

St Michael's Catholic Church
Parish Pastoral Council Minutes for the meeting held on 11th February 2026
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present:

MO'DI (Chair); Canon PF, KS, SB, LGC, Deacon BT, PF, EC, BW (minute taker)

Additional Attendees

DW, CG & SW

Apologies: P M

Opening prayer – Deacon Brian

1. Welcome

MO welcomed all present and introduced Erin in her role on the PPC

2. Apologies

As noted above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting (14.1.2026) and Matters arising

The minutes from the January meeting were approved, and no specific matters were raised.

4. Action Plan

a. Parish register. Updating will recommence weekend 24/25th Jan. KS to leave current forms in the sacristy. Forms for new parishioners are available. Help will be needed at all the Masses. BT + others.

b. Path to hall is an ongoing issue. KS has contacted the Parish Council, waiting reply

c. Alpha Course. Information session arranged by BT on 10th and 22nd March to gauge interest. Other churches in the parish have been informed in case there is interest from people outside St Michael's

d. D W and KS met and agreed the children will do some artwork for the church at Easter but designing the Lent/ Easter card will be postponed until 2027. This will give us time to facilitate the work needed including prizes in time for the print run date required for Lent 2027

DW met with Paddie Denton the diocesan youth worker for Oxfordshire, 27th Jan.

e. Parish Showcase of groups. This is postponed for now due to the number of activities in March 2026. The PPC will pick this up later this year BT, KS + others to decide how tables can be placed

5. Synodal Assembly

a. Sashes for welcomers have arrived. Need to encourage welcomers to wear them!

b. Name badges for parishioners are currently on hold due to many other things happening. We will revisit this after Easter

c. Alpha course. See above.

d. An Easter banner for outside the church will be arranged.

- e. The Thoughtful Living Group has created a Calendar of Events for 2026. The schedule is already very full but it is a living document that can be updated and adjusted throughout the year. This was shared at the PPC and will be shared with the wider parish. MO
- f Tim Livesey has been invited to repeat his talk about the West Bank to a wider audience later in the year.
- g Additional training has been given to continue to develop our altar servers (young and adult) so that they are ready to assist over Easter while Deacon B is away.
- h. First feedback from the Synodal Assembly (You said , We did flyer) has been done.

6. Engaging with the youth of our Parish

- a Children's music mass 1st March 2026.- organisation in progress, DW and KS
- b Lego Cafe . Sarah and Chris presented their experience of introducing the Lego cafe for the parish of St John the Baptist in Hampshire . Based on this we would like to go forward and plan a session for the children in October 2026 half term , possibly at a Sunday mass. Sarah and Chris are happy to support the first session. BW to organise follow-up workshop to discuss approach and organisation. Deborah will be key team member!
- c. For Christmas children's service 2026. Based on feedback from 2026 there were many children at the back at the 5pm Mass who could not see the nativity scene. We will look into how we can get children more involved, e.g. reserve front benches and floor space for them. Invite them to come to the front. Supply costumes so that more can be involved. Consult with Deborah West, but do not create more work for her. It was noted that 2025 children's Mass was a suitable length for young children.

7. Lent/Easter

- a. Fr Michael and Canon Paul will be supporting us during this period. Fr Michael will celebrate the Easter liturgies. Timings will be as in previous years.
- b. Penitential service will take place on the Monday of Holy Week.
- c. The Scripture course will continue.
- d. A Lent day of recollection has been arranged at St Michael's Church Hall for 14th March 2026 and the sign up sheet is at the back of the church . Canon Paul will lead the event.

8. Matters related to the life of the Parish

- a. Should aim to have the next Synodal Assembly in May. Planning is in progress , Canon Paul and BT are organising
- b. At the request of parishioners a small short Pets Service will be planned for Saturday 18th April @ 11am . People will be encouraged to bring their pets for this blessing. BT organising
- c. Easter Saturday food blessing . This is a popular event in Poland and it would be nice to explore if we can do this at St Michael's. It is already in place at Henley so people can join that service as an alternative . BT / KS/ MO to discuss with Father Michael as he will be officiating at St Michael's over Easter.

- d. Deacon Tenny Anthony is based in Henley for 6 months. He will gain experience in the deanery, including assisting at St Michael's, as he prepares for ordination to the priesthood later in the year.
- e. Canon Paul and other priests of the deanery are encouraged to see that the parish is not just surviving but is thriving.

9. 80th Anniversary of the Parish

- a. Redecorating of the church to be considered, including stripping and retreating the pews.
- b. KS to liaise with KM to get quotes for painting. Need to check with the finance committee, as other work might need to be done due to recent inspections. The finance committee should take responsibility for the project.

10. Safeguarding

- a. LGC has done all her training, but there has been a delay in receiving her official approval from the diocese. An outstanding reference is awaited.
- b. MO'D and her husband are arranging an event for young people. It is believed the presence of a DBS checked adult will suffice. This is confirmed
- c. KS will provide LC with our current list of DBS checked parishioners.
- d. Canon P commented that adult servers should be DBS checked.

11. Fundraising and Social Activities

- a. Santa doesn't get it right raffle has taken place and was very well supported. Over £300 was raised for CIRDIC
- b. Board games afternoon is planned for 8th March.
- c. SR has confirmed for the quiz in September patronal festival weekend.
- d. See TLG calendar of events for this years plan

12. Any other business

- a. Father Colin will be returning to the deanery 26th July- 6th September 2026

13. Dates of Future Meetings

Monday 9th March 2026 @. 7pm via Zoom.
Monday 13th April @ 7pm via Zoom

Closing prayer – Canon Paul