

St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of meeting on 22 May 2024

Present: Simon Archer, Alexandra Collins, Craig Ditchfield, Penne Hutton, Fr Peter Mansfield, Gerry O'Donnell, Martin Puckett (Parish Treasurer), Erica Thurbon (Chair), Richard Thurbon, Colin Wilding (Secretary), Sarah Yusoof.

Apologies: Lesley Leavey.

Fr Peter led the **opening prayer**.

1 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last PPC meeting (31 January 2024) were approved. There were no matters arising.

2 PPC membership

Elsie Ofili's term of office ended in March 2024. She has not indicated that she would wish to be nominated for election for a second term. The PPC constitution states that 'the PPC should normally consist of 12 people including the parish priest'; since this is currently the case it will not be necessary to elect a new member.

3 Parish Plan for Mission

The diocese have a diocesan-wide approach for parish growth in Evangelisation, Catechesis, and Formation with the name 'Some Definite Service' (full details, including sample plans, can be found on the [diocesan website](#)). They have asked each parish to put together a Parish Plan covering these three themes. The emphasis in the plan will be on where the parish wants to be, but based on an awareness of where it currently is.

Fr Peter has asked Richard and Xavier Dura to work on this. They are starting by looking at all the existing groups in the parish to evaluate what we currently do. The next stage will be to plan a parish workshop, to take place before the summer break.

The information gathered in the process of putting together the Welcome booklet will be useful for looking at existing groups; Colin will share what he has with Richard. **[Action: Colin]**

It was noted that the work done in previous years by the Parish Pastoral Development Group and the input by the parish into the Synodal Process may both provide useful input to the Parish Plan.

The work on the Parish Plan will be happening in the context of the major developments which are going on in the Church this year:

- we are currently in the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025 (which begins on 24 December 2024);

- in October all the bishops meet in the Vatican for the Second Session of the Synod on Synodality – this month the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales submitted to the Vatican a synthesis of responses to the work of the 2023 Session.

4 Car park

Fr Peter updated the PPC on the operation of the new arrangements for using the car park. The system is generally working well and Creative Car Park have been providing excellent customer service. Some of the people who live opposite the church have expressed their unhappiness that some people who used to park in the car park are now using the parking spaces on the road instead; Fr Peter is going to put a note in the newsletter to ask parishioners visiting the church to use the car park rather than the road wherever possible now that there is more space in the car park.

5 Workstream updates

Elderly: A notice has appeared in the newsletter asking for volunteers to transport people to church for Mass, but as yet no-one has come forward. It may need a personal follow-up with potential volunteers. Craig will take this forward. **[Action: Craig]**

Youth: There had not been any social events for young people for over a year. The plan is to hold two socials (in June and July) for the young people who had just been confirmed. **[Action: Penne]**.

Sarah will join Penne in working on this topic.

Young families: Erica is still planning to draft a questionnaire to find out what families want from the parish.

The Children’s Liturgy of the Word is going well. It was suggested that when the children return to the church after their liturgy they might come back in as a group and be greeted by the celebrant. There are two people leading the catechists, one for the 9am Mass and one for the 11am; new volunteers for the catechists are always welcome.

Welcome: The Welcome Booklet has been substantially updated following the discussion at the previous meeting and is now ready to go to print when the new parish printer is in place. Fr Peter has some information on the history of the church building which can be edited down to go into the booklet; he will send this to Colin. **[Action: Fr Peter]**

Once the booklet is printed the Mass welcomers will need to be briefed on how to use them and what to do with returned contact forms. Colin and Alexandra will work together on this. **[Action: Colin, Alexandra]**

6 Parish notices

There are plans to hold a barbecue at some point before the summer.

Stephen Trafford will be ordained as a deacon on 15 June and will be coming to St Aidan's afterwards; he will perform his first baptism here and will stay in the parish for a few weeks. The Social Club will hold a celebration for him in the bar after 11am Mass on a suitable Sunday.

[Action: Simon]

7 Any other business

Card reader for bar: The process for acquiring and installing a card reader has proved to be complicated. The diocese has a support team for parish funding issues and they have recommended that the new card reader be linked to the same account as for the existing one in the church foyer. It will be necessary to distinguish bar takings from offertory donations but this should be straightforward as all payments will have details showing which reader was used. The bar will have a trial run with the reader on Sunday 26 May.

Altar servers: There is now a good group of altar servers and training etc. is going well. More servers are needed for the Saturday 6pm Mass.

Listening group: This group is currently quite small. Some suggestions were made for widening the reach of the group, including producing leaflets which could be made available in e.g. the doctors' surgery waiting room, and working with other churches in Coulsdon.

Justice & Peace: It would be good to get new members to this group and perhaps organise more activities, given that justice and peace issues are of great interest to many people.

It was suggested that as part of the Parish Plan we could include formation on, and discussion of, Catholic Social Teaching. In this we could be supported by [Caritas Southwark](#), part of the [Caritas Social Action Network](#). Caritas Southwark 'works in collaboration with diocesan parishes and schools, as well as existing charities and organisations, to support them in building up a common bond of charity in serving people of all faiths and none.'

Noticeboard: It was suggested that we might have a noticeboard outside the church with information about regular meetings and activities in the parish.

Mass cards: The Mass cards that are given out at Masses are wearing out and there are no longer enough of them; we need to get a new stock.

PPC photos: Erica aims to have these on the noticeboard in the foyer by June. She has photos of all PPC members except Lesley. [Action: Erica]

8 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 10 July.

Simon will prepare the opening prayer. [**Action: Simon**]