



Sacred Heart Wimbledon Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of PPC Meeting
Thursday 2 July 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*), Fr Peter Frank (*Assistant Priest*), Deacon Julian Burling, Sr Dorothy Perrott, Rob Hitchcock (*Faith Minister, Parish Lead for Catechesis*), Nina Beltran (*Parish Lead for Formation*), Jerric Chong (*PPC Secretary*), Maria Christopher, Teresa Engley, Jose Garibaldi, Henry Gates, Graham Kennedy, Jude Mariadoss (*Parish Lead for Evangelisation*), Chris Woodward (*Chair of the Finance Committee*).

1. Welcome and opening prayer

The PPC met at 8:02pm in the Lounge.

Sr Dorothy opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Annette Campbell Black and Peter Taylor.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft minutes of the previous PPC meeting, held on Thursday 4 June 2026, were accepted as an accurate record (subject to a few minor amendments).

4. Matters arising

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

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

Graham submitted an update on the parish's Be Well Hub. Be Well seems to be settling into a steady rhythm. The first monthly talk had 28 attendees, excluding volunteers, which was an encouraging turnout. Attendees were engaged and there was much conversation.

Signposting-type conversations continue to occur with the assistant priests within the confessional, and with Thelma when funerals are booked. Graham suggested that Be Well champions could act as ambassadors at continental breakfasts to encourage parishioners to be more engaged with activities.

The PPC commended the work of the Be Well Hub and agreed that it was good to see it flourishing.

6. Evangelization

On Saturday 20 June, Canon David, Rachel Marshall and Will attended the archdiocese's synodal meeting, chaired by the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis. The Final Document having been released, they would like parishes to digest it in whatever way they see fit. Over the next year, there will a process that the Archbishop will lead to digest how the archdiocese is implementing synodality.

Will related that the key point from the meeting is that synodality is not a set process, but rather an ontology, a way of doing things. Instead of merely seeking out consultative groups, it is more about training ourselves to listen to peripheries in the parish and those who are keen to serve. There are more than 50 parish groups at Sacred Heart, which helps us do a good job of listening to voices from all corners, but there are ways in which this can be improved. Further discussion will be had in September about ways of listening and whom we are listening to.

The archdiocese have published *A Feast for All Peoples*, a small-version study guide to the Final Document. There are five chapters selected by the Archbishop, with some ways in which they can be digested. Rachel and Will are deciding whether there should be a parish group on that for five weeks in the autumn, or whether it should be done in a different way; we are not obliged to do this.

Will raised a few matters at the end of the meeting, including asking whether they plan to go into schools to hear what children think (they had no plan to do so), and what they want parishes to do (it is up to them to decide), and brought up the point that attendees were tired of going to consultation after consultation.

The synodal implementation phase will culminate in an assembly in June 2027, chaired by the Archbishop. There is also a virtual session scheduled for November 2026.

Canon David explained that the model for small groups is that they comprise not more than 12 people; there would be about 175 groups in the parish if everyone who came

to Mass were to join one. The five themes for these reading-group discussions are 'What is synodality?', 'Synodality as a spiritual practice', 'Synodality for mission', 'Synodality as ecclesial discernment', and 'The Church as prophetic in today's world'.

On the question of any overlap in responsibility between parish councils and synodal assemblies, Will clarified that both the synodal document and Canon David identifies the PPC as an advisory body to the parish priest in pastoral matters, and he deems it a pastoral matter to listen and engage actively with all members of the parish. How this could be done can be discussed at the PPC meeting in September, for instance through the use of subcommittees, e.g. with the youth subcommittee currently being trialled.

From the meeting, Will and Rachel have been asked to gather some form of understanding of the parish's understanding of synodality and its implementation. Having discussed among themselves, they agreed that there is no appetite for more consultations or discussion groups within the parish, but there could be broad support for identifying whom we are listening to and how, where there may be gaps, and how we could improve. There will be further discussion of this in September, building on Henry's survey results earlier in the year. The youth subcommittee could be a useful way of deciding whether this is an effective way of listening. This would allow us to report back to the archdiocese how we are listening to people, which is what synodality really is. We have been given the freedom to decide how to do this, and could always in future try approaches that other parishes have been using.

Will gave a brief update on the renewal of the parish website. A concern was raised from the diocesan fundraising office that personal data should not be migrated away from our current website provider (Hubb) while it is being used for important fundraising purposes. There has also been a suggestion to get Hubb to update the website's capabilities and demonstrate how they work, then hire a web designer to do the front-of-house design. This would give us a level of independence while also holding Hubb accountable for the continued performance of their systems. It is important to avoid the current situation in which the website quickly looks dated and has not been updated, needing a redesign every few years.

