

SACRED HEART CHURCH, TISBURY AND ALL SAINTS, WARDOUR

MINUTES OF PPC MEETING

2nd September 2024

In the Sacred Heart Parish Meeting Room at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mark Shuldham (Chairman), Fr. Anthony Paris, Fr. Jonathan Creer, Robert Vaux (Treasurer), Catherine Vaux (Catechist and Parish Administrator), Jenny Malone Lee (Social Committee), Corinne Williams, Chris Roddis, Chris von Patzelt, Ali Hillyard, Jamie Clark, Izzy Sepp, Freddy Dunstan (Secretary)

1. Welcome

MS called the meeting punctually to order. Fr. J opened with prayer and a reading of Luke 4.14-21. He linked Jesus's proclaiming of the Good News in his home town, Nazareth, with our own situation in the upcoming Jubilee Year, 2025.

New members were welcomed. These are AH, JC and IS. AH, being unknown to most of those present, was introduced around the group.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nick Wright and Anne Evans.

MS presented Catherine Bernard's resignation from the PPC.

3. Parish Administration

Fr. J said that the Parish Admin Group had continued to meet on alternate Thursdays, handling routine parish business and larger projects. At the moment the biggest project is the restoration of the flat above the Parish Rooms. Responding to questions, he said that there has been significant outward movement of the walls, so that structural repair needs to be undertaken, in addition to the upgrading of the interior facilities. A Project Manager has to be appointed, as we ourselves do not possess the necessary expertise. Specifications and a quotation for this role have been sent to Tony Coyle, our building adviser at the Diocese. We are not yet at the stage of approaching building firms. MS said that we have received two quotations for putting together a comprehensive building plan: drafting job specifications, so that builders can quote for the job; checking with Building Regulations and obtaining all necessary approvals; then, once the project has gone out to tender and a builder been chosen, supervising the work. The preferred candidate for the Project Manager role is Paul Stevens, whose quotation was more competitive, also the more detailed and transparent.

Fr. J raised the subject of the church bell but agreed that this could be dealt with as a later item.

JC said that he still owes £300 for the window scaffolding, following his installation of the new Lady Chapel window. RV said that the amount needed to be settled directly with the scaffolding firm.

4. AGM Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 10th May 2024 were considered. No discussion was found necessary.

5.1 Treasurer's Report (appended at the end of these minutes)

RV added two updates to his report:

The National Churches Trust have responded to his bid for £4,000 for lightning protection equipment by saying that 'lightening' protection is not one of the kinds of improvement for which they provide assistance. He has checked and found that lightning protection is not actually on their list of exclusions. He will re-submit the bid.

Regarding the church bell, he has heard nothing from the bell charities mentioned in the report, but has had a response from one of the bell-hanging companies. They will come to view for giving a quotation.

Finally RV said that following the manufacturer's recall of the defibrillator, this item has been returned and reinstalled – so it's now OK to have a heart attack in Church.

MS emphatically thanked RV for his report and for all his work.

5.2 Fabric and Finance Report (two documents appended)

MS had nothing to add to his reports.

5.3 Social Committee Report (appended)

JML clarified the official name of this committee: 'Tisbury and Wardour Catholic Social Group'.

She added that donations from the planned fish and chip supper and harvest festival would go to the bell fund.

The new management of the fish and chip shop in Tisbury Square was praised. After some cheerful discussion it was agreed that as much as possible of the provender for the supper should be ordered from them.

MS thanked JML for all her work and the work of the rest of the committee.

5.4 Report on Parish Activities (appended)

CV confirmed that plans for next year's confirmation group are taking shape.

There are two or three baptisms coming up.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has been fixed for Thursday 5th September at 5.00 p.m.

For Adoremus weekend there will be a longer Adoration after Sacred Heart 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday 15th, concluding at Noon.

Fr. J commented that attendance at Adoration on Thursdays has not been high.

MS thanked CV for her many works.

CV then reminded the meeting that volunteers were needed for 'Ride & Stride' Saturday, both at Sacred Heart and at Wardour. RV confirmed that two people at a time would be needed on duty at both locations, and that we would be offering refreshment to the visitors.

There was a brief discussion of the weddings that have taken place in Church recently, with agreement that it is good for this to be made available, even to couples with only a tenuous connexion with the parish. MS commented, 'one never knows what good it will do.'

Fr. J mentioned in passing that after the investigation of the cracking of the dome at Wardour, there was hope that the deterioration is not as bad as had been feared – even though Sir John Soane was a notorious cutter of costs.

6. Discussion

CW raised the subject of the flowers in Church. We all want Sacred Heart to look its best, and seven vases are arranged every week, with a special effort always being made for the commemorative month of November. More people are needed to take part in this work, but they tend to be put off by the expense of buying flowers, especially the younger folk. She desired that more attention be directed to the flower fund collection box and to the recruitment of new flower-arrangers. *RV confirmed that the Parish do reimburse flower-arrangers for the cost of flowers, on presentation of a receipt.* Fr. J proposed that there be a newsletter item on this topic. JC said he would have plenty of holly with berries and ivy to offer at Christmas time.

