Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council
Draft minutes of an extraordinary meeting held on 18th June 2026

Present: Members of the Parish Pastoral Council:
Father Vincent, Gabriel Lopes, Christine Martin, Helen Murphy, Rob Pickford, Brigid Rodgers (Chair), Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: Cecilia Parsons.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 7.00.p.m. and a Scripture reading from Saint Paul's Second Letter to Timothy.

Discussion on the role of the Parish Pastoral Council.
The Chair opened the meeting explaining that she and the Clerk had followed a nine-month 'on-line' course on Parish Pastoral Councils and that this meeting was being held to enable a discussion on the role of our Parish Pastoral Council and our hopes for our parish in the future.

All members contributed to the wide-ranging discussion that followed. The main points raised are itemised below.

The three-fold purpose of Pastoral Councils is set out in a Vatican II document: "To investigate and consider matters relating to pastoral activity and to formulate practical conclusions concerning them."

The best way to get parishioners involved in any pastoral activity is to personally speak to them and invite them. This means knowing parishioners well and their various talents.

The Parish Pastoral Council should be the group that holds the vision for the parish. Bishop Bosco recently spoke of three central functions of parishes as: the worship of God, handing on the faith in its fullness and works of charity and service of the poor.

Pastoral activities work best when a team of parishioners work together rather than relying on one individual; this is evidenced by the adult formation courses held in the past led by a different parishioner each week, the recent preparation for First Communion programme, and the very successful children's Liturgy of the Word.

Plans should soon be made for the celebration of Confirmations within the next two years. We should refrain from judging those young people who have been Confirmed but do not regularly worship at the church.

The Clifton Diocese offers many formation opportunities and courses, but these are mainly 'on-line' and this can be a solitary experience; things often work better in a group setting. The diocesan training for aspiring deacons is done 'face to face'.

The parish 'Mission Statement' should be re-visited to see if it is fit for purpose. Parish Pastoral Council members were asked to consider this and bring ideas to the next meeting.

Various changes to the 'Terms of Reference' of the Parish Pastoral Council were proposed. (These are itemised at the end of these minutes). Changes will be reviewed with a view to being adopted at the next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Ways in which the members of the Parish Pastoral Council could reflect the views of other parishioners were discussed, particularly in relation to how the parish could grow and develop. Plans for this were made and are detailed at the end of these minutes under the heading 'Actions'.

With some recent resignations from the Parish Pastoral Council, membership is currently low and consideration should be given to the recruitment of some new members.

Father Vincent stated that he valued the work of the Parish Pastoral Council.

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Thursday 10th September 2026 at 7.00.p.m. in the church hall.

The meeting ended at 8.30.p.m. with a closing prayer.

Actions

Parish Pastoral Council members are asked to consider the wording of a parish 'Mission Statement' or 'Vision Statement' and bring ideas for suggested wording to the next meeting. The present 'Mission Statement' is as follows:

> "We the Christians of Saint Edmund's, Calne, as a worshipping, teaching and serving community, pledge ourselves, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to further the mission of Jesus Christ and his church in this corner of his vineyard, by working for the reconciliation of human beings with God and with each other."

The Parish Pastoral Council will seek the views of parishioners on the ways in which the parish should and could grow and develop. This consultation will be launched on the weekend of 26th /27th September 2026.

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council are asked to be present at both the Saturday evening Mass and the Sunday morning Mass that weekend. Brigid Rodgers volunteered to speak at the end of Mass on the Saturday evening, and Rob Pickford volunteered to speak at the end of the Sunday morning Mass. Members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be introduced to the congregation and asked to come forward to the sanctuary.

Parishioners will be invited to speak to members of the Parish Pastoral Council with their views after the Masses. Refreshments will be served in the church hall after the Saturday evening Mass to facilitate these conversations.

Parishioners will also be able to contribute to this consultation in writing, either via specially designed forms and a collection box in the church porch, or via email to the parish.

These arrangements will be publicised in the parish newsletter prior to the 26th / 27th September 2026. Arrangements will be finalised at the next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council to be held on 10th September 2026.

Proposed changes to the 'Terms of Reference' of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Paragraph 6: *"fostering growth"* is this too vague? Should it be more specific?

Paragraph 8: delete the lines: *"and serve as its Chairman. The Parish Pastoral Council shall elect a Vice Chairperson from amongst its members to chair meetings in the event of the absence of the Parish Priest."*

Paragraph 10: delete the sentence: *"Meetings shall normally take place on a Sunday after the morning Mass."*

Paragraph 11: delete the sentence: *"Where this is not possible the Parish Priest shall have the casting vote."*

At end of document: after *"Adopted 23rd May 2010"* add "Revised 10th September 2026"

Footnote [i]: This will need to be changed if a new 'Mission Statement' is agreed and adopted at the meeting to be held on 10th September 2026.