

St. Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held 16th June 2025, 7.00pm at St. Aidan's Presbytery

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

Apologies: Debbie Rogers

2. Prayer & Welcome: JH welcomed everyone especially Jim Jenkins who will be looking after Maintenance and Suzette Harris who is working in Safeguarding alongside Eileen.

3. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting: The Minutes of the meeting held 3rd March 2025, were approved; proposed by PK and seconded by VS, there were no matters arising.

4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary.

4.1 Finance – Sue Finch

SF produced a provisional report as the final figures from the Diocese were not available. A Financial Statement for the year ending 31 March 2025 which will be made available at the AGM on 6th July. In summary Income is down on last year so too are expenses.

JH advised that Cytiva (local Bioscience company) have been using our car park but not on a regular basis or the number of users for the spaces that have been allocated. Cytiva are hoping that this will increase as they encourage staff back into the workplace.

To date we have had a maximum of 9 cars in a day, and payment for 27 cars parked.

4.2 Liturgy – Vince Smith

VS reported that the Choir are practicing regularly and working on introducing new hymns. We are fortunate to have 3 musicians which provides back-up during holiday season. The Choir attended a singing workshop in Amersham which they found beneficial.

We had a problem with the power supply on the Streaming box. A new supply was sourced and fitted.

There will be a procession led by the FHC children at the 11am Mass for Corpus Christi.

The next Youth Mass will take place on 28th June this will be led by Federica Ali.

4.3 Formation

Confirmation classes will be starting in September. The first meeting of the parents and candidates will be on Friday 4th July in the Parish Hall. There are 35 children signed up. We have 6 catechists and will be using the Sycamore Program which is accessed via an

App. Classes will be 4hours once a month on a Saturday from 10am. The date for Confirmation agreed with Bishop David is 9th May 2026.

We have a new Catechist for FHC. Her name is Cara, she is new to our parish and has been a Catechist at her previous parish. Cara will join Sharon, Catherine and Brian for the FHC classes which will start at the end of September.

4.4 Social & Cultural – Deirdre Lay

The Parish Quiz held on 16th May was a success. Thanks were given to David and Jane for organising the event and Deirdre and her team for preparing the food. We plan to hold a similar event in May 2026. Everyone agreed that the facilities at Restore Hope were very good. £1,080.00 was paid into our account. £680 ticket sales and £400 raffle.

The Volunteer Social will now take place on 20th July from 1pm.

Feast of St. Aidan's - walk and BBQ will be on 31st August. Walk leaving SA at 2pm BBQ from 4pm.

There will be a Christmas Prize Draw tickets will go on sale in November.

4.5 Maintenance – Jim Jenkins

The Health & Safety audit took place on 24th February, and the report was as expected. Risk Assessment was fine, nothing major reported.

The boiler in the hall is due to be serviced.

EICR needed for both the Parish Hall and Presbytery.

The renewal of the tarmac on entrance and along to the hall still needs to be done and new quotes organised.

The new notice board for the Memorial Garden should be in place by the AGM on 6th July.

4.6 Ecumenical – Vivianne Gattoc

Village Day will be held on 21st June – this is the 100th anniversary

Picnic in Westfield Park will be held on 29th June

4.7 Safeguarding – Eileen Williams

EW reported that Suzette Harris is now a Safeguarding Rep and will be sharing the role but they will each have specific roles. Eileen will continue to do DBS checks.

Both Suzette and Eileen went to Flame as parish representatives this was organised at the last minute. We must ensure that we have a Parish Lead for future events involving our youth.

Eileen recommended that we all undertook Safeguarding Level 1 training. This is an on-line course and information can be obtained from Eileen.

4.8 Youth

David reported that we have approval in principle from the diocese to employ a Youth Worker for our 4 parishes within our Pastoral Area. However, we need to fund this ourselves. The annual salary for such would be £30K-£34K per annum.

The plan is to ask parishioners to commit to making a regular contribution for a period of 3 years so that it can be implemented without impacting on parish financial contributions to the diocese. This would require 20 families in each parish to commit to contributing £5 per week.

Support, guidance and supervision would be provided by Mission Northampton and NYMO.

4.9 Pastoral Area Council – Peter Kirk

It was agreed that we would join the Pilgrimage to Marlow St Peter's in October.

The next PAC Meeting will be on Monday 23rd June.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Acoustics in the church - all agreed that the acoustics in the church is an ongoing issue which has been so since refurbishment in 2014. The ceiling tiles fitted are not fit for purpose. This is demotivating for the musicians and choir and is noticed by the congregation. It was agreed that Deirdre would talk to Graham Wood, our contact for the Audio Visual system, and ask if he can make any recommendations as to who we should talk to.

100 Club - Deacon David suggested that we could start a 100 Club as a means of general Fundraising. He will look into what is involved.

Evangelisation – Deacon David thought the Emmaus Talk in June was very interesting and that it would be good to ask Maria Heath to come and give a talk at our week-end Masses. Fr Roy is happy for this to be arranged and the week-end of 20th/21st September was suggested.

AGM - will take place on Sunday 6th July after Mass. JH will prepare his report, which will include a summary for each ministry based on the meeting minutes for the last year and send to all of us.

Please can we each check and feedback anything asap.

Next meeting will be held on 1st September 2025.

Other dates this year: 1st December.

The meeting concluded with a Prayer from Fr. Roy.