

St Aelred's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th May 2025

- **Welcome and opening prayer** from Fr Gerard.
- **Apologies for absence:** Maria Kumar (MK)
Attending: Maggie Atkinson (MA), Chika Ejiofor(CE), Dominika Praga (DP)
Frances Elliot (FE), Bex Hailey (BH), Fr Gerard (FrG), Maria Coyle (MC)
Rhonda Recchia (RR), Bernadette Broderick (BB), Deacon David (DcD)
Barbara Arblaster (BA)
BH chaired the meeting.
- **Minutes of the last meeting** were accepted. It was noted that the forum may meet again. A new lawn mower has been purchased.
- **Matters arising from the minutes:**
BH - two new chairs bought from IKEA are suitable for the choir. Old red ones will gradually be replaced. Craig Radcliffe, SJF, is enquiring on our behalf for a new/trainee organist
BA - SVP box in Church will be replaced if suitable one found and members commit to emptying weekly. Old box to be removed.
- **Notification of any other business:** all contained in the agenda
- **Safeguarding update**
FE – continued supervision of those needing DBS renewals and new volunteers. Group leaders please inform FE of any new recruits requiring DBS. New Bereavement group may be established in the Parish.
- **Fr Gerard's updates –**
Finance Committee has been reformed and thanks go to those who have served the parish in recent years, especially Mike McCann for his long service to parish finances.

Grants – received from the Lottery Fund £20,000 and Gubay £32,000
These monies will be spent on new hall toilets. James Martin, Diocesan Surveyor and a local architect are advising Fr Gerard with this development. This will be project managed by the Diocesan Property department.

Hall fundraising and Co. Sponsorship– will be required for much needed new hall window blinds

Presbytery – 10 new windows to be fitted replacing blown, single glazed or insecure windows. Miguel has quoted £5,300 to be considered by Diocesan Finance committee on 20/05

Solar Panels – Kevin Anderson, Diocesan Property Dept, has suggested Solar Panels for the Presbytery, when funds approved by the Diocesan Finance committee later in May. CE suggested Parish considers a heat pump at the same time. The Church uses little electricity presently but at some point we may need to think about switching the gas-based heating to an electric system.

St Aelred's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th May 2025

- **Verbal reports from PPC members**

Cafod – by MA

Thank you to the parish for their amazing generosity during Lent. The fast day appeal helping farmers in Kenya raised £1,213.99, the joint collection between St Aelred's and St Mary's from the Lent boxes and Holy Thursday collection raised £727.74 and the chocolate bingo raised £185, thanks to Krista for organising this. Thanks also to Fr Gerard for having the Holy Thursday collection. Next project: plan for the Live Simply award and the global church petition for the Jubilee year "Cancel Debt Choose Hope"

St Robert's School Lent Day 31st March – by BB

Attended by 300 children, plus staff and parishioners.

Four stations were linked to 'Live Simply' and our commitment as Catholics to the care of God's Creation in this Jubilee Year of Hope

300 Sunflower seeds planted; half to be grown in school, rest in the parish

Youth Group – by MC

There are nine members registered but attendance varies widely. Emails will go out to parents giving next half-term dates; post confirmation children welcome. The group also needs more catechists/leaders.

Recent action: attending Flame event, planting 70 Sunflower seedlings from the Lent stations in Church gardens, and a Rosary challenge

Social Committee – by RR

A new social Committee to be established to plan: Summer Fair, Games afternoon, Race Horse night, Quiz. Dates of events TBC

Health and Safety – by RR

Fire Inspection by Barry Lewis from the Diocese – Passed!

Improvements still needed in the Hall but maybe dealt with during renovations to the toilet facilities.

Buildings and Maintenance – BH + FrG

Reviewing future action:

a) what is urgent now b) medium term plan c) long term plan

Use of parishioner's drone to survey property

SVP – BA

Continuing to visit parishioners in their own homes, residential homes and taking Holy Communion when requested. Acting on referrals from National Office, local agencies and parishioners. Easter cards, gift cards and presents distributed. The Conference remains without a President but BA and TB are sharing the role with support from other members. We are hoping to have a membership launch in September.

Deacon David gave thanks for all parishioners who contributed to the year's RCIA. Through prayer, learning and discernment this led to Connor and Richard's Baptism and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. DG

St Aelred's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th May 2025

- **Formation: Future events - BB**

How does the use of social media influence our mission as Catholic Christians today? On Tuesday 20th May at 7.00pm in the hall. Guest speaker, Rowan Morton Gledhill, Diocesan Communications Officer. Details in the bulletin.

Retreat in the Celtic tradition 'Jubilee of Hope – Gateway of Hope' on 28th June, led by Andy and Anna Raine from Lindisfarne. Details to follow.

Joint parish trip to Salford Laudate Si Centre on 14th August.
37 seater coach booked. Details to follow.

Music workshop on 29th November open to all musicians and music groups led by Jo Boyce. Details to follow.

- **Any other Business**

BB suggested that the focus of the next PPC meeting should be 'What is our Parish about? What is our vision? Mission?

How may we develop engagement in developing our spirituality?

Agreed. The PPC meeting in September will focus on these themes followed by an open parish meeting in October to invite further thoughts and discussions.

Fr Gerard commented on how well the healing service in Lent had been received. More to be planned.

DP will pursue improving communications with St Robert's school

CE will pursue improving involvement of Nigerian parishioners and other groups within the Parish

MA asked for clarification re length time parishioners should serve on the PPC. Fr Gerard replied that members could serve for two consecutive three year terms. BA is standing down now her three years are completed and Tim Bird has agreed to be part of the PPC, starting in September.

Recruitment of more Eucharistic ministers to begin in the near future.

- **Pentecost Sunday:** there will be a focus on the Universality of our faith and parish: Intercessions in variety of languages (BA to organise) social after 9.00am mass with invites to wear national dress, bring flags + national food for a social after mass (FrG)
- **Date of next meeting: Wednesday 3rd September at 6.45pm**
- Open Parish meeting in October – date TBC
- Closing Prayers by Fr Gerard. Meeting ended at 8.05pm