

St Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of meeting on 22 January 2025

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

Apologies: Oliver Abasolo, Simon Archer, Penne Hutton, Erica Thurbon (Chair).

As Erica was unable to attend, Richard chaired the meeting and led the **opening prayer**.

1 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last PPC meeting (13 November 2024) were approved.

2 Updates

Youth Craig's daughter had read at Mass with Alexandra; this arrangement had worked well and would continue. If other young people were interested in reading then similar arrangements could be made

Elderly The November appeal for volunteers to give people a lift to church for Saturday/Sunday Mass had worked well; currently all the people who wished to have a lift were being catered for.

Listening group The group had decided not to hold regular meetings in future; however, the service would continue to be promoted in the newsletter and group members would be available if anyone needed support.

Welcome Fr Peter said that the Welcome booklet and online communications serve their purpose but that more now needs to be done by the PPC members to meet people face to face. A number of suggestions were discussed, including talking to people in the pews before/after Mass, and a special Welcome event in the Social Club on the last Sunday of each month. It was pointed out that many people had been in the parish for some time but were not fully engaged; we need to broaden the approach from 'welcome' to 'belonging'.

Communications Usage/subscription levels are much the same as previously reported.

3 Called to Bear Fruit

This is the title of a consultation process initiated by the archbishop in a pastoral letter read out at all Masses on the weekend of 18/19 January. The process “seeks to ensure parish communities in the Archdiocese are equipped with what they need to grow, evangelise, form disciples, and inspire witness.”

The archbishop has encouraged people to gather in small groups and come together prayerfully to share their insights on six key themes, and then to report back to the archdiocese using an online form. Groups have until 6 April 2025 to submit their responses. A booklet containing details of the themes and guidance on running the group discussions was made available at the Masses and can also be [downloaded online](#).

The process in the parish needs to be led by the PPC, and must start soon because of the short deadline. Meetings can be held on parish premises, in people’s homes or online (using the parish Zoom account). It was felt that it would be difficult for groups to meet six times over the next ten weeks. Groups will be able to decide for themselves how many meetings to hold; we could aim for each group to cover at least three of the six themes.

The task for the PPC is to identify leaders, establish when and where they will meet and ask people to sign up to a group. Alexandra offered to co-ordinate this process, with the aim of having the details in place in time for the Masses this coming weekend (26/26 January). A PPC member will speak at each Mass (6pm: Gerry; 9am: Richard; 11am: Lesley) and will be outside the church afterwards with a clipboard for people to sign up; Gerry will draft a text for the speakers to use. **[Action: Alexandra, Gerry, Richard, Lesley]**

Lesley offered to lead a group meeting on Saturday mornings, and Sarah offered to lead a Zoom meeting. Javier Daura has offered to lead a group meeting in Cane Hill. Other PPC members were asked to consider leading groups. **[Action: All]** Parishioners are also welcome to form their own groups if they wish.

Many of the questions that the archdiocese have suggested for the groups can only be answered using information that most parishioners do not have (e.g. number of baptisms). It was suggested that an information sheet be put together for groups to refer to, using data gathered as part of the work on the Parish Plan. Fr Peter will provide this information to Alexandra. **[Action: Fr Peter]**

Whilst the groups have been asked to report directly to the archdiocese, we will also want them to report to the parish, and for this they could continue to meet after the deadline for reporting to the archdiocese has passed. It is possible that these groups may continue as house groups.

It was suggested that once the meetings have been held and groups have reported to the archdiocese the PPC could hold an open meeting to give people an opportunity to share their thoughts and take the process further. It was noted that the PPC constitution makes reference to an annual Parish General Meeting.

4 Synod on Synodality

We had planned to discuss at this meeting whether there are things we can do in the parish now to implement any aspects of the final report of the Synod on Synodality. However, the Called to Bear Fruit process took priority so this discussion will happen at a later meeting.

The Holy Father has added an accompanying note to the final report. As a result, the online address of the final report of the Synod on Synodality has changed since the minutes of the last meeting were issued. It can now be found [here](#).

The XVI Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod has been formed, with (currently) 17 members. It is working on a series of initiatives and topics to be developed to accompany the local Churches in the implementation of the recommendations of the Final Document.

5 Any other business

Parish hall: New windows are being installed at the back of the hall.

6 Meeting dates

A special meeting will be held on **Wednesday 26 February** to take forward the Called to Bear Fruit process.

The next ordinary meeting of the PPC will be on **Wednesday 19 March**. Gerry will prepare the opening prayer. [**Action: Gerry**]