

MINUTES FROM PPC MEETING SFX CHURCH HEREFORD

Wednesday 17th September 2025 7.00 PM

1.WELCOME by chair SF, Opening Prayer-Fr James

2.PRESENT: Fr. James (JH); Stuart Fox (SF); John Cook (JC); Philip Dixon (PD) Owen Jenkins (OJ) Tracey Buckley (TB) Dorothy Kennedy (DK) Annie McCourt (AM) Binu Joseph (BJ); Lorena de Lima Auer, (LA) Kathy Weston (KW) E.Christopherson (EC)

APOLOGIES: Fr. John, Jaro Liska, Audrey Fussell (AF-Finance)

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

We have had a trial period of saying the St Michael's prayer at Mass. Father James will now extend this to all Sunday Masses to be at the beginning of straight after the rosary. The building will be detailed in separate building reports. The star Catalogue Has been updated, Thanks to Mary Cook. Father James wishes to have a special benefactors' Mass in November and Relaunch the star scheme.

SF agreed and signed the minutes from the last meeting as accurate

4 . SAFEGUARDING REPORT -. A special thanks was made to our outgoing safeguarding officer, Maggie Darron, for all her hard and unseen work. We are delighted to welcome our new safeguarding parish officer, Kathy Weston. KW has had meetings with Joanne White from Cardiff and a handover from Maggie Darron. KW presented an extensive safeguarding update, which can be viewed on request from the parish office. There are no immediate Safeguarding concerns.

5. School Report EC reported that the new school year had started well and that the staff and children were settling into the new term. The school has a new key stage two teacher and a couple of other staff changes. In this first term, there is an emphasis on prayer and liturgy. The prayer garden and the prayer leaders are working well. The school is looking to train up some new altar Servers. When Father John is next at the school, it is to move this on further

6. Building Report -JC reported that the roof above the toilet next to the parish hall has just had significant repairs completed. It is hoped this will now cure the damp issues in the entrance lobby and in the toilets. In February 2026, we are hoping to have a significant upgrade of both toilets and the entrance porch. The solar panels on the church roof have been working well over the hot summer, and with the new electrical contract with Octopus, we are exporting at 12p KW/H. Before the solar panels were installed, an electricity bill for the church was around 7 to £800 per month. We are now in credit each month with our export payments and have no bills to pay. We are currently having an extensive survey of all sites conducted by Edward Holland and Fred Hamer to produce a comprehensive report on the state of the buildings and contents, with the idea that we can then produce a short, medium, and long-term planning outlook, which will then direct the need and direction of our fundraising efforts in the parish.

7. Financial and Fundraising Update: SF wants to organise a small subcommittee for a special building report. We need to ask in the newsletter for people with a fundraising background or experience. OJ asked if we could have a concert where the choir from the three counties could help with fundraising.

8. Parish Communication OJ reported that the Parish WhatsApp group has bedded in well, with currently 87 parishioners signed up. On our Facebook and Instagram links, there have been a couple of occasions when the online traffic indicator reported a huge of viewings. This was noted just after the Nigerian night (23,000) And the Shroud of Turin exhibition (21,000). OJ is hoping to trial an outdoor projector for a few weeks in advance To see how feasible it is to project images onto the church at the right-hand side behind the crib.

9. Parish Pilgrimage After a discussion it was agreed that Fr John and JC would organise a parish pilgrimage to Rome in the next year. A report on this will be given at the AGM.

10. Social calendar and Events update Please see the attached report from DK.

11. Reports from members and matters raised by parishioners.

A parishioner raised a number of questions, including an offer to come to the office as a proofreader to stop there being so many mistakes in the newsletter and a quiet time in the church with no music being played. These issues were discussed, and the offer of proofreading was declined as we already have four to 5 proofreaders on a Friday morning with a dedicated time to proofread the newsletter. Although we appreciate that the newsletter is never perfect, it was deemed to be of a good standard, with only occasional mistakes, and most parishioners were happy with what was produced. The issue of playing music in church during the day has been discussed in previous correspondence, and the quiet times for silent prayers have been published. They will be published again in the bulletin with a notice at the back of the church. The question about the glass doors being left open during Mass was also discussed, and it was agreed to be a noise distraction and cold in the winter. We are hoping to use a designated Altar server to take responsibility for closing the doors during Mass. It was requested that the £10 mass intention offering be made more explicitly clear so as not to seem as a compulsory demand.

12. PPC membership. Our parish pastoral council welcomed some new members, including Lorena de Lima Auer. Binu Joseph, Kathy Weston, and Moses Obanimoh. Jaro Liska was thanked for all his years of service as he now steps down after completing his two terms of service.

13. AOB None were reported.

14. Closing prayer and the date of next meeting The meeting concluded with a closing prayer from Father James at 8:25. The date of the next parish pastoral council meeting will be set at the end of the annual general meeting of the parish, which is on Wednesday, the 15th of October at 7:00 PM in the parish. All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting.

Action points

The prayer to St Michael needs to be displayed in the newsletter.

Fr James to arrange a date for the benefactors' Mass in November.

Stuart Fox to organise a small subcommittee of people with a fundraising background.

Fr. John and John Cook prepare a parish pilgrimage proposal for the AGM.