-pollination’ across dioceses here. Our Lady Immaculate, Tolworth, in the Archdiocese of Southwark, has expressed interest in also becoming a recognised Be Well Hub; they are located near a mental-health hospital and as such have quite a few people dropping in. Graham has also been invited to join a Be Well steering group for Merton. Will spoke briefly about the parish Be Well Hub at the Merton Citizens assembly held on 27 April at Wimbledon College.

At Fr Peter’s instigation, a leaflet has been drafted to advertise the parish Be Well Hub and to signpost what support is available through it for a wide range of potential issues. The leaflet, designed by Matteo and checked by Victoria Wheatley, needs approval from Canon David, particularly regarding references to contacting the parish office. If approved, copies of the leaflet could begin to be handed out on Sunday at breakfast, and made available at the back of the church.

Sr Dorothy said that it was good have to mini-biographies of forthcoming speakers for the Be Well talks, and that these mini-biographies should also be placed in the newsletter in advance of each talk to appeal to people, as well as circulated in other parishes in the deanery.

7. Evangelization

and

8. Catechesis

Jude raised the possibility of re-stocking CTS booklets in church now that there are card machines available. Canon David replied that the possibility of a display cabinet at the back of church was explored – this could be opened and staffed by a volunteer after Mass to sell items like cards, rosaries and CTS booklets. There is one such cabinet at St Raphael’s Church, Kingston (a small church and the antithesis of Sacred Heart) – he will ask the parish secretary there to find out where they obtained it. Although people can call at the reception during the week to get Mass cards, etc., but a display cabinet would allow these items to be sold on Sundays.

Sister Dorothy pointed out that it is difficult to gauge the demand for CTS booklets – the outlay is substantial. Easter and Lent booklets are popular, and there is a very wide range of titles available.

9. Adult formation

Sr Dorothy's work on the RCIA programme was commended. Canon David's Lent talks on English doctors of the Church were very successful. Fr Edwin had some long and fruitful discussions during the *Ambassadors for Christ* video sessions, which had about 12 to 15 attendees.

10. Matters from the Parish Priest

Canon David reported that Matteo is still working on the parish's annual report despite having moved to the Netherlands for work. Matteo and David Hurst anticipate that the report will be published in early June in time for the feast of the Sacred Heart. *Edgeways* will be published as usual in May and will be supplanted by the report in June. Will has written a section on behalf of the PPC. The report should allow parishioners to stay informed about the goings-on in the parish, and could give them ideas of groups to join.

Canon David will preside at Mass on the feast day; no nuncios have been secured this year. A reception in the Upper Hall to thank all parish volunteers will follow the 6:30pm Mass on Friday 12 June; Canon David will contact group leaders with an invitation. The garden party, to be held on Sunday 14 June, is being organised by Ruth Naylor. The Scouts were approached to get them involved in the garden party (e.g. to run a game) but without success. A notice will be placed in the newsletter this weekend with details of how to volunteer to help out. There will be an ice-cream van at the garden party this year. Copies of the annual report can be distributed then.

11. Formation of a subcommittee for youth

Peter raised the idea of the possibility of subcommittees of the PPC being formed, an idea that has been mentioned on and off at meetings. A subcommittee could bring greater focus on a specific area, and a hybrid structure would allow people not already members of the PPC to get involved. A youth subcommittee could be a test case of this general concept.

The youth subcommittee would concern not only youth groups and confirmation, but take a more holistic approach to consider various things that the parish could for youth (age 13 to 18) in general – for instance, the possibility of a youth badminton team, attending Flame at Wembley, or pilgrimaging to Taizé. The subcommittee would have a hybrid composition, and consist of five to nine members as optimal. Peter has received expressions of willingness from Jude and Henry to join the subcommittee.

Rob indicated interest in joining as well, which would provide a bridge with the parish executive. Polly Harrison is also interested in taking part as an external member.

Peter suggested a time frame of one year for the subcommittee, making its work time-bound. The next step would be to gather interested individuals to sketch out how the subcommittee should function, probably through an online meeting, and meet perhaps bimonthly thereafter. It would be chaired by Peter.

Rob said that the sharing the load of youth ministry is a good idea and would be happy to be involved. Canon David opined that this could be a template for other future subcommittees, in the model of committees of school governing boards. Graham pointed out that the PPC's track record with such subcommittees is that things happen, e.g. with the Upper Hall.

Sr Dorothy said that the work of the youth subcommittee could fill the existing gap in provision between confirmation-age children (13) and young adults (18). Henry's presentation at the PPC retreat indicated an identified gap between confirmation and adult formation – this would form a pathway from confirmation up to university.

Fr Dermott O'Gorman, the archdiocesan director of youth, is going round the deaneries but has not yet got to Merton. Rob is looking to set up a meeting with him alongside James Potter and Dominic Cunliffe (chaplains of Wimbledon College and Ursuline High School, respectively), and hopes to pin a date down in the next month.

Canon David has noticed an increase in boys going to confession, and recalled talk of young adults (particularly young men) being attracted to the Church – perhaps this attraction is working through a younger age as well.

12. AOB

Chris has received an email from a CEO who proposes the idea of a will-writing service aimed at parishioners; the same individual has previously approached the PPC about a different quasi-commercial scheme, which was turned down. It was agreed that PPC cannot endorse any commercial enterprise and therefore declines his proposal. He would be welcome to advertised in *Edgeways* if he so wishes.

Canon David reported that there is quite a tight timetable for repairs to the church. Deacon Julian's fundraising committee has met and will soon start approaching large donors to raise funds.

13. Closing prayer and date of the next meeting

Canon David closed the meeting by imparting his blessing.

The PPC adjourned at 8:55pm until Thursday 4 June at 8pm.

Forthcoming meetings and events

- **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)
- **Thursday 3 December 2026 at 8pm** – PPC meeting (Lounge)