

**SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday 9 November 2023 in the Parish Lounge**  
**MINUTES**

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| <p><b>1. Welcome, opening prayer and apologies</b></p> <p>Present were: Ruth Naylor (Chair), Rachel Purvis, Jude Mariadoss, Siobhan Heffron, Christopher Woodward (for the Finance Committee), Sr Dorothy Perrott, Maria Christopher, Annette Campbell-Black, Teresa Engley, Deacon Julian Burling, David Hurst, Primavera Moretti (taking minutes), Giovanni Peruzzo, Fr Jackson MAVELITHAYIL SEBASTIAN and Fr David Gibbons</p> <p>Apologies were received from Max Toone and Fr Matthew Donnelly. The meeting was opened in prayer by Siobhan.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>2. Minutes of last meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the chair. They will be uploaded to the website shortly.</p> <p>Status on actions which will not be picked up in agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parish planned giving – we will <b>dedicate an agenda point in the next meeting</b>. Welcoming of new parishioners is key to getting new sign-ups– there should be a gathering every term.</li> <li>● Advertising young adult events, including <b>updating young adults page of website</b></li> <li>● <b>PPC members are encouraged to go to breakfast/coffee morning</b> to introduce themselves and welcome people. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec is next one (usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month).</li> <li>● Ruth’s flyer. Suggested amends have been made. Latest version <b>will be circulated after this meeting for any final comments. Printed versions will be available at the back of the church for newcomers and potentially sent to new parishioners.</b> They can also be <b>sent digitally with newsletter / YA WhatsApp group</b> so people can send it to a wider network.</li> <li>● Blue notice boards. Photos have been taken and selected. <b>Chris to arrange with photographer to have them printed and displayed</b> in the long, tall cabinet.</li> <li>● Mass Attendance / Come Home for Christmas. Quote for delivery to 12,500 addresses - £500ish plus VAT for the maildrop. The flyer will be ready soon and will be sent out two weeks before Christmas. Fr David has shared the proof with the PPC for interest.</li> <li>● Singing at church. <b>New date for Rachel Marshall to attend PPC meeting.</b> Action: Ruth.</li> <li>● Edgeways. Monthly parish magazine that has been going for thirty years is starting again on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. There is a meeting for volunteers 7pm Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> in the Lounger.</li> </ul> | <p>Ruth / Primi</p> <p>Ruth/Max</p> <p>Everyone</p> <p>Ruth</p> <p>Chris</p> <p>Ruth</p> |



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| <p><b>4. Parish social activities</b></p> <p>Social committee – see notes above</p> <p>Christmas Dinner – see notes above</p>   |  |
| <p><b>1. Youth Minister</b></p> <p>See notes above</p>  |  |
| <p><b>2. Parish Community initiatives</b></p> <p><u>SHP ‘Be Well hub’</u><br/>Replacement parish lead needed to follow Eleanor.</p> <p><u>Merton Citizens meetings with decision makers</u><br/>16 Nov meeting head of housing, Lucy Owner + housing officer, Andrew Judge re more social housing.<br/>9 Jan leaders meeting on Zoom (up to) 17 leaders</p> <p><u>Merton Winter Night Shelter</u> - Faith in Action<br/>co-ordinators Nandita Nelson and Susie Wallat-Vago</p> <p><u>Hillside Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel</u>, police station<br/>23 Nov parish represented by David at twice yearly meeting</p>   |  |
| <p><b>3. Parish Plan</b></p> <p>Giovanni, Jude and Maria are the Diocesan reps for the Archbishop’s programme SDS (Some Definite Service). They met with Fr David 3 weeks ago as we need to make a plan based on the directive of the Archbishop which covers 3 areas; evangelisation, formation and catechesis. Last Saturday they attended an activation day in Croydon with Mark Nash Director of the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis at RC Archdiocese of Southwark. They were asked what the vision for our parish is, what the reality is and invited to make a plan for how we can get from the reality to the vision. The leaflet that has been circulated to the PPC details what was discussed on that day. 6 or 7 different parishes were present at that event. See Jude’s notes (attached / Annexe 1).</p> <p>The Archbishop has specified that a bureaucratic approach isn’t required. We should approach it with a missionary heart rather than as a business plan (not so much actions but continuous thought on how we enact these ideas in our ongoing activities). For example, when we think about post-sacramental formation we should consider that people shouldn’t just come to a parish as a place that provides a service but to gather as a community so we should offer ongoing formation programmes, especially as the core purpose of a parish is deepening faith (for those that are interested).</p> |  |

