

SACRED HEART CHURCH, TISBURY AND ALL SAINTS, WARDOUR

**MINUTES OF PPC MEETING 16th September 2025
in the Sacred Heart Parish Meeting Room at 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Mark Shuldham (Chairman), Robert Vaux (Treasurer), Catherine Vaux (Catechist and Parish Co-ordinator), Jenny Malone Lee (Social Committee), Anne Evans, Corinne Williams, Chris von Patzelt, Nick Wright, Jamie Clark, Freddy Dunstan (Secretary)

- 1. Welcome.** MS called the meeting to order at 7.00 and opened with prayer.
- 2. Apologies** were received from Chris Roddis, Fr. Anthony Paris and Izzy Sepp.
- 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting** held on 25.2.2025 were accepted without discussion.

4.1 Treasurer's Report (appended, page 6)

On the major subject of concern within this report, NW asked how the ongoing financial deficit is being managed.

RV said that at present we are drawing down from the amount saved on deposit in previous years. As during the last meeting, he commented that unusual expenditures can be seen to have occurred this year, but that happens every year. We really need more people to set up standing orders, and for those who have standing orders to increase them.

NW advised making another appeal. RV agreed that it had been a while since the last appeal was made. JC advised making the appeal at the Youth Mass, so that the young families would hear it. AE said the message ought to be repeated on more than one Sunday as not everyone comes to Mass every week. JC said it ought also to be made to the Wardour School parents. Even though only 20% of them are Catholic, the appeal would be worthwhile even if only one of them responded.

The subject of the fundraising for the remedial works at Wardour Chapel came up. NW said a fundraiser has been appointed, and it is understood that the works will commence in the new year. Both the dome and the nave of the Chapel are in need of repair. Once the scaffolding is up, the Chapel will not be fit for use. The work will take up the best part of 2026. This Christmas will be the last occasion, for the time being, on which the Chapel is used. We can expect an influx of Wardour congregants at Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart, but provision of an extra Mass seems unlikely.

A few of those present confirmed that Fr. A has said he hopes an Ordinariate priest will be in place in Trellis House before Christmas.

AE said that the financial appeal should be made soon. CV commented that some parishes raise awareness of giving by publishing the amount received, week by week, in their notice sheets or parish newsletter. MS said that it would be a good idea to print on our notice sheet the text of the verbal appeal made at Mass.

RV emphasized that it is very desirable for standing orders to be set up with Gift Aid. The contactless donations made on the machines at Sacred Heart and Wardour can be counted in with the cash collected in the baskets for Gift Aid but there is a limit on small claims.

MS said he was willing to make the appeal at Sacred Heart. NW expressed willingness to do the same at Wardour.

JC asked generally about the use of the Dona machines. RV said their use is building up. They are good for visitors. But it's not good for them to be people's habitual first choice as a medium for giving, since a fee is charged for each transaction. The machines have recently been replaced and upgraded: the new ones are much better because they hold all the donations in memory. They work faster and do not immediately need connexion to WiFi. They are OK for things like buying candles.

MS thanked RV for all his work.

4.2 Catechist's Report (appended, p.7)

CV added some outlines of future activities to her Report.

Confirmation class is led by Fr. Joseph, assisted by CV. This year our candidates will join St. Osmund's in Salisbury. The candidates from Sacred Heart will join a group totalling 26.

First Holy Communion was in July, with one child receiving the Sacrament at Sacred Heart and four at Wardour.

Several adults may be taking part in the RCIA course, starting this month, for the Pastoral Area. The activities of the Pastoral Area are cohering.

Baptismal preparation will be given to the families of four babies to be baptized this autumn. Deacon Michael Hughes is baptizing one.

MS thanked CV very, very much.

4.3 Fabric and Finance Report (appended, p.8)

Referring to the F&F written Report, MS said the next work to be done is the removal of the intermediate wall in the Parish Room, to open up and improve the internal space. Grants have been obtained to cover the cost, but these are time-limited, so the work must be done swiftly. It should take less than a week to complete. RV said the only problem would be the gap in the carpet left by the removal of the wall. The making-good must be minimised for the time being and incorporated later into the main work.

MS said that the main work, i.e. the planned renovation of the entire building, including the upstairs flat of West End House, and consideration of how to fund it, is under the oversight of a group from the Deanery Office (comprising Fr. A, Fr. Joseph, Tony Coyle the Building Advisor, Mike Riding, RV, CV and himself). This group has required a series of property valuations for Trellis House, West End House and the West End House shop, alone and together, for sale and for rental. The estate agent Boatwrights has helpfully produced, free of charge, a range of valuations.

