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**The Ven. Peter Sutton
The Vicarage
Hawley
GU33 6NF**

The Church Commissioners Pastoral Committee
Mr Rex Andrews
Church House
Great Smith Street
London.
SW1P 3AZ

29th May 2019

Dear Rex,

**Mission and Pastoral Measure
Diocese of Portsmouth
Benefices of St Francis, Leigh Park; Warren Park St Clare; West Leigh, St Alban.**

I write to express my concern about the Pastoral Reorganisation for the parish of St Francis Leigh Park and formally with sadness to object to it.

My objection is not primarily about the proposed outcome which may have merit but about the process which has led to it. I am not opposed to pastoral reorganisation per se, indeed it as a vital and necessary tool as the Church adapts to changes in society. My concern is that the process itself will cause long term damage to the Church in this community.

I believe that the diocese should listen more carefully to the experience and wisdom of the parishes involved. I write as a friend of Revd Jonathan Jeffery and his family having supported him informally over a long period of time and was his former training incumbent when he was a curate at St Faith's Lee-on-the-Solent. I have previously made representations on Jonathan behalf but these have been dismissed. I have three points:

1. The diocese's approach has not been conducive to obtaining the best result for the parishes and will result in a lack of trust of diocesan structures in Leigh Park and beyond.
2. The failure of the archdeacon to engage in any meaningful conversations with the parish priest for approximately three years or to engage in a process of mediation as recommended by me to restore a working relationship with him has resulted in a proposed reorganisation which is top down and uncompromising.
3. The statement in the draft scheme that this parish is a 'declining/static church' is not true. Mission statistics below will contradict this.

Mission Statistics

Statistics can be used to support any argument but here I compare St Francis Leigh Park with seven of the larger, better resourced and what might in the contemporary business model of church be perceived as 'successful' parishes in the Diocese of Portsmouth.

Baptisms

	St Francis Leigh Park	Church of the Good Shepherd Crookhorn	St Mary, Alverstoke	St John's Locks Heath	Holy Rood, Crofton	S James, Emsworth	St Faith's, Lee-on-the-Solent	Harbour Church
2018	37	3	25	9	7	12	9	21
2017	58	1	21	7	16	18	26	15
2016	43	0	34	20	14	16	23	1
2015	46	3	39	35	11	26	30	n/a
2014	34	6	60	36	19	21	25	n/a
Total	218	13	179	107	67	93	113	37

Over a five year period, St Francis Leigh Park has baptised more people than any of the larger, better resourced or as are perceived 'successful' churches. Only two of these big churches baptised more people in one year (marked in red). We believe that these statistics demonstrate a significant engagement by the parish priest and by the parish church in an area with a high incidence of deprivation. People in this context are less likely to come to Church on a Sunday but they will for key moments in life; baptism is, or should be, the primary focus for the making of disciples.

School Assemblies

The Revd Jonathan Jeffery has been deeply involved in the schools of the parish. His wife Carolyn is a dedicated Chair of Governors and all of their children have attended schools in the parish. In terms of conducting collective worship in schools none of the larger, better resourced or perceived as 'successful' parishes come near to this level of engagement. Some might argue that their failure to engage is an issue of concern.

	St Francis Leigh Park	Church of the Good Shepherd Crookhorn	St Mary, Alverstoke	St John's Locksheath	Holy Rood, Crofton	S James, Emsworth	St Faith's, Lee-on-the-Solent	Harbour Church
2018	Usually more than once per week	Usually once a fortnight	Usually once a week	Usually once a month	Never	Usually once a week	Usually once a week	Once or twice a term
2017	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	Usually once a fortnight	" "	Never
2016	" "	Usually once per month	" "	Never	" "	Usually once a week	" "	Never
2015	" "	" "	Usually more than weekly	Usually once a month	" "	" "	Usually once a month	N/A
2014	" "	" "	Usually once per month	" "	" "	" "	" "	N/A

People attending special services held specifically for civic organisations or schools

Over a five year period more people attended special services held at St Francis specifically for civic organisations or schools than at any of the bigger, better resourced or 'successful' churches. Community engagement in Leigh Park is earthy and authentic; it is about Christmas processions with camels through the streets of deprived

neighbourhoods; it is about a parish pantomime that draws together hundreds of people who in small steps increase their connection and involvement with the Christian community.

