

St. Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held 1st December 2025, 7.00pm at St. Aidan's Presbytery

1. In attendance: John Hannacher (Chair), Fr Roy Karakkattu, Sue Finch, Vivianne Gattoc, Vince Smith, Peter Kirk, Jim Jenkins, David Curtis, Suzette Harris, Deirdre Lay

Apologies: None

2. Prayer & Welcome: JH welcomed everyone, and the meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr. Roy.

3. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting: The Minutes of the meeting held 6th October 2025, were approved; proposed by VS and seconded by SF, there were no matters arising.

4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary.

4.1 Finance – Sue Finch

The 100 Club is up and running.

The diocese require 3 quotes for the driveway tarmac repair so far we have 2. JJ is to try and speak with Kevin Burrige to get a third. We have had a Donation of £4,500 plus £400 already from fundraising. Christmas Draw is for the driveway tarmac repair.

4.2 Liturgy – Vince Smith

Preparation for the Christmas services is going well.

The offensive whiteboard has been replaced.

Cable covers have been ordered and once received cables will be tidied along with the music cupboard cleanup. All will be in place within the next two weeks.

4.3 Formation

Fr Sean Healy has agreed to do the two services for the confirmation on 9th May.

Federica has also agreed to organise the choir and music for both.

4.4 Social & Cultural – Deirdre Lay

Parish Christmas lunch will be held on 21st December.

The Christmas Draw income is slow but reminders will be given to return counterfoils with money and any unsold tickets by this coming week-end. The draw will take place after Mass on 14th December.

4.5 Maintenance – Jim Jenkins

The sign at the front of the church is now ready to be put up. The hedge needs to be cut and the gardeners have been asked to do this.

Gutter cleaning for church, house and hall will be done on 16th December.

4.6 Ecumenical – Vivianne Gattoc

Carols on the Green will be on 13th December at 10:30 am.

The remembrance service went well. There was a large group, the weather was good and Vivianne laid our wreath.

It was agreed that a newsletter should go on the notice board on a monthly basis.

4.7 Safeguarding – Suzette Harris

Feedback on the recent Safeguarding Video was positive. Although aimed at children it was a good reminder to all.

DBS is now needed for more roles in the church. i.e. if someone is regularly bringing a vulnerable adult or child to Mass then a DBS is required. Please check with Suzette or Eileen if you are unsure.

Personal e-mails and telephone numbers are no longer to be displayed. We are to request a parish safeguarding e-mail from the diocese.

Anyone using our premises must show that they are complying with safeguarding requirements and let us have the name of their Safeguarding Rep.

4.8 Youth – David Curtis

There has been a poor response to the advert for a Youth Co-ordinator, so there is no-one in place as yet.

100 Club has 110 numbers sold total £5,720, 50% will be used for the Youth Co-ordinator and 50% will be used for prizes. The first monthly prize will be £900, thereafter it will be £100. New members can only take part at the beginning of each year.

4.9 Pastoral Area Council – Peter Kirk

PK and Father Roy attended the PAC meeting on 18th November.

Pastoral Area booklet for the Christmas period will be available in the Narthex from this coming week-end.

Fr Mirek Misiura has been appointed Parish Priest for IHM and St Columba's

Fr Deepu Daniel OCD has joined the Carmelite Community at St Joseph's in Gerrards Cross.

Fr James Evans has been appointed to St Augustine's and John Henry Newman in High Wycombe.

The Jubilee for Prisoners will be held at IHM on 13th December.

Emmaus program has been fixed for 2026. Each parish is asked to make a £100 contribution towards the cost.

Alpha Course is being planned for 2026 there will be a series of meetings offering an opportunity to come to group sessions. There will be group leaders to encourage engagement and develop dialogue. This will be for IHM, St Columba, St Aidan's and Our Ladys. The plan is for it to run between Easter and Pentecost at Damien Hall in Great Missenden. The diocese is running an Alpha Training Day in Luton on 7th February. More information to follow.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Debbie's last day will be 2nd December. On behalf of us all we thank her for the 4 years that she has been our parish secretary and wish her well in her future. Debbie will be given £400 as a leaving gift shared between both SA and OL parishes. A replacement is not being appointed immediately.

JH said that the Food Bank quantities were reducing and we should encourage people to continue to participate in this worthy giving.

PK commented that Saturday evening Mass numbers were dropping.

The number of children at Sunday morning Mass seems to be increasing, it was suggested that we may be able to think about starting Children's Liturgy again. This will be monitored in the new year.

Next meeting will be held on 2nd March 2026 7pm SA Presbytery.

Future Dates for 2026

15 June - PPC Meeting 7pm Presbytery

5 July - AGM 12noon in Parish Hall followed by Volunteer Social

6 September - Feast of SA 2pm Walk 4pm BBQ

21 September - PPC Meeting 7pm Presbytery

7 December – PPC Meeting 7pm Presbytery

JH thanked everyone and the meeting concluded with a Prayer from Fr. Roy.