JM-L reminded the meeting of Fr. A's suggestion, at the last meeting in February, that Sacred Heart consider joining with Salisbury Parish. MS said this meant that Sacred Heart would be incorporated with them as a single juridical body. It is something we should need to consider carefully. The joining would be a long and complex process: we don't yet know all the ins and outs and we are not yet ready to have the conversation. One possible advantage could be increased access to funds, but another result would be that the Deanery would be much more in control of Sacred Heart's property assets. Should we want this? CV commented that the integration had worked well for St. Gregory's, but they are in the same town, whereas Sacred Heart and Wardour are a separate rural parish.

CV said that a fund (the Parsons Fund) had been allocated by the Jesuits as capital for this Parish (in 2003). RV said that this had all been drawn down. There is, however, a Rural Parishes fund (formed from the original Parsons Fund). RV has submitted an application to the Diocese for £75,000 from this fund. When the

formal Tenders for restoration of West End House come in, they will be scrutinised by the oversight group, and potential savings looked for. Then we may get money from the Rural Parishes fund, but we may well also need a fundraising campaign in our own parish. It would be premature to launch an appeal before the final costs are known, and until we know how much money can be raised from Diocesan/Deanery sources.

JM-L said it might seem unfair that we must pay for the upkeep of properties when they are owned by the Diocese. NW said that Clifton Diocese has a very large portfolio of property: it is asset-rich but cash-poor.

CW adverted to the original project of financing the building works by selling off the land at the back of Trellis House for development. MS said, 'the whole reason we're in this pickle is that the Diocese pulled the plug on developing the backland'. He explained that while both the local political feeling and the national impetus are in favour of such development, the Diocese has recently become very cautious.

CV said that the backland remains an asset, and something ought to be done with it – maybe develop it as a prayer garden or install Stations of the Cross.

At this point, out of order, attention was drawn to JC's new stained-glass window in the nave of Sacred Heart church. JM-L congratulated him on the latest installation. MS then reported that the Diocesan Liturgy Committee had just given approval, that same day, to JC's next submitted design. Copies of this 'silkworm' design were circulated and there was some discussion of it. JC confirmed that the leaves were mulberry leaves. JM-L said that though the design was attractive, the silkworm wasn't obvious, nor was its meaning. JC said he plans to produce an explanatory leaflet when the series is complete.

The meeting gave its approval of the design.

4.4 Social Committee Report (appended, p.9)

J M-L ran through the social events that had taken place since February. The next event will be the Harvest Supper on October 16th. As this falls on a Thursday rather than a Friday, owing to the availability of Hinton Hall, there can be meat for supper for a change. At a later date (tbc) there will be the traditional fish and chip supper, and she hopes to organise a social trip to Chideock next year. CW said that Chideock is a very nice and interesting place to visit.

MS inquired about the financing of the social events, in particular the Harvest Supper. J M-L said that costs for the Harvest Supper were covered by donations for the wine and the hamper raffle. CW said that people bring food, but it's also very important to have a good hamper. MS concluded that the Social Committee is very generous, not only with their time but also with what they provide. He thanked JM-L.

5. Any Other Business

CV said volunteers were needed to be present in Church next Saturday afternoon, the day of the Tisbury Carnival, to ensure we could welcome visitors. AE and CW confirmed that unpleasant events that had taken place, one on last year's carnival day at Stubbles Playground, the other within the Church some years ago. CW said it was also important to have two people doing the flower-arranging together.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13th January was proposed, subject to Fr. A being available.

MS thanked everyone and closed the meeting with prayer at 7.56.

FJD

17. 9. 2025

Treasurer's report for PPC Meeting 16th September 2025

The Fabric & Finance Committee met on 16th June 2025, recommending a budget to Father Anthony that would result in a deficit for the 2025 accounting year of £16,805. Clearly this is far from ideal, and illustrates the need for increasing the revenue. That figure did include the replacement of the oil-fired boiler for Sacred Heart, but even without that expense outgoings were set to exceed income by some £12,000.

In the current year to 31st August, standing order income is some £400 down on budget, but this is more than offset by offertory basket income which is running at about £1,000 better than budgeted.