	St Francis Leigh Park	Church of the Good Shepherd Crookhorn	St Mary, Alverstoke	St John's Locksheath	Holy Rood, Crofton	S James, Emsworth	St Faith's, Lee-on-the-Solent	Harbour Church
2018	1820	425	1180	898	0	112	0	0
2017	1740	375	1585	1300	0	82	400	0
2016	1760	584	1580	1405	0	92	400	0
2015	1940	470	1640	4	0	96	400	N/A
2014	2674	360	2100	800	0	90	1000	N/A
Total	9934	2214	8085	3407	0	472	2200	0

How many people joined your worshipping community? Adults/(Children)

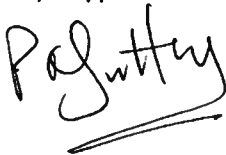
Over a five year period 25 adults and 19 children have joined the regular worshipping community. Most of the larger, better resourced and perceived as 'successful' churches can claim better – and so they should; their mission field is different. That said, an additional 44 people in the worshipping community is a success under any criteria and still more than two of the other churches in this comparison.

	St Francis Leigh Park	Church of the Good Shepherd Crookhorn	St Mary, Alverstoke	St John's Locksheath	Holy Rood, Crofton	S James, Emsworth	St Faith's, Lee-on-the-Solent	Harbour Church
2018	5 (6)	6 (7)	10 (12)	16 (4)	24 (11)	2 (0)	28 (10)	90 (10)
2017	7 (6)	5 (2)	18 (12)	13 (4)	40 (0)	6 (0)	13 (3)	? (?)
2016	4 (2)	2 (3)	18 (12)	12 (5)	23 (7)	2 (0)	36 (12)	? (?)
2015	6 (2)	2 (0)	10 (12)	? (0)	12 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	N/A
2014	3 (3)	8 (8)	12 (20)	18 (3)	6 (0)	0 (0)	2 (2)	N/A
Total	25 (19)	23 (20)	68 (68)	59 (16)	105 (18)	10 (0)	79 (27)	90 (10)

I have been selective in choosing these areas for comparison but believe that they do demonstrate a Church which is effectively and authentically, and at enormous cost to the parish priest and his family, living out the Diocesan hope to live, pray and serve its community. Fr Jonathan is not perfect and he doesn't have all of the gifts for his task – none of us do – and what is needed here is better Diocesan support.

I suggest that we have failed to support the parish priest over a long period of time and that we should work consultatively and collaboratively with the parish without resorting to a hostile process of dispossession of the parish priest. There is a time and place for using this mechanism but I do not believe this is it. There is a sense that the diocese has overstretched itself and its resources with three major reorganisations seeking the benefits of Strategic Development Funding when the lead archdeacon is leaving on account of preferment. I urge a more pastoral approach. The diocese should seek to heal its relationship with the parish and work constructively with the PCC before rushing to a scheme which may damage both Church and community for years to come and in doing so crushing a much loved, authentic, hardworking and loyal parish priest.

If my diary permits I would be willing to be represented at a meeting of the Pastoral Committee.



Peter Sutton.

