

**Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
26 November 2025 at 19:00 hours
Virtual meeting via Zoom**

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

Apologies: None

Action

1. Welcome

- 1.1 MO welcomed the parish pastoral committee (PPC) to the meeting and CP opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies

- 2.1 No apologies were received for the meeting.

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 actions noted.

5. Synodal pathway

- 5.1 MO advised that an action plan for the last Synodal Assembly has been collated.
- 5.2 MO confirmed that the board game afternoon will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 8 March 2026 and that DW and CT are exploring the option of holding an afternoon for families during Lent or at Pentecost.

- 5.3** MO raised that a competition for the young people of the parish to design the front of the Easter mass times booklet has been suggested. KS has spoken to DW about this and an art show over Easter has also been suggested, with the young people drawing and painting Easter images that are then displayed around the church over the Easter weekend. KS agreed to pick the Easter mass times booklet and art show with DW. **KS**
- 5.4** BT updated on the current status in relation to running an Alpha Course in 2026, reminding the PPC that an adequate number of volunteers would be required to help run it otherwise it could not take place. BT confirmed he would continue to work on preparations and, once enough volunteers (approximately six) had been confirmed, he would discuss the option of a joint course with St Andrew's. **MO**
- 5.5** MO introduced the suggestion of showcasing what takes place at St Michael's, such as the choir, readers, flower arrangers etc. and asked what format this should take. BT reminded the PPC that previously it has taken place in the church itself and the best way to reach as many people would be to hold it across two weekends. The PPC agreed that during Lent or the spring would be best and agreed to finalise a date at the January PPC meeting. **MO**
- 5.6** A query was raised as to how to communicate the outputs of the Synodal Assembly to the parish and a "You said, we did" insert into the newsletter was suggested. The PPC agreed doing this in February and to further agree this at the January PPC meeting. **MO**
- 6. St Michael's future planning 2026**
- 6.1** CP confirmed that the running of the parish, and celebration of masses, will continue as they are throughout 2026, including Easter.
- 6.2** CP provided a wider diocesan update to the PPC as to the future of the parish over the next five years.
- 7. Advent and Christmas**
- 7.1** BT confirmed that the parish is ready for Advent and Christmas, and that the Christmas mass times cards have arrived and will be placed at the back of the church this weekend.
- 7.2** KS confirmed that the banner to go by the roadside advertising Christmas is all in hand and will work with FG to finalise the artwork and then install it.
- 8. Matters relating to the running of the parish and services**
- 8.1** The PPC agreed there were no urgent matters of note related to the running of the parish and MO thanked CP on behalf of the PPC for his support in 2025. MO also asked him to pass on the PPC's thanks to the priests who are celebrating mass each weekend at St Michael's.

9. Safeguarding

- 9.1** BT confirmed that the issue with L's email is now resolved and she is progressing well with all aspects of the safeguarding responsibilities, including recognition with the safeguarding authority.

10. Fundraising and social activities

- 10.1** MO confirmed that the ladies' Christmas shopping afternoon was a success and thanked all involved.
- 10.2** MO thanked KS for another excellent Christmas pudding making evening, confirming that six Christmas puddings had been given to the Churches in Reading drop-in centre (CIRDIC).
- 10.3** MO reminded the PPC of the celebration of Ches Black's 100th birthday on Saturday 6 December.
- 10.4** MO confirmed that the "Santa doesn't always get it right" raffle will take place again in February 2026.
- 10.5** KS raised that she has explored an initiative that the parish could become involved in where money goes towards buying Christmas presents for prisoners.
- 10.6** BT thanked the thoughtful living group for spearheading the parish's vision for charitable donations and for the work they have done to make it a reality.

11. Any other business

- 11.1** No other business was raised.

12. Dates of next meeting

- Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 19:00 hours via Zoom.
- Wednesday 11 February 2026 at 19:00 hours via Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with a prayer at 20:15 hours.