

St. Aidan's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held 18th March 2024, 7.30pm at St. Aidan's Presbytery

1. **In attendance:** David Curtis, Sue Finch, John Hannacher, Vivianne Gattoc, Fr. Roy Karakkattu, Deirdre Lay, Vince Smith, Peter Kirk, Deborah Rogers

Apologies: Finbarr O'Donoghue

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 4th December 2023, were approved, having been proposed by Peter Kirk and seconded by Susan Finch.

4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary.

4.1 Finance – Sue Finch

SF circulated her Finance report (attached).

It was acknowledged that heating and utility expenditure was down this year due to the presbytery being empty and that it would obviously go up again in the next financial year. It was recognised there would be much less building expense next year, which would enable us to recoup this year's expenditure on the presbytery and other building works.

PK asked about the budget and SF said it would be ready by the end of March.

4.2 Liturgy – Vince Smith

Tina has a meeting on Thursday to finalise the music, everything is in place for the Easter services. It was acknowledged that more EM's are required, particularly for the Saturday Vigil Masses. DC to approach suitable parishioners who attend on Saturday. DL reported that there is a problem with the projector at present and she has someone coming to look at it this week.

4.3 Formation

Nothing new to report. The Confirmation is on 18th May and the FHC on 8th June.

4.4 Social & Cultural – Deirdre Lay

Nothing new to report at present. We are still short of people for the coffee rota and DL mentioned that we will need to approach some of those who stay and ask if they could help. St. Aidan's BBQ has been pushed back to 8th September. It has been moved this year due to DL being away and to avoid school holidays at the beginning of September.

DC offered to cater for another social event. Another quiz night was suggested. DC said he would be happy to cater with Jane if someone else ran the quiz. May was discussed as a possibility, DC to come back with possible dates. He mentioned that the kitchen is not so good at the Polish Club and suggested Restore Hope in Latimer as a possible option.

4.5 Maintenance – Finbarr

Photographs of the interior of the church building have been sent to the Diocese Property Department in respect of RAAC concrete. The Diocese has reported back that there is no sign of this concrete.

Trees – there are 4 pine trees at the front of the church grounds which appear to be unhealthy. JH to seek an opinion from a tree surgeon and he will report back.

Maz is working on the Hall and the recommendations received from Fire & Electrical Safety Ltd. Maz has confirmed that the work is not necessary. Maz will be sorting the lights out before the start of the Winter.

4.6 Ecumenical – Vivianne

The Walk of Witness is on Good Friday, beginning 10am at St. George's, Vivianne to send a few lines for the Newsletter this week.

There has been an idea to get the five churches together for a picnic at Restore Hope in June. John Bishop is trying to find a date.

4.7 Youth

DC reported that things have fizzled out a bit and it's been difficult to keep the meetings going at Restore Hope due, in part, to children's many other commitments. DC thought it would be a good idea for someone to be employed as a Youth worker by the four parishes to include St. Columba and Immaculate Heart of Mary. DC to speak with Fr. Dave and Deacon Peter. The cost could then be shared among the four parishes. Federica Ali to be asked for her perspective and if she would have time to be involved in any way?

DL mentioned about the Youth Mass and that the altar servers have asked about it. Could this be a monthly Youth Mass and perhaps combined with the youth of the other parishes?

4.8 Pastoral Area Council – Peter Kirk

Peter circulated the minutes of the last Pastoral Area meeting held in January (attached).

5. Any Other Business

Fr Roy mentioned the Emmaus Talks which are going very well. He has been asked if the May/June/July talks could be hosted at St. Aidan's. It was discussed that these would be best held in the church as the Hall only holds 40 people maximum. Refreshments could then be served in the Hall after the talk. The dates are:

Wednesday 1st May 7.30pm

Wednesday 5th June, 7.30pm

Wednesday 3rd July 7.30pm

Eucharistic Ministers – more required for Saturdays, as previously mentioned.

DC mentioned the new Lectionary being launched for Advent 2024 and the possible need to buy new mass books, when they become available. It was agreed that it wasn't necessary to order lots of new mass books, just a few for the altar and lectern.

DC also mentioned a stand for the thurible – these can be expensive, and Jim has kindly offered to make one out of iron.

The AGM is planned for 14th July after the 11am mass followed by the Volunteers social.

Memorial Garden – DL to ask Jim to make a weatherproof A3/A2 size notice board which will be used to hold the list of those whose ashes are in the memorial garden. This list will be produced in date order of when they were interred. There are 144 spaces in total.

