

## Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) annual report – July 2023 to July 2024

After several years where facilities and infrastructure were necessarily top of the agenda, this year the PPC has been able to focus more on ‘pastoral’ matters – people rather than buildings.

The help for St Antony’s and Trinity to provide mental health counselling for pupils was continued, and we recently provided them with the resource to run group sessions focussed on issues such as relationships, modern media, misogyny etc. Both schools have expressed their profound thanks.

As a PPC, we have sought to be more open and transparent, continuing to publish minutes of our meetings on the website, and adding regular updates of current projects. We also made ourselves available after masses on several occasions, seeking your comments and suggestions. Those too are on the website, together with responses to each.

The first of what is planned to be a continuing series of informal get-togethers for new parishioners was held in late April.

Also that month, the first ‘Cell Group’ met. We will promote this initiative, and have high hopes that it will grow, spawning new home-based groups in the months to come for prayer and discussion of our faith and our mission – as well as for socialising and making new friends.

There have also been some significant facilities projects.

The scout hut is now fully repaired and refurbished, and while primarily for the scouts, it is available to other groups as well.

The car park tarmac area will be relaid and re-marked over the summer holidays, and the opportunity taken to try to improve parking and behaviour in the car park. The PPC discussed other car park management options at some length, but concluded that most were impractical. They will revisit this issue if the above measures prove inadequate.

In this, as in other areas, we were ably and constructively guided by our parish H&S committee. And projects large and small were carried out or overseen by our excellent Fabric Team.

The new church sound system has been installed for 6 months, and, after several rounds of problem resolution and re-tuning, it is *close to being* stable. The system coverage is far better than previously, with excellent quality and versatile facilities for the music group, the live streaming, and playing recorded music. A trial of streaming morning mass was suspended through lack of viewers.

The parish website is improving all the time, thanks largely to our office manager with technical support from Paul Kinman. The office is also leading on the key initiative to put our database in order, which will happen over the coming few months with parishioners’ support.

The PPC met nine times over the year, but for most members the real work was done between the meetings. In addition, they all do sterling work for the parish beyond their PPC responsibilities. So thank you to the PPC, and particularly to Kit Tranmer, Michelle Spears, Rob Fernandes, Paul Turpin and Mike O’Sullivan who are leaving the PPC at the end of their full terms of office.

But most thanks are due to the volunteers who DO most of the work, quietly, effectively and unheralded. And they need more help. So everyone: please step up when and as you can.