Diocesan Council 2026 Retired Clergy Fellowship Report

The Retired Clergy Fellowship remains active, with four luncheon meetings a year.

Our aim is to provide a space beyond just the local parish in the Diocese for those who have retired. St Stephen's, Pinelands, remains our default home, but we are always looking for parishes who will host us just occasionally. We meet our own costs, both with hosting parishes, but also with no cost to the Diocese.

I have 33 members on our mailing list, which includes Clergy widows and widowers; and a more active WhatsApp group of 26. Spouses are, of course, included. Those attending remain a fairly constant 15-20 clergy and spouses. So there is much room for growth.

Younger, and so more recently retired, Clerics tend not to become part of the group; and those who do come remain a constant presence. Of course, and rather as with the Confessional, "Anyone may, no-one must, some should." ;-)

Our quarterly time together includes a Eucharist, sharing and fellowship (I usually share a short chapter of "A Field Guide to English Clergy" – largely eccentric Clergy lives through the centuries.) We then dine, and wine, into the early afternoon.

The Group does not become a platform to criticise or complain. Our aim is to be positive, cheerful, and a support group when necessary. I do believe that we remain a useful addition to the life of our Diocese.

There is one other function which we are able to offer: should parish Clergy be struggling to find someone to fill in for Sunday, or other, duties, here is a network of potentially available retirees who could all be approached quite easily.

The Very Rev Anthony Gregorowski
Pinelands