

# St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

## Minutes of meeting on 25 September 2024

**Present:** Simon Archer, Oliver de los Reyes Abasolo, Craig Ditchfield, Penne Hutton, Lesley Leavey, Fr Peter Mansfield, Gerry O'Donnell, Martin Puckett (Parish Treasurer), Erica Thurbon (Chair), Richard Thurbon, Colin Wilding (Secretary), Sarah Yusoof.

**Apologies:** Alexandra Collins.

Simon led the **opening prayer**. Oliver was welcomed to the meeting.

### 1 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last PPC meeting (22 May 2024) were approved. There were no matters arising.

### 2 PPC photos

Photos of most PPC members are now on the noticeboard in the church porch. Erica took a photo of Lesley after the meeting to complete the set. The placing of the photos on the board needs to be reviewed as they are currently behind the welcomers which makes it difficult for people to approach them. **[Action: ALL – review the location of the photos and feed back to Erica]**

### 3 Updates

#### Youth

It is still difficult to get young people involved in activities; the last social held for confirmati was attended by just one young person. No further activities are currently planned. Teenagers now have more options for social engagement than previous generations did and they are able to socialise online. We need to meet young people where they are rather than where we think they should be.

We should also look for ways to engage young people in the liturgy. Many years ago the Folk Choir was led by young people and a lot of young people were involved. It might be possible to organise a youth music group.

**[Action: ALL – think about the issue and ask around]**

#### Social Club

The Social Club Committee had met last Sunday. Preparations are in progress for the Winter Ball. There will also be a (separate) winter event for children; this year there will probably be no charge for attending this (unlike last year).

The card reader is now in place and working and is being well used. Martin

is in contact with the diocese about reporting of transactions, which could be improved.

### **Elderly**

Craig now has a draft list of people who may need a lift to church for Sunday Mass. This now needs to be matched with volunteers. **[Action: Craig]**

### **Listening group**

This is regularly advertised, but few people (apart from the organisers) come to the meetings; those who do come appreciate the sessions. The group is not viable for the long term with the current numbers. Sarah will design a leaflet to be left in e.g. doctors' surgeries. **[Action: Sarah]**

The group are planning to attend a Remembrance service in Old Coulsdon on 3 November.

### **Welcome**

The Welcome booklet is now ready for distribution. Fr Peter had printed some copies on the new parish printer and these were circulated. The booklet could be launched over the coming weekend. Fr Peter would print copies of the booklet and the A5 contact form which is to go in it. Colin would liaise with Brenda so that the welcomers would know about the booklet and about what to do with completed contact forms. The booklet could be updated annually. **[Action: Fr Peter, Colin]**

Colin will put a PDF version of the booklet onto the parish website and a link to it will be included in a forthcoming Mailchimp email. **[Action: Colin, Gerry]**

The latest version of the booklet includes a brief history of the church building. In the process of creating this Colin put together a document with all the relevant information (and pictures) that he could find, for future reference. This is available to anyone interested. We could put a page on this topic on the parish website; there was one many years ago but it was not transferred when the website was rebuilt. **[Action: Colin]**

### **Laity & Faith**

*Parish Plan:* Richard and Xavier Dura are working on this. They have starting by looking at all the existing groups in the parish to evaluate what we currently do. Later there will be a parish workshop, but there is currently no date for this. **[Action: Richard]**

*Altar servers:* More servers are needed for the Saturday 6pm Mass. It would be beneficial for existing servers to have more training. **[Action: Richard]**

*Synod on Synodality:* The bishops will meet in the Vatican for the Second Session in October. Changes have been made to the format; Richard will update later. **[Action: Richard]**

**Communications**     *Mailchimp:* There are currently 245 subscribers; of these, around 70% open each email that is sent out and 40% click on the newsletter link. At present the Mailchimp email is sent out on Saturdays by Gerry or Colin. It would be helpful if others were able to do this as sometimes they are both unavailable. Richard will be able to do this. **[Action: Gerry – show Richard how to do it]**

*Facebook:* the parish group currently has 250 members.

*Website:* the site has around 1,000 visitors.

*JustGiving:* this is still receiving donations.

*Masses streamed on YouTube:* weekend Masses get an average of around 50 views each.

#### **4 Time of Christmas Masses**

Fr Peter has for some time been considering the possibility of having only one Mass on Christmas Day morning. He has decided to try this this year. Instead of the usual 9am and 11am Masses there will be one Mass at 10am. Last year there were 120 people at the 9am and 180 at the 11am.

#### **5 Any other business**

##### **Communion**

**under both kinds:** Simon asked whether it would be possible to re-introduce this now and permission was given by the bishops some time ago.

Fr Peter said that this would depend on whether people wanted it and on whether there were enough ministers willing to distribute the chalice and/or consume left-over Precious Blood. PPC members should ask around to gauge opinion and feed back to Erica by 14 October. **[Action: ALL]**. Fr Peter would ask Leonie to contact SMs to ask them how they felt about this. **[Action: Fr Peter]**

**Stuart Ward photos:** Fr Peter no longer has access to the main archive of the photos of the church building and services taken by Stuart Ward. Some are in the ‘Gallery’ section of the parish website, but not all. Gerry will investigate to see if he has access to the remainder. **[Action: Gerry]**

#### **6 Date of next meeting**

**Wednesday 13 November.**

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