

**Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
9 March 2026 at 19:00 hours
Virtual meeting via Zoom**

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

Apologies: CP
LF
PF

Action

1. Welcome and opening prayer

1.1 MO welcomed the parish pastoral committee (PPC) to the meeting.

2. Apologies

2.1 Apologies from CP, LF and PF were noted.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

3.1 The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed, with one amendment required: the pet blessing service will take place on 25 April 2026 and not 18 April 2026, as the minutes state.

3.2 The minutes were otherwise approved as an accurate reflection.

4. Lent and Easter

4.1 BT confirmed that all is in place for Easter, with the Holy Week leaflets currently in production to advise parishioners of the mass times.

4.2 KS confirmed that an Easter banner is currently being produced, similar to the Christmas banner, that will be placed outside the church.

4.3 MO reminded the PPC that the blessing of the Easter food will take place on Easter Saturday, 4 April 2026, at 10.00am. BT confirmed that this has also been included within the Holy Week leaflets.

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

5.1 The PPC accepted no matters of note relating to the running of the parish and services for discussion at today's meeting.

6. 80th anniversary planning

6.1 Following the last meeting, the PPC agreed to discuss the redecoration of the church with the Finance Committee at the next joint meeting.

6.2 The PPC were invited to consider how the 80th anniversary of the church can be commemorated and also to invite parishioners to give their ideas.

7. Safeguarding

7.1 The PPC were reminded that LF is now fully trained and executing the role fully.

8. Fundraising and social activities

- 8.1 MO noted the events taking place in the coming months.
- 8.2 March saw the campaign for clothes for Smart Works. BW confirmed that a significant amount of clothes have already been received and she will ensure they are delivered to Smart Works by the end of the month.
- 8.3 The Easter eggs for children of prisoners and also vulnerable children in Reading is currently in train and going well.
- 8.4 MO advised the PPC that there will be a plant sale in April.

9. Any other business

- 9.1 KS raised that a parishioner had queried why St Michael's does not appear to fundraise for itself. KS confirmed that she corrected any misunderstanding but suggested that the redecoration of the church will give parishioners a chance to fundraise. KS suggested that it is a positive sign that the parish has not needed to fundraise for the church for a while. The PPC agreed that it was a good sign as well that parishioners wish to fundraise for the church.
- 9.2 The PPC also discussed the purchase of new vestments for the priest, deacon and altar servers, and that this can be a fundraising opportunity for parishioners, particularly as the results will be tangible.
- 9.3 BT raised that another parishioner had asked why the chalice is not offered at Holy Communion and requested feedback from the PPC. Following discussion, the PPC confirmed that it is happy for the chalice to be reintroduced.
- 9.4 Some parishioners have suggested it would be nice to have fellow parishioners pray with them when asked and it was suggested that this be communicated to parishioners who may wish to volunteer as a 'prayer buddy', as required. BT also suggested that reminders are occasionally required that the altar of Mary is a private space and for parishioners not to interrupt the private prayer of anyone that may be there. **BT**
- 9.5 MO noted that a parishioner had suggested the Chair of Trustees at the Churches in Reading Drop-In Centre (CIRDIC) be invited to speak to the parish. The PPC believe this to be an excellent idea, and MO will extend the invite. **MO**

10. Dates of future meetings

- 10.1 Monday 13 April 2026 (joint meeting with the Finance Committee)
Monday 11 May 2026

11. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 13 April 2026 at 19:00 hours via Zoom

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