

St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of meeting on 13 November 2024

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

Apologies: Penne Hutton.

Craig led the **opening prayer**.

1 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last PPC meeting (25 September 2024) were approved. It was noted for future reference that Javier Daura's name had been misspelt and that Oliver was happy to be known simply as Oliver Abasolo.

2 Matters arising

Communion

under both kinds: Leonie had contacted the SMs. There are enough people willing to distribute and/or purify the chalice for Communion under both kinds to resume at the 6pm and 9am Masses, but not enough for the 11am Mass. She has put together a rota which could start on 23 November. It was agreed that this should go ahead. Colin would inform Leonie and Fr Peter would prepare the congregation by speaking about the subject at the coming weekend Masses and putting an item in the newsletter.
[Action: Fr Peter, Colin]

Stuart Ward photos: Gerry and Colin had made the photo galleries available on the website. Gerry will look at the possibility of archiving the photos somewhere other than the website. **[Action: Gerry]**

Some new photos could be commissioned; Fr Peter would contact Stuart about this after Christmas. **[Action: Fr Peter]**

PPC photos: There is now a full set of photos of PPC members on the noticeboard in the church porch. It was agreed that they should stay in their current position.

3 Updates

- Youth** Craig's daughter had expressed an interest in reading at Mass. Alexandra offered to team up with her when she was on the rota to read.
[Action: Alexandra, Craig]
- Social Club** Tickets for the Winter Ball will be on sale this coming weekend. The Social Club Committee has a fixed number of members but it needs more people to help. It was proposed that a Planning Group be set up to work with the committee. Simon and Sarah will put together a document with the terms of reference for the new group and contact details for recruiting. **[Action: Simon, Sarah]**
- Elderly** Craig had bought Christmas cards. There were three people currently in need of a lift to church for Saturday/Sunday Mass. It was suggested that an appeal for volunteers be made at the Saturday/Sunday Masses, with the 6pm Mass being the priority. Erica will write an item to go in the newsletter and in the Mailchimp email; Gerry will make an appeal at the end of the 6pm Mass this coming Saturday and will be available after Mass in case any volunteers come forward. **[Action: Erica, Gerry]**
- Listening group** Attendance is still low. Sara Waite will be discussing the future of the group with Fr Peter. The group attended a Service for Remembering in Old Coulsdon on 3 November; this was moving and sensitive.
- Welcome** The first edition of the Welcome booklet had been distributed at Sunday Masses and via Mailchimp and is available on the website. Copies are available at the back of the church and welcomers give them out to new parishioners. Colin has produced an updated version as the welcomers were not included in the list of parish activities in the first edition.

Colin has put a page about the history of St Aidan's Church on the parish website.
- Laity & Faith** *Parish Plan:* The group has found that because there were only three people meetings tended to be cancelled if one person was unavailable, and so little progress had been made since the last PPC meeting. The number of members needs to be increased to at least five. **[Action: Fr Peter]**

Altar servers: Servers have received training and a schedule for future training is being put together.
- Communications** Usage/subscription levels are much the same as reported at the last meeting. Richard is now able to send out the Saturday Mailchimp email.

4 Synod on Synodality

The bishops had met in the Vatican for the Second Session in October, and the final report had been issued on 26 October and approved immediately by Pope Francis, which means that it can be implemented immediately. Richard outlined the main points of the report; his summary is appended at the end of these minutes. The final report is available on the [Vatican website](#). Richard will distribute the report to the PPC members, who are asked to read it. At the next meeting we will discuss whether there are things we can do in the parish now to implement any aspects of the report. [Action: Richard, ALL]

5 Any other business

Car Park: It was generally agreed that the new arrangements for using the car park were working well. There had been some comment on social media from a person who had been fined for using the car park, but responses from local people had defended the parish's approach.

Bar keys: There needs to be some way for the bar staff to get access to the bar keys during the 11am Mass, but the safe cannot be left unlocked. Simon would speak to the sacristan to arrange for the keys to be made available.
[Action: Simon]

6 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 22 January 2025.

Erica will prepare the opening prayer. [Action: Erica]

Appendix: Synod on Synodality's Final Document: Key Takeaways

- Pope Francis approved the final document of the Synod on Synodality, marking a shift from past synods by directly implementing its conclusions instead of issuing a separate apostolic exhortation.
- The document is the result of a two-year consultative process involving global input, leading to 1,135 amendments.
- Key proposals include expanding women's leadership roles, increasing lay participation in decision-making, and implementing significant structural reforms.

Structural Reforms

- Strengthening pastoral councils at parish and diocesan levels.
- Regular ecclesiastical assemblies at all Church levels, including continental gatherings.
- Increased ecumenical dialogue.

- Introduction of "synodal authority" while maintaining the authority of the Bishop, Episcopal College, and the Bishop of Rome.
- Revision of canon law to clarify the roles of consultation and deliberation in decision-making.

Women's Leadership

- Explicitly states there is "no reason or impediment" to prevent women from assuming leadership roles.
- Keeps the question of women's access to diaconal ministry open for continued discernment.
- Advocates for increased female participation in clergy formation and Church decision-making.

Lay Participation

- Expands the role of lay faithful in Church governance.
- Calls for increased lay presence in synodal assemblies and all phases of ecclesiastical decision-making.
- Proposes new procedures for selecting and evaluating bishops and expanded lay participation in diocesan leadership and canonical processes.

Implementation Phase

- Emphasizes the crucial implementation phase ahead, focusing on integrating synodality as a "constitutive dimension of the Church."
- Addresses accountability measures, including enhanced financial transparency and abuse prevention protocols.

Background

- The document represents the culmination of an extensive consultative process in Church history.
- Aims to balance traditional Church teaching with contemporary pastoral needs while promoting greater inclusivity and transparency in Church governance.

Key points from comments:

- Concern that "synodality" may become a primary focus, potentially overshadowing traditional aspects of the Church.
- Questions about how the proposed changes will be implemented and how they will impact the Church's relationship with other Christian denominations.
- Calls for clarity and caution in navigating the proposed reforms.