Rex Andrew

From: christine cattermole <cattermole@stfrancis.org>
Sent: 28 May 2019 19:24
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: Opposing the parish o

My name is Mrs Christine Cattermole and I am writing to oppose the parish organisation. I am 62 years old and have been attending St Francis Church Leigh Park since the age of 7 years. I cannot believe that you intend to combine the three churches into one. We have a lovely community spirit at St Francis and the whole community pull together. The Reverend Jonathon Jeffery and his family work so hard to include the community of Leigh Park in all aspects of the church family. You have stated that the Harbour Church would include so much more for our community and our parishioners but Jonathon and Carolyn have already under taken everything that you have mentioned. Scout Groups, School Assembly, Messy Monday, Buzz, and so so much more. When Jonathon first told of your proposals I actually couldn't believe that this would happen but speaking to other parishioners the feeling is that you have already made up your mind and we are wasting our time. I am sorry to say that if this proposal goes through I don't actually feel that I would be comfortable attending the Harbour Church when all the community and parishioners have opposed this organisation scheme from the beginning.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Christine Cattermole

Sent from my iPad

Rex Andrew

From:

Sent:

08 May 2019 07:11

To:

Rex Andrew

Subject:

Draft scheme representation submission

Submitted on Wed, 08/05/2019 - 06:38

Submitted by:

Submitted values are:

1. Query or comment?

2. Which Scheme or Order?

Which case is your representation regarding?

Leigh

3. Write your submission

Your Name (required)

Karen Davidson

Nature of interest in case

Removal of my local vicar, father Johnathan

Is your representation for or against the draft scheme or order (required)

Against

Representation:

I have lived in Leigh park for 50 years. Born and bred. Leigh park is a unique place, we are classed as a deprived area, but people happily get on with life and struggle through life. St Francis has always been my local church for all our weddings, baptisms and funerals and as a family has been attended by family members on Sundays for over 35 years.

I have seen many vicars come and go and have all been very lovely, however none so involved in my community as father Johnathan and he's family, I might add.

He is the heart and soul of our community and could not imagine it without him. He's not only the vicar at St Francis he is the cogs of our community keeping peoples faith and lives going.

He is heavily involved in so much in my community that removing him would devastate so many peoples lives. Children absolutely adore and respect him. These children are our future of our church and he's already got their trust and understanding and involvement. Trust me that's not something easily done in my community, that takes a certain special individual to gain that.

Father, also does a lot of work with the local food banks in our area too. Something else that's a big part of my

community. These people know and trust him at there most vulnerable times of there lives.

I have personal reasons too, like when my mother was suddenly taken into ICU . As a family we did not know where to turn or what to do, but father was there with regular visits to see mum and right up until she passed , three weeks later. The service he did was absolutely beautiful and everyone who attended was blown away and spoke highly of father. Some had never met him before as they don't live local, but still passed comment.

There are plenty more stories like this whose lives father helps on a daily basis . Not just our church but our community would never be the same without him.

I'm not against support of helping our church and community, but I am against the proposal of removing father Jonathan from St Francis. These are big shoes to fill and to gain community respect and trust as he has would take a life Time. I really hope and pray that you make the best decision for our community. God bless Karen Davidson



Rex Andrew

From: ELMES PETER
Sent: 24 May 2019 ()
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: Pastoral Reorganisation of Leigh Park

I am **AGAINST** the proposed pastoral reorganisation affecting the benefices of St Francis, Leigh Park; Warren Park St Clare; and West Leigh, St Alban in the Diocese of Portsmouth.

I should perhaps start by pointing out that I am no longer a member of the Church,, having served as a Reader at St. Alban's Church in the past. However, I am a member of the local community, was the first person confirmed at St. Francis and have lived here for 68 years. I care very much about what is happening to us.

I have no problem with the amalgamation of St Clare and St Francis churches – they serve very closely together, share a priest and are widely recognised locally as sister churches. In a time of falling resources and falling numbers of clergy it would seem to be a good way forward. However, the issue of amalgamating with St Alban is a very different issue - the practical problems of merging with a very different community, West Leigh, divided from the other two by a major dual carriageway with no pedestrian crossing places, appears not to have been considered.

West Leigh is a very different community and is not, and never has been, the same as or part of Leigh Park, with whom there is very little interaction. It perhaps needs someone who has lived in this area a while to understand the difference – which started because historically it belonged to Havant while Leigh Park belonged to Portsmouth, and it was a daughter church of St. Faith in Havant. People from West Leigh will not easily see themselves as part of Leigh Park – which, of course, they are not.