6. Meetings this year – confirmed as:

17th June 2024

16th September 2024

2nd December 2024

7. The meeting concluded with a prayer from Fr. Roy.

ST AIDAN'S PARISH CHURCH, LITTLE CHALFONT, BUCKS

St Aidan's Finance Report for PPC 18.03.24 at 7pm

At St Aidan's Presbytery

A Finance Meeting was held on 19th February 2024

- 1 **St Aidan's has received a legacy** from Fr Ken for £10,000 for general use and Fr Roy has decided that this would be used to help equip and furnish the presbytery.
- 2 **The cost centre analysis** from Q3 (Apr – Dec 2023) shows that the money held in our deposit account at RCDN now stands at £128,023, a drop of £39,400 from the beginning of the year when it was £167,440
- 3 **Presbytery Refurbishment**
 - £51,750 has been paid by RCDN for the presbytery refurbishment with a further amount outstanding. There is a further payment related to the furnishing of the presbytery which will be paid when all the minor issues have been addressed by the builder.
 - A sum of money amounting to £6,761 has been spent on furnishing and equipping the presbytery and Fr Roy has now moved in.
- 4 **Gift Aid Claims**

£8,728 has been claimed by the diocese.

 - £1,800 coming from the loose plate collections.
 - £757 from gift aided envelopes from the second half of 2022-2023
 - £6,171 from Standing Orders
- 5 **Standing Orders**

The Standing Order income remains constant with ~ £10,000 being received each quarter.
- 6 **Contactless Payments**

DL and PK have initiated the installation of a DONA machine and it is hoped to have this commissioned for the start of the new financial year.
- 7 **Offertory Envelopes for 2024.25**

These have now been received from Lockie and the new boxes will be available this weekend.
- 8 **Budget 2024.35**

We are in the process of producing a budget for the diocese and this will be submitted in the coming weeks.

Sue Finch

South Bucks Area Pastoral Council Meeting

Monday 29th January 2024

1. Welcome and Introduction

Joan Barham welcomed all to the meeting and wished everyone a very Happy New Year. She thanked Fr Kamil and Maria Cox for opening up in the absence of Fr Seán.

Parish	Church/es and Schools	Attendees	Present
Great Missenden	Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church	Fr David Nixon Deacon Peter Collins Tony King	Yes Yes Yes
Chesham Bois	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Church	Fr Roy Karakkattu Margaret van Duyvenbode Bridget Harvey	<i>Apologies</i> Yes Yes
Little Chalfont	St Aidan's Catholic Church	Joanna Hale (Exec) Peter Kirk	Yes Yes
High Wycombe <i>St Augustine's</i>	St Augustine's Catholic Church	Deacon Brin Dunsire	<i>Apologies</i>
Chesham	St Columba's Catholic Church	Fr Giacomo Gelardi Deacon Gerard Felix (Exec) Lewis Canning	<i>Apologies</i> <i>Apologies</i> Yes
Bourne End	St Dunstan's Catholic Church	Deacon Brent Adonis Jeff Wellington	<i>Apologies</i> Yes
High Wycombe <i>St John Henry Newman</i>	Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church St Wulstan's Catholic Church	Deacon Paul Priestley Maria Plummer	<i>Apologies</i> Yes
Gerrards Cross	St Joseph's Catholic Church The Most Holy Name Catholic Church	Joan Barham (Chair) Christine Cornwell Fr John McGowan Fr Bob Davies Fr Theophilus Nyamali	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes
Marlow	St Peter's Catholic Church	Fr John Udris Deacon Kevin Ryan Marie Lou Stephenson	Yes Yes Yes
Beaconsfield	St Teresa's Catholic Church	Mgr Seán Healy (Dean) Maria Cox	<i>Apologies</i> Yes

2. Prayer and Reflection

Led by St Joseph's Parish.

Fr Theophilus Nyamalli OCD, read from The Way of Perfection by St Teresa of Avila.

3. Pastoral Area Communications

Meetings are now being held on alternate Mondays or Tuesdays which it is hoped will permit everyone to attend at some stage.

Dates of our future meetings have been sent to Avril Baigent in the hope that she would be able to attend one of our meetings.

Remaining Pastoral Area Council Meetings 2024

All at 7:30pm at St Teresa's in Beaconsfield

Tuesday 23 rd April	Prayer led by St Peter's	ALL
Monday 1 st July	Prayer led by St Teresa's	ALL
Tuesday 24 th September	Prayer led by St John Henry Newman	ALL
Monday 25 th November	Prayer led by St Aidan's	ALL

Meetings of the PA Exec will take place as and when required in between times. **Exec**

Forthcoming Clergy Meetings

Tuesday 6th February 6:30pm-7pm @ IHM – Clergy to meet with Bishop David **Clergy**
 Thursday 8th February 7:30pm @ St Teresa's – Pastoral Area Clergy Meeting **Clergy**

PAC Secretary

We still require a permanent secretary. This need not be a member of the council but someone willing to take notes of the meeting and do interim administrative work. **ALL/JB**
 Members were asked to see if there was anyone in their parish who might be willing to take on the role. This could be advertised in our newsletters. Suggestions are to be sent to Joan.

