

**Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
13 July 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 The PPC discussed some of the key topics that were raised during the last Synodal Pathway.
 - 5.2 BT confirmed that he has already recruited some volunteers to act as intercessors to pray for people within the parish and those that parishioners request specific prayers and intentions be offered up for. However, BT confirmed that further requests for volunteers will be made.
 - 5.3 In order to continue engagement with Catholics whose faith may have lapsed, or visitors to St Michael's, work has commenced in maintaining contact with people at anniversaries of either bereavements or happy occasions, such as baptisms and weddings, by way of reminder that St Michael's is still there. It was stressed that this is merely a proactive, considerate contact to remind them that the church continues to think of them at this time. BT agreed to consider how this can all be linked together. **BT**
 - 5.4 MO suggested that hosting a tea and coffee morning in the church one day during the week could encourage parishioners, and non-practising parishioners, to enter the church and experience the community. This could be advertised by a banner outside the church encouraging people to drop in. It was agreed that this would require volunteers to host the mornings as well. It was also suggested that reintroduction of regular tea and coffee after the 10.30am mass would be good.
 - 5.5 A further suggestion to encourage non-parishioners into the church was to open the church 30 minutes before the Holy Hour each month. This could be advertised on a banner as well, inviting people to come in and take some time out from the busy nature of the world today. It was agreed that the messaging would have to be very carefully constructed so as not to distract from the Holy Hour. MO agreed to speak to FG about this. **MO**
 - 5.6 KS has contacted some companies that lead youth music sessions but has been advised that these are usually groups that go into schools rather than churches. KS will speak with DW and explore what **KS**

more activities and events could be introduced into the mass to encourage greater youth participation, noting that the music mass this year had been a success and could be built upon.

- 5.7 BW confirmed that the Lego café idea is still progressing and will take place in October 2026.

6. Matters relating to the running of the parish and services

- 6.1 BT announced that Fr Colin is returning to the UK for a short period of time over the summer and will celebrate mass at St Michael's on 8 and 9 August.

7. Consultation on the future of the parish

- 7.1 As CP had provided his apologies, no discussion was held in relation to the consultation on the future of the parish.

8. Parochial weekend planning

- 8.1 MO updated the PPC on some of the events that will take place across the parochial weekend. There will be a quiz and chilli night on the Friday evening, with all proceeds going to the church decoration fund, and a treasure hunt is being organised for the younger parishioners on the Saturday afternoon, including pizza afterwards, prior to the 17:30 mass. Sunday will see the usual annual general meeting and the shared lunch.

- 8.2 KS queried whether the exhibition of church groups will take place on the parochial weekend and MO confirmed that this will likely now be held in January to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the parish.

- 8.3 Upon discussion, MO agreed to email CP to ask whether he would like to do a talk to parishioners on the Saturday morning. **MO**

9. PPC and Finance Committee retreat

- 9.1 MO confirmed that dates in January and February are now being considered for the join PPC and Finance Committee retreat.

10. 80th anniversary planning

- 10.1 MO confirmed that quotes for the decoration and recarpeting of the church have been requested and that quotes for new vestments are still required. SB advised that two contractors for the carpet have been engaged and she will need to provide a brief of the works to them.

- 10.2 The PPC agreed to ask parishioners for fundraising ideas.

11. Gardeners' Question Time

- 11.1 KS advised that she asked Bishop Timothy for his view on St Michael's offering to host an episode of Gardeners' Question Time, and he believes it is an interesting suggestion and that he is content to allow CP to decide. KS agreed to forward Bishop Timothy's email to CP for his advice. **KS**

12. Blue badge parking

- 12.1 A suggestion has been made for a blue badge parking space to be created in the car park and the PPC support this proposal. MO agreed to speak to the Finance Committee in the first instance. **MO**

13. Safeguarding

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

14. Fundraising and social activities

- 14.1 The PPC were advised that a delivery of five bags has already been made to the Royal Berkshire Hospital and more clothes are being donated at the back of the church.

15. Any other business

15.5 The PPC formally expressed its thanks to DW and KT for preparing the children for confirmation.

15.6 No other business was raised.

16. Dates of future meetings

16.1 Monday 14 September 2026 at 7.00pm via Zoom

17. Date of next meeting

17.1 Monday 17 August 2026 at 7.00pm via Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with a prayer at 8.20pm.