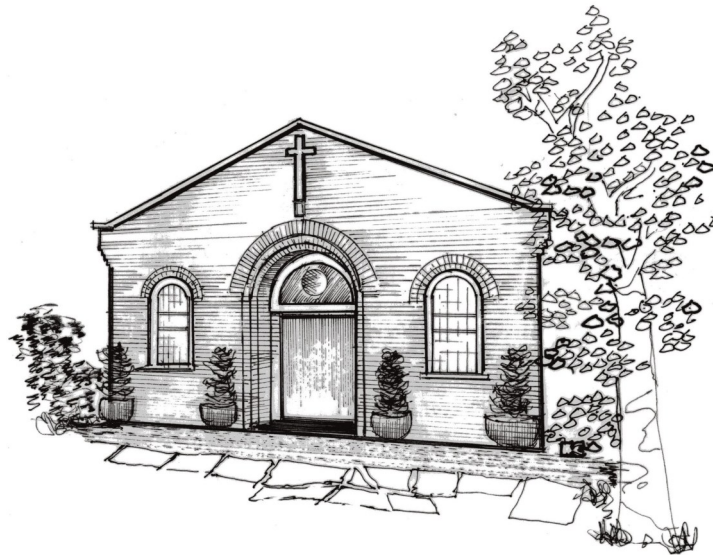


Sacred Heart Parish

Parish Council Review 2025–2026

‘Glory to God in the Highest’

Yearly Review
4th/ 5th July 2026



Questions and Answers

Are finances being kept separate when we are one big parish?

Currently the decision is that parish bank accounts will be kept separate within the larger parish.

Has there been a professional appraisal of the building?

Yes, every five years the Diocese carries out the Quinquennial, and the next visit is scheduled for end of July—beginning of August 2026.

What is the demography of the Pastoral Council?

Demography of PC – names and photos on the PC Board at the back of the church tangential to the confessional

Membership of the Pastoral Council – try to encourage families and younger representatives?

Noted. We have families and a couple of younger representatives at present.

Cleaning of the hall?

Lucy has volunteered to donate her cleaning company's time to this. Thank you Lucy!

Concerns regarding the hygiene / health & safety of the kitchen in the hall?

At the AGM Lucy kindly offered to donate her cleaning company's time to cleaning the hall. We will look at hygiene and health & safety in the hall.

Has decisions been made as to the charities we as a church will support?

We support local charities and in the past we have supported Victoria's Promise, Surviving Miva. We welcome nominations here.

Communication – what is happening with the website, Facebook page? it needs to reflect our community and not appear dusty and antiquated!

Jan is updating the current website extensively to make it a 'go to' place to receive current information in the community. We are grateful to the two volunteers who had offered their services but had to withdraw part way through. There is said to be a parish-wide (PA) website but it remains to be seen how and when this will happen.

Concern regarding the secrecy around communications – please can we have committee minutes, details of committee members et al?

Minutes are readily available at the back of the church. Some racks will be installed at the foot of the PC Notice Board, which will accommodate these in the near future. We do appreciate the necessity of accurate and up to date information being available. This will remain an ongoing challenge and will do our best to meet it.

Why are we having A3 newsletters?

There is so much weekly and monthly information to go in, an A4 newsletter would not be able to accommodate it all.

Why does everything need to go through the office in the first instance?

Our administrator is employed by the Diocese and she is accountable to them. She fulfils a legal duty to liaise with the Diocese, manage our finances and so on. As a parish we are part of the Diocese and rely on them for ongoing support, not least because they own the premises. She needs to be aware of all aspects of parish life and this is fully supported by the Pastoral Council.

Why can't volunteers speak/contact leaders personally?

By going through the office the new volunteers can be registered with the parish and brought up to date with current health and safety and the diocesan policies. This is a legal obligation imposed upon all voluntary sector organisations, which includes churches

Are we in debt if our expenditure exceeds our income?

Strictly speaking we are spending more than we receive, however at the present time we are not in debt.

As at 30 June 2026 the balance of our Current Account was £22,668 and the Deposit Account was £7,703.

When and where are the accounts published?

In October, both on the notice board and in the newsletter.

Why was the confessional changed without the parishioners' knowledge?

The reconfiguration of the confessional area came about in response to suggestions made by the congregation last year. Some wanted the option to confess anonymously. Others prefer face to face. The new arrangement enables both to happen at will, and increases the privacy for people, which is a vitally important aspect. In addition, it will provide a modest space for the priest to meet people who want to see him at church.

Is the whole community involved in decisions?

There will be some decisions that will involve the whole parish, for example, what we decide to do to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the church.

The majority of day to day decisions are made by Fr John, Jan, The PC and its subgroups on behalf of the whole community. Be mindful, tallowing the full amalgamation of the Basingstoke Parish, we might lose some of the decision-making ability we currently hold.

The Christmas Bazaar raised money that was intended for albs and altar cloths – has this been spent and what did it all cost?

Three sets of cinctures and one or two other altar ware, four new tables for the hall, we are also looking at replacing the ramp at the fire door in the church. We will still need to purchase Albs in the near future. We have replaced one large altar cloth, and we were very lucky this was donated. Fr apologises for delay in submitting some of the invoices regarding altar ware, which caused some of the confusion around this issue.

Is there any idea when the 75 Year committee will meet?

In September, the date will be advertised in the newsletter.

With the church roof, could we get a grant from the lottery?

We could hope to, and certainly if we were looking to renovate parts of the church, we will look to take advantage of all avenues of funding.

Chairs – historically these were sponsored and there were entries in a book – should they be recovered?

This may well be part of the 75th Project.

Something needs to be done about the hall?

This may well be part of the 75th Project.

Congregation needs to be involved in big decisions?

At any time community members can ask questions/make representations to the PC via the office, in person, email, phone, about any subject. Individual PC members can also be approached. At the close of PC meetings there is always a slot where items can be raised to be discussed at the next meeting. Most day-to-day matters can be dealt with easily outside meetings. Just ask. And we would anticipate collective involvement in something like the 75th Project.

How much money is given to the diocese and how do the diocese spend the money?

This will be available in the Parish financial accounts, published in October.

DIOCESE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Now published on the Diocese website: the report highlights the progress and many achievements of the year across the length and breadth of our Diocese, as well as explaining how our income sustains our Diocese, our clergy and parishes.

<https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/document/annual-report-2025/>

Also look up Portsmouth RC Diocese on the Charity Commission website where the latest accounts are published every year.