I have grave misgivings about the fairness of the process so far. For Jonathan and Karina to be summoned to Peninsular House and be presented with what, to a lay person, is effectively their redundancies without any prior warning, discussion or consultation is disgraceful. It may be legally acceptable but I think most people found it morally wrong. There is always another, gentler, kinder way of breaking this sort of news but not to those two priests. I understand that they were told that they could apply for one of the new posts but may not be appointed.

The Diocese announced there would be a 'Consultation Meeting' at which everyone was welcome. It was then announced that it would not be held on the estate but further away on what the Archdeacon referred to as 'neutral territory'. After some complaints, it was agreed that the Diocese would provide a coach to pick people up and take them to the meeting. However, this still meant, because of timings, that a large number of people who wanted to be present were not able to be. This was seen by many as a means of ensuring that a lot of people were unable to attend or be heard.

However, at the meeting it became clear that the idea of consultation was just a sop to the community. We were repeatedly told 'we are going to...' or 'what will happen is ..' There was no

room for real discussion as decisions had been made. I asked how long the people from the Diocese including the Archdeacon, had actually spent on this estate or at West Leigh other than in church – seeing how the estates functioned and the value people from outside the church placed on their priests – the answer was one of them had spent one afternoon! A lot of very valid points were made by members of the audience but they were just brushed aside as either ‘you didn’t understand’ or ‘not what we are trying to achieve’. Frankly we were all left feeling patronised and ignored. The notes of the meeting which were eventually produced were not minutes in any sense and had been over-edited to remove some of the most valid points and make it sound like we were an ill controlled mob.

I have to say that the body language and rudeness of the Archdeacon told us all we needed to know – the feeling after the meeting was that it would happen come what may and Jonathan would not be getting a job.

Interestingly there was a change on the Diocese website after the meeting, when it changed from ‘... Investment to provide new ministry posts, caring for existing congregations while also planting new churches, and developing pioneering approaches to engaging with children and families.’ It then said, ‘increasing the staffing levels from three posts to five, with a mix of clergy, pioneering and operations staff’. Why can this not mean maintaining Jonathan and Karina in post with the Mission Partner, and this would still leave a place for ‘operations’?

In the local Portsmouth News on Saturday 20th October, the Bishop had written a piece explaining the plan and he said “What we offer will depend on what these communities want”. The community of Leigh Park wasted no time in rallying to this call and wrote to him, to the press, to the local Radio Station all expressing the same thought – this is not what we want and it will not work because of the way it has been handled. There was a petition, letters from all the local schools (with whom Jonathan has an excellent relationship and visits regularly); from our Christian friends at the local Roman Catholic Church; from dozens of individuals – all saying the same thing – this is not what we want! Anyone who looked on the Facebook Page ‘Save Leigh Park St Francis church’ could be in any doubt as to the strength of feeling here.

Census reports, detailed studies and figures just cannot give you the feeling of the community of Leigh Park. It is a community built in hardship in the late 40s and early 50s and has many areas of severe deprivation. Leigh Park is perhaps unlike a lot of other estates, partly in its size but more about the feelings of community which pulls together in every crisis which exists here. Yes, we are a working-class area, with low family incomes – but we are not all ill-educated, uncaring or feckless nor is it that we don’t understand what you are trying to achieve - but we just cannot accept the proposal.

We have always been taught that the church is not buildings but people and yet the declared intention (by the Archdeacon at the meeting) is to increase the numbers of worshippers in church. Perhaps if our Priests had more help where and when they need it, this might happen but there is much more Christianity in Leigh Park than you know about – just not in church on a Sunday. It is a much more down-to-earth form of Christianity, reflecting the original church, where people share what little they have and support each other in practical ways – running a food bank, cash responses to appeals, child minding, looking out for the elderly and more. We have also to remember the other active churches in the area who are not affiliated to the Anglican or any other ‘mainstream’ Church – the Calvary Church, the Endeavour Church, The Beacon Church, as well as mainstream Roman Catholic and Baptist.