JML said the Social Committee could also do with more members.

CW said, a propos of the Stella Maris hat knitters, but also with relevance to other activities, that people like to be thanked for what they give. CV confirmed that the knitters, who are drawn from the wider community and are not just church members, are indeed adequately thanked by the provision of home-made cakes for the tea.

Fr J said that the Rev. Juliette Hulme's retirement, now imminent, will be followed by a long interregnum at St. John's, Tisbury: this will have ecumenical implications, on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday. He has taken over as Chairman of Tisbury Christian Council. He noted that the Anglican benefice of sixteen parishes is to be split into two groups of eight, which might be more attractive to applicants. The multiplicity of poorly-attended Anglican parish churches makes their shortage of clergy, in a way, more acute than our own.

There was general discussion of Sacred Heart's and Wardour's own future course. Fr. A said he had just been given responsibility for Warminster parish, 'so we are now at capacity, with four priests needed to cover four nine o'clock Masses.' In future, more laypeople will have to lead non-eucharistic 'services of the word'. Sacred Heart has four persons able to fulfil this role.

Fr J. conveyed a very pertinent recommendation from CV, that the PPC should become more of a focus for mission. MS reminded the meeting that the second P in 'PPC' stands for 'pastoral', and there

seemed to be a vague sense that, with the subordinate committees doing a good job of handling the practical matters, the PPC might find a new role for itself in engaging more deeply with the spiritual. (Maybe that is just FD's feeling about what he heard.) The ensuing discussion was diffuse and hardly to be summarised, with many personal thoughts and insights being offered. Fr. A offered clear-sighted perspectives on the crisis that is facing us. No conclusion was reached.

MS said that the next PPC meeting should be after Christmas. CV said that the 'Tiz the Season' celebration on December 7th would need to be planned for. MS thought that might better be done via e-mail and in small meetings rather than in another full meeting.

The meeting ended in prayer at 8.11 p.m.

FD
3.9.2024

Addendum 10.9.2024: sentence in italics in first paragraph of item 6.

Treasurer's report for PPC meeting 2nd September 2024

Expenditure continues to exceed income, in part as a result of buildings-related expenditure. Balances as at 19th August 2024 stand at:

	£
Cash in safe	173
Bank Current Account	15,046
Common Investment Fund	32,708
General Deposit Fund	<u>82,000</u>
	129,127
Less liabilities	<u>3,844</u>
Net current assets	126,083

New Dona contactless card machines have been purchased, at a total of £480, these being capable of operating temporarily without internet access, so are much faster in operation, and the percentage transaction fee is slightly reduced.

New Lectionaries have been ordered and paid for, having been fully funded by donations.

Significant buildings expenditure since 1st January 2024 includes:

Sacred Heart Sacristy roof repair	2,232
Sacred Heart gutter repairs and painting (including £2,500 of scaffolding for bell turret)	9,570
Installation of lightning protection	3,374
Trellis House drain clearing	436
Survey of Sacred Heart bell turret	520

Planned forthcoming expenditure:

New 3-phase consumer unit with surge protection for Sacred Heart	2,637
Bell turret repairs to masonry	389
Bell re-hanging with electric mechanism	7,910
West End House (flat and Parish Room) refurbishment	TBA

Further quotations are being sought for both the bell hanging and the electrical work, although bell hanging engineering firms are proving extremely difficult to commit to preparing quotations. For the bell work, a total of £4,275 has so far been raised in donations to the Bell Appeal, but please note that this is included within the Balance sheet figures at the top. Bids totalling £4,000 have been submitted to specific-purpose bell charities, with replies expected in September.

A sum of £300 has been received (and is included within the balances above) from Tisbury Parish Council towards the planned improvements to the Parish Room. A grant of £1,000 has also been awarded (but not yet paid) by the South West Wiltshire Area Board, towards the Parish Room improvements. A bid has also been made to the National Churches Trust for £4,000 towards the cost of lightning protection (total cost estimated as £9,395 including scaffolding, professional fees, masonry repairs and surge protection), but no news on success or otherwise has yet been received.

RV

19th August 2024

FABRIC and FINANCE COMMITTEE
REPORT to PCC for 2nd September 2024

The Flat

Two Structural Surveys have been undertaken which indicate that (amongst other defects) considerable stabilisation work is required to tie in the internal timbers and the outside walls to prevent further movement of the front and end wall.

Expertise is now required to draft detailed specifications, obtain tenders from builders, complete all the necessary formal Planning and Building Regulation applications and to supervise and check the work in progress and upon completion.

The F&F recognise that we do not have the skills within the Cttee to do this.

With the Diocese's approval we have therefore approached two Firms to quote for this work. The second quote is currently with the Salisbury office and we are hoping for Fr Anthony's approval to submit it to the Diocese. The cost of such professional involvement is likely to be in the order of £8,000.