It was agreed that a clear brief needs to be prepared to outline what the website should consist of, which could include sections on the Be Well Hub, synodality, etc. The website subcommittee (including Rob and Will) intends to reconvene to plan out what can be done next, including writing a brief. The delivery deadline for the new website remains 8 December 2027.

7. Catechesis

Rob reported that confirmations are taking place on Saturday 4 July, with Bishop Gerard Bradley to confirm 70 candidates in one Mass. The recent First Holy Communion Masses went well; the positive feedback from families this year (Rob's third cycle in the parish) has been remarkable compared to the previous two years. He

credited this to the team and the welcoming nature of the wider parish, and he still sees families from previous years in the parish.

Will remarked anecdotally that, on speaking to Sacred Heart School students at Wimbledon College's recent Year 6 transition day, the students do know and recognise Fr Peter and Rob from their visits to school.

8. Adult formation

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

9. Matters from the Parish Priest

Canon David reported that the annual report, published last month, has been received and inwardly digested. The PPC agreed that its design was superb – it could win a diocesan best-annual-report competition – and expressed thanks to Matteo Baccaglini for his work on the report.

Canon David further mentioned that Matteo and David Hurst are considering publishing *Edgeways* every other month, instead of every month, in light of the number of contributions.

There have been a number of important events in the parish. On Friday 12 June, there was the Sacred Heart Mass and the reception for volunteers, at which there was plenty of food and roughly half of all parish volunteers were in attendance in the Upper Hall. The garden party on the Sunday following (14 June) also went well, and a slight profit (£750) was made. It was agreed that the ice-cream van should be inside next year. Canon David opined that it was nice to keep both the volunteers' reception and the garden party connected to the feast day. The PPC expressed thanks to Ruth Naylor for her capable organisation of the garden party.

10. AOB

Henry reported on the first meeting of the youth subcommittee on 11 June. There were seven people present: Peter Taylor, Henry Gates, Jude Mariadoss, Fr Edwin Raj, Oliver de Montfort, Rob Hitchcock and Polly Harrison. The subcommittee discussed its role as an advisory body for Rob, and the parish's present service to young people aged between 10 and 18, including the provision of activities, catechesis and information. The subcommittee looked at role-modelling and getting more young people involved, but no concrete proposals were put forward as yet. The subcommittee agreed to meet every half-term, with the next meeting in September.

Rob reported that the Prayer and Pint barbeque event on Saturday 6 June was well attended from far and wide and enjoyed, despite the rain, and is something to look to do annually. In addition to the social aspect, there have been Thursday sessions

focused on Sycamore videos for formation. A recent Prayer and Pint event was the first game of the FIFA World Cup, at which there was some Polish beer and sweets.

Will reported that the young adults' house hosted Bishop Gerard Bradley on Wednesday 17 June for a private Mass in St Joseph's Chapel, followed by dinner. He had many nice conversations with people; like the Archbishop, he is genuinely interested in people and wants to hear what is going on in their lives.

The concert of Mozart's Requiem on Saturday 20 June was well performed, attended and received. The PPC expressed thanks to Bob Rathbone and PPC members who were involved.

Canon David updated the PPC on repairs to the church and fundraising. An application has been made to the archdiocese for two things: for some minor preliminary repairs (£40,000), and to appoint Ad Limina, a fundraising firm. Next month, an application will be made to the archdiocese's Property and Health & Safety Committee for the major works. There should be a clearer idea of the total cost with the return of tenders. The main consideration will be whether there is a realistic possibility of raising the funds needed. The Art and Architecture Committee will need to approve the new lighting scheme, followed by the Historic Churches Committee. The architect thinks that it can be done by December 2027, with the bulk of the work starting in January. It is not anticipated that a move out of the church will be required.

The PPC expressed congratulations to Rob on his upcoming wedding. There will be a second collection at the weekend to obtain a parish gift. The PPC also paid tribute to the clergy and Sr Dorothy for their work over the academic year.

Fr Stephen Wang, latterly Rector of the Venerable English College, has been newly appointed Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, succeeding Richard Moth. He helped to develop the Sycamore series of videos.

Fr Peter reported that the cook in the presbytery has left.

11. Closing prayer and date of the next meeting

Fr Peter closed the meeting with prayer and by imparting his blessing.

The PPC adjourned at 8:46pm until Thursday 3 September at 8pm.

Forthcoming meetings and events

- *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)**