

St Aelred's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd September 2025

Welcome and opening prayer: From Deacon David

Apologies for Absence: Fr Gerard

Attending: Bex Hailey (BH), Beth Fennerty (BF) Dominika Praga (DR), Maria Kumar (MK), Maria Coyle (MC), Rhonda Recchia (RR), Bernadette Broderick (BB), Deacon David DcD) Chika Ejiofor (CE), Francis Elliot (FE) Tim Bird (TM), Pippa Bonner (PB) Lorraine Ashton (LA)

Attendees introduced themselves and Deacon David welcomed new Committee member Tim Bird, new Secretary Lorraine Ashton and Pippa Bonner who was observing this meeting and will help to facilitate our Open Parish Meeting to be held in October (exact date tbc).

BH Chaired meeting.

As per the last meeting it was thought the focus of this PPC should be:

“What is our Parish about”?

“What is our vision / Mission”?

“How may we develop engagement in developing our spirituality”?

The members discussed in smaller groups and gave their feedback the overall opinion was:

“What is our Parish about”?

Inclusive, Welcoming, Supportive, Community Face of the Church, Offering Spiritual Friendship, Allowing children to mix together and play, Friendly safe place for everyone, acknowledge individual people's skills.

“What is our vision / Mission”?

To encourage people to care more for each other, Be more involved with the community and other churches (possibly as we previously did with Churches Together community breakfast/services). Expand invites to our social events to neighbours, Encourage youth to continue in the faith they were brought up in, Encourage schools and children's groups/organisations to join together for events and celebrations, Listen to each other, Prayer groups to allow people time to concentrate on our aims and vision.

DcD suggested possibly looking at celebrating 'Positive' events such as special Wedding Anniversaries, Birthdays or specific Feast Days for particular groups rather than just for an anniversary of someone's death or unwell, maybe with a card or asked to come up for a blessing at the end of the Mass.

How do we actually achieve the aims of our Mission Statement

DcD suggested possibly re-looking at our Mission Statement, by listening in advance to ideas maybe a questionnaire in the bulletin, possibly breaking down into sections such as below, this could then be discussed at the open meeting in October.

What would you like to see happen in the Parish?

How would you describe St Aelred's in 3 words?

What would you like to see change in the Parish?

PB explained that in order to move forward it was important to listen to parish views and this could be done by encouraging people to give their views as described above and by attending the open meeting giving as much notice as possible once date agreed.

Deacon David closed the meeting with a prayer at 20:10

Date of next meeting to be confirmed