

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

Present: MO Chair
CP
PF
PM Minute-taker
SB

Apologies: BW
BT
EC
KS
LGC

Action

1. Welcome and opening prayer

1.1 MO welcomed the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) to the meeting.

2. Apologies

2.1 Apologies from BW, BT, EC, KS and LGC.

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 CP provided a brief update in relation to the renting out of the presbytery. This update will be provided to the Finance Committee next week and further updates provided in due course.

5. Synodal Pathway

5.1 MO confirmed that the next Synodal Pathway will take place on Sunday 7 June 2026 with the theme of evangelisation.

5.2 CP suggested that he will celebrate all masses that weekend so that he has the opportunity to speak to the parishioners about the theme and aims of the Synodal Pathway, including learning the mission of evangelisation for ourselves, reaching out to those in the parish who are not currently practising and reaching out to those who are looking to engage with the faith.

5.3 MO advised that she may not be available on this date and will speak to BT and KS about the organisation and set up of the day. **MO**

5.4 MO noted the appropriate timing of the Synodal Pathway and the theme of evangelisation given that the Alpha Course has been postponed. MO provided a brief update on the feedback received in order to attract the widest audience to the Alpha Course and that a decision has been made to hold in 2027 to coincide with St Michael's 80th anniversary.

5.5 An update on the actions from the previous Synodal Pathway were discussed, particularly engagement with the youth and families in the parish. MO updated that the event on 19 April 2026 was very well-received and good feedback has been received from those who attended.

5.6 It has been suggested that a youth-focused event takes place on the patronal weekend and the PPC supported this suggestion, as well as providing a pizza takeaway from those in attendance.

5.7 It was noted, following discussions with DW, that those who are about to receive Confirmation wish to be involved in the life of the parish more, and a charity cake sale has therefore been planned to take place after the 10.30am mass on Sunday 21 June. SB noted that that is the same day as the Sonning Common Village Day and so could mean some people are unable to join. MO agreed to speak with DW around the date and see if there are any other options to avoid clashes for some parishioners. However, the PPC agreed that, if that date is deemed suitable, to press ahead. **MO**

5.8 Upon request, the PPC agreed to the request that the prizes for the children who produce a birthday card for Jesus at Christmas be paid for by the parish.

5.7 The PPC briefly discussed when to hold the showcase of the parish groups but it was agreed to carry this item forward when more members of the PPC were able to join.

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

6.1 MO reminded the PPC that the International Mass will take place on at Pentecost, Sunday 24 May 2026. YM, who is organising the mass, has suggested that parishioners are invited to bring items usually donated to the Churches in Reading Drop-in Centre (CIRDIC) or the food bank to this mass and they will be offered up at the offertory. The PPC supported this suggestion.

6.2 In absentia, BT reminded the PPC of the intention to reintroduce the Holy Blood at Holy Communion and will be running a refresher training session for all Eucharistic Ministers before

6.3 BT advised the PPC that a new amplifier has been installed to fix the T-Loop within the sound system. However, a fault has occurred, causing a high-pitch whistling sound, and BT assured that the engineer has been called out again to fix this issue.

6.4 MO updated that a parishioner has approached her and requested that a recital of St Michael's prayer at the end of each mass be considered, as our Patron Saint. The PPC discussed this and agreed it is unnecessary and may distract from the uplifting instruction of "Go forth". However, it was considered to be a great suggestion and consideration be given for St Michael's prayer to be made available, possibly on card printouts, for people to recite it in their own private prayer at home.

7. Joint Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee retreat

7.1 It has been agreed to postpone the retreat until after the summer and agreement of an appropriate date will be carried forward to the next meeting.

8. 80th anniversary planning

8.1 It was agreed that further discussion of the 80th anniversary plans be carried forward to the next meeting.

9. Safeguarding

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

10. Fundraising and social activities

10.1 MO advised that the plant sale was a success and generated almost £300.

10.2 It has been agreed, in conjunction with the Thoughtful Living Group, that some of the money will be spent on buying raised beds and compost for the children at St Martin's School to aid their understanding of the world around us, how important it is to look after it and support their understanding of where food comes from. The remainder of the money will go to local charities.

10.3 The Thoughtful Living Group has also suggested a quiz and chilli night on the Friday of the pastoral weekend with the proceeds being donated to the church redecoration. This received the support of the PPC.

11. AOB

No other business was raised.

12. Dates of future meetings

The PPC provisionally agreed to hold a meeting on Monday 13 July 2026 at 7.00pm but this will be confirmed at the next meeting on Monday 15 June 2026.

12. Date of next meeting

Monday 15 June 2026 at 7.00pm via Zoom

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with a prayer at 7.42pm.