People who feel the need to worship in church will do just that – but not necessarily in the Parish Church, and certainly not after all that has occurred here and the bad feeling towards the Diocese that now exists.

is it so difficult to build on what is already in place and working well? Instead of throwing the baby out with the bathwater and getting rid of the driving force that is Jonathan, why not put in place more people to help him, both ordained and lay?

I spoke to the Bishop when he took the service at St. Francis a couple of months ago and he told me that, in the next ten years, there will be a real crisis of ordained clergy with a lot of them reaching retirement age and fewer ordinands coming through training so I asked why not leave an experienced, loved priest doing God's work seven days a week to carry on. He is of the opinion that new blood will revitalise the parish, bring in new ideas and attract new people to the church. He may find this backfires of course and that the existing congregation will move to either worship elsewhere or not worship at all, such is the feeling of disenchantment.

I apologise for the length of this letter but feel that someone needs to understand the strength of feeling, the hurt, and bitterness caused by this plan, introduced without any warning and managed so badly.

I may only be a retired, working class woman but I understand this community because I live here – can foresee the consequences of this action, and it breaks my heart.

Chris Elmes (Mrs)

Rex Andrew

From:

Sent:

To:

REX ANDREW

Subject:

Proposed reorganisation of the Churches in Leigh Park

Dear Rex Andrew,

I am writing to oppose this scheme.

Leigh Park is an estate that was built after the 1939/45 war to rehouse the people of Portsmouth who lost their homes in the bombing.

It was one of the largest Council Estates in Europe and I am very proud of it.

However, even after all of these years, there is still an apparent lack of leadership.

My ward (Warren Park) is one of the most deprived in the South of England.

In our local school one third of the pupils have special needs.

We depend on Jonathan for so much. He is well known and liked by the Community who seek his advice and support.

He chairs the local Sure Start nurseries. The Church is very active and supports young people and a food bank.

The people trust him. He has created a firm foundation We need his support

Leigh Park is an area where very little happens.

Jonathan and his wife Carolyn have brought interest and sparkle to the area with their Christmas pantomimes,

which involve many residents and, most memorable of all, the Christmas Nativity play, when we had live camels,

ridden by wise men riding up the hill to St Clare's Church, sheep and donkeys taking part !

The proposal that the parishes of Leigh Park and St Alban's Church in West Leigh should amalgamate seems neither viable

or efficient to me. The areas are separated by a busy dual carriageway. Originally Leigh Park was a Portsmouth Council

estate (although situated in the Borough of Havant) and West Leigh was the Havant Council Estate.

Although the Havant

estate was (sadly) sold on to Housing Associations the two communities have never worked together. They have separate

facilities and organisations. I think that there is little probability of the congregations of the two Parishes joining

together to make one stronger, livelier mission .

I understand that you will pass my comments to the relevant interested parties.

With thanks,

Beryl Francis Cllr

Warren Park Ward



I OPPOSE THE SCHEME.

Rex Andrew.

I am writing in connection to my Church
St Francis High Park.

We would like to keep our Church as it
the centre of our community changes I know have to be
made, but every thing recommended we already do
food bank activities in the hall scouts and many
other things.

People of High Park get married have their
children baptised and funerals we also have a
remembrance garden Father Jonathan does more of
these services than anyone else in the area.

His school visits are loved by the
children they look forward to him coming.

Elderly people will have difficulty
getting to any other Church.

Yours Sincerely

Ann Goddard.

Rex Andrew

From: Mandy Hawke
Sent: 22 May 2019
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: St Francis Leigh Park
Attachments: Chuch Commisioneers .docx; Church comm questions .docx; just the vision.docx

Importance: High

Dear Sir

Please find attached letter, questions and Vision re above appeal.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Regards

Mandy

MandyHawke

Dear Sir,

It was with a heavy heart we heard the news that the Portsmouth Diocese decided not to change the draft plan for the pastoral re-organisation for Leigh Park and Warren park.

