

**Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
17 August 2026 at 7.00pm
Virtual meeting via Zoom**

Present:	MO BW BT EC KS PM SB	Chair Minute-taker
Apologies:	CP LGC PF	

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- 1. Welcome and opening prayer**
 - 1.1 MO welcomed the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) to the meeting and BT opened the meeting with a prayer.
 - 2. Apologies**
 - 2.1 Apologies from CP, LGC and PF were noted.
 - 3. Minutes of the last meeting**
 - 3.1 The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved as an accurate reflection.
 - 4. Matters arising**
 - 4.1 The matters arising were reviewed and appropriate updates provided.
 - 5. Synodal Pathway**
 - 5.1 MO shared the Holy Hour banner with the PPC and all approved its design.
 - 5.2 BT suggested that, to commence further engagement, parishioners be encouraged to bring their family and friends to some or all of the parochial weekend.
 - 5.3 KS raised that her parents' parish ran a Bible school during the first week of the summer holidays this year and it was very well attending. KS suggested that St Michael's could explore this for next year. The PPC agreed this was a good suggestion, and EC and BW agreed to work with KS on the initial planning work, with a view to holding it next year. KS suggested that it could be an event that is led by outside facilitators and BW suggested that it could also be linked to the Lego café initiative. This would be open to St Martin's pupils and their families and also non-Catholics.
 - 6. Matters relating to the running of the parish and services**
 - 6.1 BT raised that he is writing an article about for inclusion in the Sonning Common magazine and invited the PPC to suggest events that it wishes to hold at St Michael's during October and November, when the magazine will be published.
 - 6.2 KS raised that a number of parishioners have requested the prayer service for deceased loved ones is repeated in November and the PPC agreed this should be held again, settling on a date of **Monday 2 November 2026** in place of a Holy Hour.
 - 6.3 BT confirmed that the blessing of the graves will take place again on Remembrance Sunday, which this year is Sunday 8 November 2026, at 2.00pm.
 - 6.4 KS advised that the Christmas pudding making evening will take place on **Friday 20 November 2026**.

7. Consultation on the future of the parish

- 7.1 MO advised that CP will be providing an update on the future of the parish after the 10.30am mass on Sunday 20 September 2026.
- 7.2 MO reminded the PPC that a presbytery update was included within last weekend's newsletter.

8. 80th anniversary planning

- 8.1 MO that the PPC and Finance Committee will undertake a joint presentation to parishioners at the masses on Saturday 12 September and Sunday 13 September, and it will be from this point onwards that parishioners will be asked for contributions to the church redecoration.
- 8.2 MO updated that money to support the church decoration will be withdrawn from the church fund in January and so it will be useful to have an accurate total of what has already been raised by that point.
- 8.3 It was confirmed that the redecoration and carpet works are planned to take place after Easter 2027 to limit disruption.
- 8.4 It was suggested that the allocation of a blue badge space in the car park could be amalgamated into the church redecoration programme. MO raised this with the Finance Committee, and they will discuss the options with KM, including the regulatory obligations of providing a blue badge space. Upon discussion, KS agreed to speak to the garage about this change, given that they use the car park during the week.
- 8.5 MO confirmed that Yvonne Mubanga has agreed to organise the pilgrimage to Rome to coincide with LT's final year at seminary college.

9. Parochial weekend

- 9.1 MO updated the PPC as to the events taking place across the parochial weekend, starting with the quiz and chilli night on the Friday evening
- 9.2 CP will either do a talk on the Saturday morning or ask Father Tenny to do this, and it was suggested that the event take place between 10.00am and 12.00pm. There will then be a children's treasure hunt, followed by pizza and games, between 3.00pm and 5.00pm, and the weekend will draw to a close with the usual shared lunch and annual general meeting (AGM) on the Sunday.
- 9.3 MO advised that Bishop Richard will be celebrating masses with us over the parochial weekend and BT confirmed that he has been invited to all of the events across the weekend as well.
- 9.4 It was confirmed that MO, KS, SB and BW will all be nominated for re-election at the AGM as they have come to the end of their current three-year term.

10. PPC and Finance Committee retreat

- 10.1 The PPC set the date of the joint PPC and Finance Committee retreat as Saturday 6 February 2026. BW agreed to explore St John's Convent and The Oratory School as possible venues.

11. Safeguarding

- 11.1 There were no safeguarding items for update or consideration at today's meeting.

12. Fundraising and social activities

- 12.1 MO reminded the PPC of the fundraising plans for the church redecoration, which had already been discussed, as have the plans for the parochial weekend.
- 12.2 MO raised that the ladies' charity fundraising shopping trip will take place in November.

13. Any other business

- 13.1** KS raised that the decorator currently painting the window frames of the presbytery has noted that there are areas of the building that need repointing. BW agreed to speak with KM as she potentially has a contractor that could undertake that work. **BW**
- 13.2** MO advised that the Finance Committee have asked if the PPC could produce an information flyer for the joint presentation to the parish at the masses on Saturday 12 September and Sunday 13 September in relation to the fundraising plans. BW agreed to speak with FG and ask if she would be happy to support. **BW**
- 13.3** The PPC further discussed the decoration, recarpeting and vestments refresh for the 80th anniversary, noting that a significant amount of money is being requested. The PPC agreed it was worth presenting everything that it would like and then assess the art of the possible, including the preferred designs and costs of vestments. KS also suggested that vestment-specific donation envelopes could be placed at the back of the church.
- 13.4** When the time of church redecoration arrives, KS queried whether all masses will be transferred to the hall and cautioned that the PPC must be mindful of the all the bookings that could be disrupted during the week. BT confirmed that the weekday masses and services could be suspended while the church is being redecorated and only the weekend masses be celebrated.
- 13.5** In absentia, CP raised that he is producing a deanery magazine and asked the PPC to consider any items for inclusion. The PPC suggested the chilli and quiz night, the craft and produce sale and the service for deceased members of the parish could all be included. It was also suggested that a calendar of events, similar to that which the Thoughtful Living Group produce, could be put together and given to other parishes as an open invite. **MO**
- 13.6** No other business was raised.

14. Dates of future meetings

- 14.1** Monday 12 October 2026 at 7.00pm via Zoom

15. Date of next meeting

- 15.5** Monday 14 September 2026 at 7.00pm via Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with a prayer at 8.26pm.