



Sacred Heart Wimbledon Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of PPC Meeting
Thursday 4 June 2026 at 8pm

Members in attendance

The PPC members present were Will Morris (*in the Chair*), Canon David Gibbons (*Parish Priest*), Deacon Julian Burling, Sr Dorothy Perrott, Nina Beltran (*Parish Lead for Formation*), Jerric Chong (*PPC Secretary*), Maria Christopher, José Garibaldi, Graham Kennedy, Jude Mariadoss (*Parish Lead for Evangelisation*), Peter Taylor and Chris Woodward (*Chair of the Finance Committee*).

David Hurst attended as an observer.

1. Welcome and opening prayer

The PPC met at 8:04pm in the Lounge.

Canon David opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Fr Edwin Raj (*Assistant Priest*), Rob Hitchcock (*Faith Minister, Parish Lead for Catechesis*), Annette Campbell Black, Teresa Engley and Henry Gates.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft minutes of the previous PPC meeting, held on Thursday 7 May 2026, were accepted as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

There is no update yet on the parish website. Rob has been trying to organise a meeting with Will regarding it.

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

Graham submitted a report to update the PPC on the Be Well Hub to paint a slightly richer picture of its impact.

At the institutional level, Be Well are encouraging and helping other parishes and the Archdiocese of Westminster to follow what they are doing. At the South West London Mental Health and Health Inequalities Conference, Be Well champions spoke about how practitioners might increase the effectiveness of mental-health services by encouraging or enabling other practitioners to discuss faith and spirituality, to help prevention and recovery from mental illness – this is a gap in what is done in the moment. Graham has been invited to steer the roll-out of Be Well across Merton. He has also prepared a case study about the Be Well Hub for South London Listens – it has been well received and will be published on the website of the South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust, as an example to encourage other churches to follow on Sacred Heart's footsteps.

At the individual level, early indications from a survey by Graham tentatively show that Be Well champions are having between one signposting conversation per fortnight to two conversations per week. There is therefore a reasonable flow of parishioners and others having conversations about well-being issues, with people struggling with things like bereavement, suicide ideation, relationships problems and addictions. Anthony Lee is proving to be a valuable resource (some people are being signposted to him), and people are also being signposted to the resources identified in the booklet that was circulated to PPC members last month – for example, people with addictions and mental-health issues are signposted to their GP. It is mainly parishioner-facing staff having most of the conversations, e.g. Thelma and Fr Peter. This informs where efforts should be focused to maximise impact, and Graham plans to discuss next steps with Canon David.

The first Be Well talk is on Tuesday 9 June, and will provide another opportunity to measure the impact that Be Well is having.

The PPC members commended the impact of the Be Well Hub and Graham's report. Fr Peter has confirmed that the content of the signposting booklet (particularly for addictions and signposting problems) is right, and he has begun to signpost people with addictions to Via Merton, for instance.

6. Evangelization

and

7. Catechesis

Canon David reported that there were three First Holy Communion Masses; Rob has received a number of thank-yous from parents. The Confirmation Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Gerard Bradley on 4 July.

Peter reported on the new subcommittee for youth, the first meeting of which will be held online on Thursday 11 June. The current list of attendees for that meeting is Peter (co-chair), Polly Harrison (co-chair), Rob Hitchcock, Fr Edwin Raj, Henry Gates, Jude Mariadoss and Oliver de Montfort.

Sr Dorothy remarked that Rob's attendance as the parish youth minister is crucial to the work of the subcommittee, with which Peter agreed. An increasing number of young teenagers who get baptised go to Rob as a key person.

Jose said that his son has been to several youth events in nearby parishes that were full of young people (ages 17 to 20-something), and Jose was invited to two of these events: Catholicism for Curious People (a discussion group that had mostly young attendees), and a follow-up to the Alpha course (meeting regularly Tooting and Richmond). It was discussed that more youth events could be organised that connect parishes together, and it was useful to know what youth events other parishes are organising. There is an active youth group at St Anselm in Tooting Bec. The young adults' group at Sacred Heart also active, but provision is not yet sufficient for young people of ages 13 to 17.

8. Adult formation

Sr Dorothy continues to run the RCIA programme on Monday evenings.

Will related that Mark Kudady and Ben de Araujo, two residents of 9 Edge Hill, have been running a Sycamore group in the Lounge on Thursday evenings. These sessions are open to anyone and have attracted about 20 attendees. Sycamore is an Alpha-inspired Catholic course produced by Fr Stephen Wang (now Rector of the Venerable English College).

Nina reported that many attendees at the four Ambassadors for Christ sessions in Lent had many follow-up question (about parts of the Mass, vestments, etc.). Fr Edwin gave two further sessions after Easter about the Mass and other liturgical topics. Suggestion to have something similar in Advent.

Jude runs a session for parents of confirmation candidates – mostly younger students' parents who drop their children off at school. There were also a number of sessions for parents of First Holy Communion candidates.

9. Matters from the Parish Priest

The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart is on Friday 12 June. Will has forwarded Canon David's invitation to PPC members to the reception for all parish volunteers after the 6:30pm Mass on that day.

The annual parish garden party is on Sunday 14 June. There will be an assortment of food and music available. Paul Kohler MP will be in attendance. Will recalled that

Kohler voted against the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill in Parliament, changing his mind because of interventions from some members of the parish.

