OUR LADY AND ST. JOSEPH SHERINGHAM AND CROMER
Parish Pastoral Council 8 April 2025

1. **Welcome**
   Opening Prayer for our Parish
   Present: Father Simon Davies, Darryl Smith (Chair), Breeda Godfrey, Anne Buxton, Mary Mustoe-Arthur (Secretary). Closed meeting so no parishioners in attendance.

2. **Apologies:** Caroline O'Grady Treasurer. Michele Otway

3. **Background and Future Direction**
   Father Simon has been in office since January 2025, our first Parish Priest since Father James. The Parish has had considerable disruption and lack of focus because of the changeover of Priests. Father Simon has had the opportunity to review past practices in the Parish, consult with fellow clergy and to consider best and current practice.
   A confidential consultation paper had been sent to all PPC members and Father Simon asked for feedback, questions and comments ahead of this meeting. All had responded and Father Simon was pleased with the positive engagement.
   Father Simon has plans to change how the Parish Pastoral Council operates and these are aimed at both making it more inclusive and synodal in practice. This will involve inviting new members onto the Council, reflecting the makeup of the Parish. Clear operating processes will be followed and these include how meetings will run, what their purpose is and how information will be shared with the Parish.
   On Low Sunday Father Simon intends to address the Parish about how he will be taking forward a number of changes and how people can become more involved and engaged with the running of the Parish. Father Simon has already approached some parishioners who have agreed to join the new Council.
   These changes build on the requirements of Canon Law and also Pope Francis' true vision of synodality in operation. Information about the changes for parishioners will include a summary document for general parish distribution and the source documents (statutes) both of these will be available on the Parish website in late Spring.

4. **Future Parish Communication**
   One consistent piece of feedback was how the Parish can be kept up to date with key news and personnel. Father Simon intends to make more use of the website, and to produce a quarterly booklet which gives key information and any forthcoming events. This can be accessed both in hard copy or by signing up for email circulation. In addition, Father Simon stressed that he is happy to be approached by any parishioner about parish matters.

5. **Membership**
   Darryl Smith and Mary Mustoe-Arthur are standing down from their roles. Father Simon thanked them for their service and consistency particularly over the last few difficult years.
   There will be no requirement for reports to be given to the new Council so the Treasurer will not be an ex officio member but could be invited if the Parish Priest needed specific financial input.
   Breeda Godfrey and Michele Otway confirmed that they would be willing to continue as members until their term of office expires and Anne Buxton agreed to stay on for one more year.
   Once Father Simon has all the Council members in place he intends to bless them at a Mass, hopefully in May and then work can begin.

6. **Closing Prayers**
   Father Simon closed the meeting with a prayer including thanksgiving for all those who had served over the years since the PPC in its current form was instigated (2008). Prayers are requested for the new Council and for the future of our Parish.