Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council
Draft minutes of a meeting held on 11th December 2025

Present: Members of the Parish Pastoral Council:
Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Gabriel Lopes, Christine Martin, Helen Murphy, Cecilia Parsons, Rob Pickford, Brigid Rodgers (Chair), Paul Blake (Clerk).
Also in attendance:
Jo Walsh, Louise Tavener (Head of School at Saint Edmund's School).

Apologies: None received.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.00.p.m.

Minutes of meeting held on 11th September 2025
These minutes were approved.
There were no matters arising from these minutes.

Administrative matters in relation to the Parish Pastoral Council
Membership: Father Vincent noted that the Parish Pastoral Council was one of the larger ones within the diocese. With some recent new members and some long serving members of the Parish Pastoral Council, members were asked if anyone wished to stand down. Tricia Davies indicated that she was willing to stand down.
(If there are any members of the Parish Pastoral Council who were not at this meeting and wish to stand down, they are asked to communicate this to either the Chair or the Clerk.)

Election of Chairperson: Father Vincent asked Brigid Rodgers if she was prepared to be nominated to stand as Chair, to which she agreed. There being no other nominations Brigid Rodgers remains as the Chair.

Sacramental preparation updates
Baptisms: There is no preparation course at present.
First Communions: Christine Martin reported that a group of parishioners are prepared to lead some sessions. She is willing to organise the administration of this. Sessions would not start until the New Year and would be held in the church hall before Sunday morning Mass. There was a discussion as to whether parents should be invited to attend all sessions with the children, or just some. No final decision on this was reached. If a session for children is held without parents, then those parishioners attending and leading the session would need diocesan enhanced safeguarding clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service. Christine Martin indicated that she would be willing to organise the preparation programme in 2026 but would need someone else being prepared to organise it in the following year. A request was made for an item about First Communion preparation to be placed in the school newsletter. Lousie Tavener agreed to action this.

Feedback from the on-line course "Re-imagining Pastoral Councils", a joint project between the Archdiocese of Liverpool and the Dioceses of Hexham & Newcastle, Northampton and Clifton
The Chair reported that she and the Clerk had subscribed to this online course with is taking place once a month for nine months with a different lead speaker each month. Key points raised in the first two sessions were: maintaining a focus on the mission of the parish, listening to new voices, including people on the margins, being outward looking, sharing hopes and dreams for the parish, dealing with disagreements, and keeping joyful. Having an 'away day' or day of recollection for members was also mentioned.

Videos of the previous sessions can be accessed on the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/@DioceseHN

Recruitment of new volunteers
The lists for new volunteers to sign which were in the church porch are missing. There was one new volunteer willing to act as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Sunday morning Masses.

Possible joint Advent services with Saint Anthony's Parish, Melksham
A joint service as a 'Holy Hour' takes place at Saint Anthony's Parish, Melksham this coming Sunday 14th December from 3.00.p.m. to 4.00.p.m.

Updates from the Calne Partnership of Churches
Rob Pickford reported that a joint service had been held at the Baptist Church and the Calne Partnership of Churches was represented at the Calne Christmas Lights switch on event. Father Vincent reported that the Minister at the Methodist Church was leaving next Summer and interviews are being held at present to appoint a new Minister.

Any other business
The parish chosen charities for the Parish Project for 2026 are The Doorway Project based in Chippenham which assists the homeless, and The Rise Trust which supports young people and families in the North Wiltshire area including Calne.
Thanks were given to the school for their fund-raising support towards the 2025 Parish Project.

Date of next meeting
The next meeting of Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council will be on Thursday 12th March 2026 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall. Kathleen Joyce will be invited to provide the Scripture reading and Christine Martin will lead the discussion on the next area from 'Called to be People of Hope': Acting Justly.

The meeting ended at 7.40.p.m. with a closing prayer.