Canon David reported that the ball-park figure for works to the church (repairs, redecoration, cleaning, lighting, amplification) is £3m. There is £1.4m in restricted funds, so £1.6m needs to be raised through the parish appeal. The closing date is 26 June to apply for approval to proceed from the diocesan property committee, who will decide whether the parish has a reasonable chance of raising the required funds. The plan is that all necessary repairs to the building that have not been dealt with in the last 15 years will be done, the Stations of the Cross and St Ignatius paintings will be restored, the rood will be cleaned, and so on. Canon David is hopeful that the Society of Jesus will make a generous donation; Fr Peter Gallagher, the provincial, has indicated their support. Deacon Julian is chairing the fundraising committee.

There is a fairly tight timetable: the aim is to get the works done by 8 December 2027 (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception), when there will be a Pontifical Mass presided by the Archbishop. The first Mass at Sacred Heart was on 1 December 1877. There will therefore be a celebration of both the parish's 150th anniversary and the restoration of the building.

Deacon Julian said that, like the last time, there will be an appeal in stages. David Hurst and Deacon Julian are attending a Catholics in Fundraising conference on Tuesday 9 June.

10. AOB

Will reiterated the invitation to all PPC members to attend the reception for parish volunteers after the 6:30pm Mass on Friday 12 June (Solemnity of the Sacred Heart) in the Upper Hall.

Rachel Marshall, Canon David and Will are attending a diocesan meeting as part of the next stage of the synodal process in the Archdiocese of Southwark (the implementation phase) at Amigo Hall on Saturday 20 June.

The Sacred Heart Choir and Orchestra (including a few PPC members) will perform Mozart's Requiem in church on Saturday 20 June.

Rob and Will have discussed the matter of a parish Instagram account. This would ideally be launched and ready to be in the newsletter on Sacred Heart Sunday. The account would not advertise various events (except implicitly), but celebrate them – for example, photographs of Masses or Cubs events, giving a flavour of what the parish is about. The parish's Facebook page is effectively dead, while the Facebook group only really receives the parish newsletter. The PPC has discussed during the retreat and at various meetings the importance of social media as a 'digital front door' to the parish and a way to get people in. St Elizabeth of Portugal in Richmond is an example of a success of that approach in the archdiocese. The Archdiocese of

Southwark itself has had very good success on Instagram in the last year, with videos featuring Canon David speaking about the Eucharist. A few people will have access to the account, including Rob and other people with relevant experience and interest. This would make it more useful than the Facebook group, which only hosts screenshots of the parish newsletter, and it is perhaps appropriate that a parish of our size should have an Instagram account as well. Will is happy to provide a guide to Instagram and arrange a meeting with Canon David and Rob to discuss this further.

Deacon Julian said that a parishioner asked him whether there could be a Mass for the disabled (for the intention of the sick). Canon David said that there used to be an annual diocesan disability Mass at Aylesford, but that lapsed because people stopped attending. Sr Dorothy said that this would make children with special needs very conspicuous, and their parents might be embarrassed because of the noise they might make. It was agreed that further discussion would be deferred to the next meeting.

David Hurst reported that Matteo Baccaglini is working on the parish's annual report, which he promised would be ready for the feast day. The April/May issue of *Edgeways* was published on 31 May. Will attended the Merton Citizens meeting at Wimbledon College on 27 April – there were approximately 120 people in attendance, including all 14 Merton Citizens groups and a few extras. They interacted with leaders from the three main parties, including Dan Holden, councillor for Hillside. The politicians each spoke for three minutes and made various commitments. Will thought that it was a lovely occasion but thought that the politicians should each speak more.

Paddy Stone (a retired palliative-care consultant) has succeeded Rock Tansey as chair of the Newman Circle.

On Saturday 23 May, David invited the Wimbledon Common and Village Walk and Talk group to come to the church. There were 50 people in attendance who enjoyed a talk from Canon David on the history of the church, as well as refreshments. This was the third time that he had invited the group to church, representing an opportunity for evangelisation. Half a dozen are existing parishioners, but the remainder are new to the church.

David further reported that, on 12 September, the church will be part of Open House London, an architectural initiative involving 600 buildings across London open to the public. Sacred Heart will be one of ten buildings of architectural interest in Wimbledon that are part of the initiative. There will be a team on the door from 12 noon to 5pm showing people around and giving tours of the church.

Richard Smart, who leads the Merton inter-faith group and organises walks to up to eight different places of worship, approached the parish with a proposal to introduce guiding to the church. About 12 people have been recruited who want to be church guides, including students from both primary schools, e.g. prayer leaders. The tours for children (20 minutes) would involve quizzes like 'spot the saint' (there are 19 statues), and the tours for adults will be an hour long. This should start from September.

The parish dinner had had to be postponed because of repairs to the halls; there is no decision on that at the moment.

Will reported that two residents at 9 Edge Hill are getting married. The house will host Bishop Gerard Bradley for dinner in a couple of weeks' time.

11. Closing prayer and date of the next meeting

Canon David closed the meeting by imparting his blessing.

The PPC adjourned at 8:54pm until Thursday 2 July at 8pm.

Forthcoming meetings and events

- **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)