As regards expenditure, there will be some savings due to Father Jonathan leaving the Parish, but the combined effect of that and the changes in income will not be enough to take out the deficit.

A decision was made to order new vestment sets for Sacred Heart Church (each consisting of Chasuble, Stole, Maniple, Chalice Veil, Burse and Tabernacle Veil) in green, purple, red, white and gold. Some of the current sets are exceptionally poor quality. The logic for ordering these all at once was that new vestments are being ordered for St Osmund's, and we were able to piggy-back onto the order to avoid transport charges. They are on order from a maker in Poland offering an exceptionally good price of just over £500 per set. Four of the five colour sets have already been sponsored, one still being available.

A decorator has been asked to produce a quote for partial repainting of the internal walls of the Lady Chapel of Sacred Heart, and this is awaited.

A builder has been instructed to remove the partition wall in the Parish Room, inserting a steel girder in its place, to be paid from grants already received or promised. A funding plan for the main works is being prepared.

RV

7th September 2025

June to September 2025 Catechesis, youth and admin.

CONFIRMATION: 19th June 2025 Four of our youngsters joined the group in Salisbury for the Sacrament of Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Bosco.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Sunday 13th July -at Sacred Heart and Wardour. Both Masses were wonderful occasions. Father Anthony presided. Five candidates

RCIA/Journey in Faith: begins this September- next Sunday at St Osmund's and will be a course run by Dave Blake, Tisbury group assisted by CV.

Servers at Mass: A good group of servers who come to Sacred Heart when they can for 9am serving. They all lead busy lives and sometimes we have no one and Robert stands in. Happy to have others to help.

Emma and Louisa Lavan continue to organise the Offertory procession (usually children) at 9am Mass beautifully.

Youth Masses usually monthly, often with Father Anthony. Always have readers, sometimes eight children, sometimes many more!

Ride and Stride at both Wardour and Sacred Heart on Saturday 14th- 14 riders and striders went to Wardour, 4 to Sacred Heart. Thank you to those who stewarded the day

Adoration each Thursday before Mass

Morning Prayer Monday, Wednesday, Friday 845

Rosary on Mondays 9am

Could change the time if more would come if so...

Baptismal preparation- need more catechists, several parents keen but over committed at the moment.

Rachel Sykes is a tower of strength in printing the newsletter/organising the Office on Fridays.

F & F Report to PPC on 16th Sept. 2025

H&S

The usual regular checks have been undertaken. There is nothing unusual to report.

Trellis House

In preparation for the possibility that a priest may be appointed to live there, some further work needs to be done as follows:

Carpets cleaned

Replacement of one (under-counter) fridge and possibly a fridge/freezer (brought in by Fr Jonathan)

Redecoration of areas not previously done prior to Fr Jonathan

Disposal of dilapidated furniture (in shed)

Replace kitchen floor covering.

Costs are being assessed.

Church gutters

Some of the joints are leaking again. Proposed remedy instructed costing £378

Parish Room

Removal of the intermediate wall has been instructed – cost £3044. A firm start date has not been agreed but possibly at the end of this month.

West End House – Flat and Parish Room - Renovation

Since the previous PCC Meeting we requested a meeting with Fr Anthony and his Parish Financial and Building Advisors to discuss the possibility of obtaining funding from their resources.

In order to better inform a plan for the future use of these assets and whether funding can be provided, a range of valuations for both Trellis and West End House was requested. These include open market sale values and rental values with various configurations. Two Valuers were instructed. We still await one set of values.

Research into the Title Deeds has also been carried out.

It was agreed that we should proceed with the work on the Parish Room wall (see above).

It was also agreed that we should now obtain detailed Tenders for the overall major work of restoration. The architects have been instructed accordingly. Tenders are expected early in October. On receipt, detailed analysis of the costs will be undertaken.

We have applied to the Diocese for money from the Parsons Fund.

We have a further meeting with Salisbury on 18th Sept.

TISBURY AND WARDOUR SOCIAL GROUP REPORT
PPC MEETING 16th SEPTEMBER 2025

MAY

13th Set up and refreshments for Parish AGM

JUNE

27th Patronal Festival – refreshments after 6pm Mass

JULY

5th Bottle Stall at Community Fete raised £100 for Blind Veterans charity

13th Refreshments after First Holy Communion service at Wardour.

Future Events:

OCTOBER

16th Harvest Supper at Hinton Hall after 6pm Mass.

Fish and Chip Supper, date TBC