We do not yet know the cost of all the building work, but initial indications are that it will be at least £60K- £70K

The Parish Room

The following will be included as part of the work on the Flat:

- Possible removal of the internal dividing wall
- Repair the damp penetration in the kitchen walls
- Any necessary upgrade to fire insulation in conjunction with that required for the Flat.

In the meantime, the back gutter (overhanging our neighbours) and the roof of the Parish Room have been cleaned of debris and moss.

Health and Safety

A sheet covers this Report.

29th August 2024

H&S Report (PPC Meeting 2 Sept 2024)

In addition to weekly and monthly Fire and Safety checks H&S activity is driven by the requirement to complete the ongoing list of routine tasks detailed in the Diocese Safety Toolbox, which provides an online record as well as a calendar of when safety tasks are due. Since the AGM in May 2024 these have included:

- Gutter inspections of the Church and Presbytery. The inspection/cleaning of the West End House guttering remains outstanding pending the commencement of refurbishment work.
- Premise Inspection Checklist (Church and Parish Room)

Items due in near future:

- Highly Portable Electrical Appliances Combined Test and Inspection in the Church, Parish Rooms and Presbytery.
- Oil Appliance Service Certificate for the Church and Presbytery
- Annual Fire Alarm Test and Inspection.

23 August 2024

TISBURY and WARDOUR CATHOLIC SOCIAL GROUP

Report for PPC meeting, 2nd September 2024

Activities post April AGM:

- Sunday 19th May Meet Your Priest (Fr Jonathan) event, 3pm in Trellis House garden. Tea, soft drinks and cakes were provided for the many parishioners who attended this successful opportunity to meet Father Jonathan.
- Friday 7th June Patronal Festival and party for Deacon Michael's retirement. Food and liquid refreshments were served at the Hinton Hall after 6pm Mass. Many people came to honour Michael and enjoy the evening.
- Sunday 23rd June Refreshments after First Holy Communion service at Wardour. As only three children were involved, this was held outside the Chapel with the usual refreshments.
- Friday 19th July The Social Group (with Catherine Vaux and Sue Berkley-Matthews) organised and provided food and liquid refreshments at the Hinton Hall after Anita Watson's funeral.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 27th August, 6pm in the parish room.

September 2024 Catechesis

We have been unable to restart children's Liturgy as our families tend to often be away at weekends and it is a challenge to assess when to have a session. However, if under 6 year olds are present then we have a ready programme of their own Liturgy of the Word which can spring into action.

This year the Confirmation group consisted of nine young people. We (CV plus a parent and sometimes Father Jonathan) met usually on Sunday afternoons and they helped at 9am Youth Masses. The programme began with the invitation to join the Salisbury group and three of ours along with 19 from Salisbury went to Buckfast for a weekend retreat led by Father Joseph. It was a truly wonderful spiritual experience and highlights for the young were joining the monks for Morning prayer at 745 and Evening prayer too. Adoration and confession one evening, lovely walks, meals and a huge input of discussion and learning about our faith which they all engaged in well. We hope to join up again next year. The Salisbury group came by minibus to Wardour for 1030 Mass said by Father Joseph, picnic and walk to Old Wardour Castle and Richard Talbot gave them a great introduction to the Chapel with Richard B-M helping too. The other outing we had was to the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph near Lymington for a day's retreat in June just before the Sacrament at St Gregory's on 18th June.

They were confirmed by Bishop Bosco (his first Confirmation since becoming Bishop) Father Joseph gave some of the certificates out just before the Summer holidays at our 9am Mass one Sunday and the remainder will receive theirs in September. All nine are keen to be part of the Parish activities and once school begins, we will be meeting up. A new Youth group for this age is beginning in Salisbury, St Elizabeth Hall, for them all.

First Holy Communion was 22 June at Wardour for two children, Amalia and Margot (and Margot's cousin Beno). Father Jonathan officiated. Their preparation was done at school, after Sunday 9 a.m. Mass and Christianne took some of the sessions after school at home too. First Confession was at Wardour School when Father Joseph was there for the Chaplaincy Day. We gave refreshments to the group and parishioners in the Vestibule at Wardour after Mass with the assistance of the Social Committee.

Next year's group beginning in October/November will be a different arrangement and is still very much being worked upon. We hope to follow the Salisbury Family of Faith programme which will involve Year 2 to Year 5 children and their parents.

Servers at Mass: Claire Sheppard looks after the servers and encourages the group to serve as often as possible. Guild of St Stephen's will begin in the Autumn and we hope to train more young to serve.

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

Youth Masses continue on the 1st Sunday of the month. Generally enough willing young to help. The date may vary in future but remains 9am Mass at Tisbury

Ride and Stride at both Wardour and Sacred Heart on Saturday 14th- we do need some more stewards at both from 10 to 4pm.

Mass at Our Lady of Pity

Adoration on Thursday

Baptismal preparation

Weddings

Reception into the Catholic church

Huge number of volunteers