4. Bishop David's Visitation

Bishop David's notes on his visitation to our Pastoral Area had been pre-circulated. Joan asked members for any observations on these.

We had a lengthy discussion about the points Bishop David had raised. The report was positive but presented us with some challenges for us to consider as a pastoral area, particularly around the issues of declining numbers of clergy and the number of parishes we could realistically support with the declining numbers of Mass attendees. Bishop David wishes us to be involved in considering the way ahead for the future. **ALL**

The key points noted were:

- i. He had encouraged priests to look after themselves and their parish houses. Laity should become more aware of when and how they could assist their priests in tasks outside of their liturgical duties. This would allow priests more time to focus on the spiritual needs of their flock. **Laity**
- ii. Looking ahead, there could be opportunities for some parishes which are geographically close to each other to combine into one. This should be considered in planning for a future with possibly fewer priests. **ALL**
- iii. The proximity of our pastoral area to several other dioceses was noted. We have no jurisdiction over parishes outside our diocesan boundaries, but this should be considered when reviewing the resourcing of our parishes where they are geographically close to other parishes in different dioceses. **ALL**
- iv. Consider how we could work more closely together across the pastoral area. Some suggestions were to have confessional swaps between parishes, priests to say Mass in other parishes during the summer months, catechists to work more closely together across the pastoral area. **Clergy**
- v. Fr Roy, currently resident at Our Lady's in Chesham Bois, will shortly be moving to the presbytery at St Aidan's in Little Chalfont.
- vi. Bishop David had noted several areas of good practice which should be encouraged. **ALL**
- vii. The role of the laity as leaders and catechists should be developed. Their involvement in ministry will become increasingly important and is being encouraged by Pope Francis. Training of the laity to undertake pastoral work and celebrate liturgies, especially services of Word and Communion should happen now rather than waiting until we have a shortage of priests. **ALL**

- viii. Bishop David asked us to reflect on the three synodal words “COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION and MISSION”. Perhaps through the PAC we could encourage more synodal conversations around some of the issues raised in his report. **ALL**

In conclusion, we agreed that the report is encouraging but offers many challenges. There was a strong feeling that we would like to share the report in our parishes so that people would be aware of what might happen in the future. When the priests meet with Bishop David on 6th February, they will seek his permission to share his full report with parishioners. If permission is given, the agreed approach was that every parish would publish the report on the same weekend so that everyone gets the message at the same time. We would then arrange a day, led by a neutral facilitator, for anyone interested in the pastoral area to come together to discuss the way ahead. **Clergy**
Exec
Exec

It was noted that a similar exercise had taken place as part of the “Walking Humbly with Our God” initiative some years ago. Although our pastoral area boundaries have changed since then, the principles of planning for the future were the same and this report could be used as a basis to move forward. **ALL**

5. Lent and Easter 2024

- i. **Light Up Lent!** – The initial and final meetings are joint sessions online before moving into daily 30 mins sessions with one-to-one support to help deepen our prayer life. [Click here to register](#). An introductory webinar takes place with Avril Baigent on Thursday 1st February from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. **ALL**
- ii. **Through Lent with Pope Francis** – There’s a great online retreat at <https://www.onlineprayer.net/lent-2024/> with a quotation from Pope Francis, scripture, a picture, music and reflection for each day. There is a printed booklet available too. [Contact Joanna](#) if you would like to reserve a copy of the booklet or would like the Zoom link for prayer together on **weekday mornings**, 7:40am for 7:45am to 8:15am during Lent. **ALL**
- iii. **We Dare to Pray** – This is a national resource for daily prayer to be made available for Lent 2024. 20 copies of the booklet will be sent to each parish. The resource will also be available to download. The theme is “The Our Father” which is the theme for the year of prayer leading to the Jubilee in 2025. This resource may be used as a reflection at any time of the year. **ALL**
- iv. **Lent Flyers** – It is too late now to coordinate a Lenten pamphlet. Parishes can forward their individual flyers, or details of specific events/services, to Joan for circulation to all parishes. **ALL/JB**
- v. **Services of Reconciliation for Lent** – These will be held in parishes throughout our pastoral area. Please send details to Joan so that they can be incorporated into our Easter Booklet. Dates already arranged are:
a. St Joseph’s – Thursday 21st March @ 7.30 pm (*not 19th per meeting*)
b. St Columba’s – Monday 25th March @ 7pm **Clergy**
- vi. **Chrism Mass** – This will take place at Northampton Cathedral on Thursday 28th March at 11am. It was agreed to organise a coach for the pastoral area. Need to encourage more people to travel with us. Dcn Peter/IHM to arrange this. **IHM/PC**
- vii. **Easter Booklet** – It was agreed to publish a pastoral area booklet with details of all Holy Week/Easter Services and dates of Reconciliation Services. It was decided to have them available for distribution in all parishes for 4th Sunday of Lent (weekend of 9th/10th March). Joan will advise by what date she requires the information. Parishes to advise how many copies they require. **Clergy/JB**