Maria also pointed out that we should focus on the positive things we're doing well and share good practice with other parishes, rather than worry about all the things we're not doing or feel we should be doing. She suggests we choose one thing under each area that we could realistically focus on. The vision enables us to focus on a positive picture of where we could be. The plan should be a journey. We should revisit it in the PPC meetings regularly. **Action: Primi to add to agenda schedule.**

Primi

It was suggested that we should identify the needs of the people around us and see if our volunteers could actually support that need. One example could be offering lifts to mass (like we did pre-pandemic). Firstly we would need to find out if there's a desire or need for people to get lifts (e.g. we could ask people we know who struggle to get to mass, ask the Eucharistic ministers, ask in newsletter and website) and then see if there are enough volunteers (including a coordinator) to run such a service.

The diocesan deadline of the beginning of advent isn't really a deadline for a full plan to be sent to the diocese, but we should aim to have a start. However, you can't send an interim plan – there is a specific format in which it has to be submitted. Fr David explained that what with new priests, new faith minister etc. we will probably be a year behind and he has explained this to the diocese.

Chris asked how we could engage the parish in general in this. Giovanni suggested that regular tea and coffee would be a really good time to speak to people. Primi pointed out that coffee after family mass used to be every week. **David said that Sean Jones is interested in bringing it back and he will speak to him.** David pointed out that it needs a little bit of organisation and shouldn't just depend on Sean. Sr Dorothy mentioned that in the past it got a bit too out of control with children running around, so that's something to watch out for if it is revived.

David

David suggested allocating space in Edgeways each month for The Plan / SDS.

Primi pointed out that it doesn't work that well to talk to people about parish bureaucracy and trying to ask for volunteers. Getting people engaged should be about building relationships and then directly inviting individuals who seem keen to get involved with things that might interest them. It was agreed that at the moment our focus should be on getting people more engaged and we don't need the plan to be finished to start this process.

An example of external evangelisation could be our involvement in Churches Together and the Merton Faith and Belief Forum.

We could produce a pre-plan plan to engage more people in ministries such as reading, eucharistic ministry and the social committee etc. and getting more people generally volunteering and coming to things so we have a more committed pool of volunteers to draw on so that we're in a stronger position to enact a plan in a year's time. It will be more realistic to produce a full plan in a year knowing how many volunteers we're likely to have and with a plan more tailored to fit.

Chris mentioned that last time a parish plan was produced there were action groups looking at specific areas.

Rachel reminded the meeting that the week of guided prayer will be running from Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December and will involve the kind of people who might feel moved to become more engaged in the parish so they might be a good group to speak to about volunteering opportunities. **Jude to speak at the closing meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December about it.** Every time we hold an event we should be asking *What's the next step?* Maria pointed out that new ideas are more likely to spark people's attention. Fr David said that prayer should always be the starting point. Invite people to pray and they will be the people who will become your activists. It was pointed out that we need more volunteers to be on the door during the week of prayer to let people in and out of the presbytery where most of the one-to-one meetings are held.

Fr David said that he would like to see the parish starting house groups / small groups / cell groups. He said that it's possible for a parish to get a subscription to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) (an American website full of resources suitable for small groups. A subscription costs about £1,000 a year. It has high production values and includes contributions from people like Robert Baron). Individual parishioners can register and they can browse through the material and decide which ones they want to do in their groups. We'd need a coordinator. People don't have to have an ongoing commitment to such a group; it could be for just six or eight weeks and then have a gap. Rachel's mentioned that her small group started out of the Synod meeting and has connected the members as neighbours. Fr David mentioned that Sycamore (which includes talks by Fr Stephen Wang) is aimed at the formation of existing Catholics. It was run in this parish in recent years. Alpha is aimed at people who aren't yet Christians. **Fr David will ask the man who coordinates small groups in Sevenoaks parish to talk to us.** Starting small groups ties up with the feedback we got from the Synod. Groups could be clumped geographically or functionally (e.g. parents of children in same year at school) or when people are available and what kind of things they're interested in studying. People can move from group to group. In Sevenoaks, one group was more evangelistic – people who were curious were invited. It was also suggested that neighbourhood masses would

Jude

Fr David

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| <p>be an nice way to get people more involved and help people meeting their Catholic neighbours. In this respect, it would be helpful to have a map of where everyone is.</p> <p>David requested <b>a short article for Edgeways</b> about SDS and the vision (150 words and a picture before 3<sup>rd</sup> December).</p>  | Giovanni/Jude |
| <p><b>4. AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● KS2 Carol Service in the Church on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm (so we will look to change the time of the PPC meeting)</li> <li>● Siobhan thanked Fr David for advertising the All Saints mass at the school as some parishioners turned up and the children really enjoyed seeing them and made it them feel more part of the parish. Sr Dorothy asked if there are other masses at the school that parishioners could come to and commented that an elderly parishioner who used to be a regular at the mass centre was over the moon to be able to go to mass more locally. Siobahn has given the dates to Thelma.</li> <li>● Maria mentioned a prayer meeting for peace which she had attended at the Ahmadiyya mosque in Morden.</li> <li>● David is advertising copies of the book he made for Fr Joe.</li> </ul> | Ruth          |
| <p><b>5. Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Next meeting to be confirmed</b> (due to clashes noted above).<br/>Dates for other meetings in the year ahead – Ruth has checked. They all seem fine.</p>  | Ruth          |
| <p><b>6. CLOSING PRAYER</b></p> <p>The meeting closed in prayer.</p>   |               |

## ANNEXE ONE

### Notes from Jude Mariados

#### Parish Plan Activation Day – 04<sup>th</sup> November 2023

##### Vision

- Welcoming place for people to be part of an active community
- Inclusive place for all kinds of people regardless of age/ social/ economic/ ethnic / faith
- Parish community that is engaged in worship and service
  - Internal evangelisation – Develop small groups to deepen faith and love
  - External evangelisation – Create curiosity among people of other Christian denominations

- Listening to the needs of the parish regularly
- Feed the parish community spiritually

## **Reality**

- New Clergy / Parish Priest
- Catechist/ Youth minister not available
- Supportive & Collaborative PPC
- Comprehensive Synod Document
- Strong School community (Primary & Secondary Schools in the parish)
- Missing people
  - Youth / young adult
  - Mass numbers
- Active groups in the parish
  - (Memory Lane, Prayerfully, House Meeting Group, Mothers Prayer group, Bible Study group, Teams of our Lady, Flower Arrangement Group, Uniformed Groups (Scouts/Guides) Night Shelter, New Group, Catenians, School of Community, Choirs, Edge Hill Players, Guided prayer (Lent /Advent, Christmas lunch)
  - No youth group/ Altar servers' group
- Communication (Website, Edgeways, Social Media)
- No continuity in faith formation after Sacraments (Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage)

## **Plan** (*Roadmap from Reality to Vision*)

Areas we could focus on

- Post Sacrament Formation
- Ongoing faith formation programmes – eg. Alpha / Sycamore/ Discovery
  - This can also lead to forming small groups / bring more volunteers
- Social /Cultural events involving all parishioners

Next Steps – Discuss with PP and PPC