- 6. Catechists AGM 2024**
- The Diocesan Catechists AGM takes place on Saturday 16th March at the Bridgettine Convent in Iver Heath, arrive by 10:30am for 11am start. The meeting finishes with lunch (provided). **ALL**
- Each pastoral area has been asked to submit a report to Alex Heath ahead of the meeting. Christine offered to prepare our report and will find out the date this is required, if there is any particular format we should follow and how many delegates our PAC send to the AGM. **MCC**
- It was suggested that we hold a gathering for all the catechists in our pastoral area towards the end of the summer term, before the holidays. This would provide an opportunity to share our experiences and use of different resources, as well as being a social occasion for the catechists. This should be itemised for our April meeting. **Exec**
- 7. Faith Events/Activities**
- There are a variety of activities taking place which may help draw people to the faith and support them on their faith journey, as follows: **ALL**
- i. **Bishop David's 'Pilgrims of Hope Tour'** – Tuesday 6th February at 7pm in IHM, Great Missenden. This meeting is open to anyone. There will be time for prayer followed by questions to Bishop David. This forms part of the preparation for the Year of Prayer leading up to the Jubilee Year in 2025.
Parishes to advertise in newsletters and announcements this weekend.
 - ii. **Emmaus Scripture Programme** – Wednesdays 7th February, 6th March and 10th April at 7:30pm in St Teresa's in Beaconsfield, [broadcast live on YouTube](#). [Recordings of all previous talks also available on YouTube](#). Please encourage people to attend in person as the attendance in January was very disappointing.
Parishes to advertise in newsletters and announcements this weekend.
 - iii. **Inspiring Women** – Webinar organised by the National Board of Catholic Women on Saturday 16th March from 11am – 12:45pm. Avril Baigent and Helen Burgess will share the feedback from the Assembly on the theme of 'Women and Synodality'. Poster available. [Send email to register your interest](#).
 - iv. **Life in the Spirit Seminars** – Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 8:30pm on 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th April and 7th and 21st May. The Baptism in the Spirit session will take place on Pentecost Saturday 18th May. A link will be sent to all parishes nearer the time. Our 'local hub' where people can gather together and follow the webinars is at St Augustine's in High Wycombe.
 - v. **Catholic Parish Summit** – Takes place from 12th to 14th June in Harrogate. This event is being led by Divine Renovation. 1,000 parish leaders will gather to share their vision of a Church that is missional. Northampton Diocese is one of the sponsors. A number of our PAC members are attending.
- Forthcoming Pilgrimages**
- We have a number of pilgrimages planned for 2024/25, which will help us to develop our prayer life as we journey towards and through the Jubilee Year in 2025. **ALL**
Please promote these in your parishes.
- i. **Ignatian Spain** – 7th to 13th April. Our pilgrimage from Bilbao to Barcelona would welcome more participants. [Contact Joanna](#) for itinerary and details.
 - ii. **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham** – Saturday 8th June with Bishop David.
 - iii. **Lourdes with Catholic Association** – 23rd to 30th August. Bishop David will be attending.
 - iv. **Lisieux** – 2nd to 6th September led by Fr John McGowan. Poster provided to those present. [Contact Fr John](#) for more information.

- v. **Northern France** – 15th to 22nd October led by Bishop David, accompanied by Fr John Udris.
 - vi. **Rome and Assisi** – 27th March to 3rd April 2025 with Bishop David.
- [Details of all diocesan pilgrimages can be found on diocesan website.](#)

8. Safeguarding

The audit report from the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency is not yet available.

The LoudFence event had run well. There probably will be a similar event in 2024 but this is likely to be held in a town centre in a more northerly part of the diocese.

9. Round Table

From Maria Cox – Synodal Assembly on Saturday 2nd March from 10am to 12 noon at St Teresa's in Beaconsfield. Come and hear about and join in round table discussions about the Synod for Synodality held in Rome in October 2023. This will include the webinar recorded by Austin Ivereigh. Assembly delegates in our PAC would be specifically invited and encouraged to attend. Poster provided to those present. **ALL**

10. Wrap up and Closing Prayer

Joan thanked everyone for attending the meeting and invited Deacon Kevin to say the closing prayer and give a blessing.

Date of Next Meeting
Tuesday 23rd April at 7:30pm at St Teresa's in Beaconsfield