I am a parishioner of St Francis Church, Leigh Park and also on the PCC, and strongly object to the proposals. We are not opposed to change but are opposed to the way the proposal has been put in place. If we had been consulted before the proposal was put in place we could have made suggestions about the best way forward and what could be a good way to move forward to bring the work of The Lord to more people.

The PCC had spent a lot of time in the autumn of 2017 coming up with our vision (attached) and as you will see it was close to what was in the proposal. We knew our vision would be a challenge but it did not deter the PCC from having this to work with as the best way to continue to build on the work that was already being done in the community. The only thing we are short of is resources and finances; something we have been asking for for some years.

If the diocese had bothered to find out more, at the time, about our Vision, it would have been obvious that there were many plans in place to extend ways of reaching out to the community. Yet it appeared that the strategic team were unaware of these ideas; we constantly asked why they had not come into the community to see what was already happening and what more was planned before deciding we were a "failing" area (this was quoted by the Bishop in the local paper!). Maybe if this consultation or interest had happened first we could all have moved forward with renewed resources, of money and people – something we had been asking for for a long time.

I would, also, like you to know that Jonathan has a wonderfully supportive wife who does a lot of the parish and administration work. They operate as a very strong team and Carolyn does a lot of "behind the scenes" work. They have no outside administration support at all, which seems an additional amount of work to their already heavy workload.

Father Jonathan runs two parishes. He visits the five primary schools on a regular basis; runs prayer spaces in schools, is involved in many community projects and organisations. The parish has a high amount of funerals, weddings and baptisms, serving the local community on a very personal level. There are many people who hold him and his pastoral care of them in very high esteem. He is the "Church" to many people and a wonderful role model of being a good Christian. Father Jonathan does much of the "donkey work" for the above, as to achieve what he does he has no choice; there are no other people to do it!

Jonathan has been in post since 2001 and during that time has built a wonderful foundation to build on for the development of new ideas and for furthering our vision and our counter proposal. We have constantly asked that he has a designated post in the new plan so that the foundations he has laid can be built on. (There are 5 post to be filled and only 2 personnel doing the work at the moment).

Jonathan has worked hard to gain the respect and trust of the local community. Trust and respect are both hard earned qualities. It would seem to be a waste of Jonathan's hard work if this foundation of trust and respect was ignored.

During the process of the informal and formal consultation there were many meetings to be able to put forward the plans and ideas we had already set in motion. We meet twice with strategic team and twice the Bishops Council there was a feeling of not being listened to. There were many false accusations about what Jonathan had said or done, despite evidence to disprove these allegations but still a sense of hostility prevailed. There were questions that I asked but did not get adequate answers to. (see attached list)

During the informal consultation we were given just nine days to inform the community about the pastoral re-organisation, before the open meeting. This public meeting was held out of area. This clearly demonstrated the lack of understanding, by the strategic team, that for the community this venue was impossible to get to on public transport, even if people could have afforded the fares. The diocese did provide some transport, after persuasion, but refused to change the venue to more local location to enable more people to attend. This informal consultation with the community was a clear indication about how the community was feeling and we have to wonder why this seemingly had no bearing on the proposals as it was evident that the community had spoken! We were told by the strategic team that they were listening but it really appears that they had not heard! One community member said the diocese proposal would "tear the heart out of the community".

At all times the diocese set the dates and times of meetings; one being 9pm on the vicar's day off! The time frame we had to work to was very tight but one that the diocese changed when it suited them to extend it. These time frames were over the Christmas period, which, of course, is a very busy time for clergy.

These proposals have been very stressful in the way they have been handled. I am particularly concerned that Jonathan and his wife were given no pastoral care or support. There is a history of the Archdeacon (Venerable Joanne Grenfall) and Jonathan not getting on; however, I feel that someone else should have offered that care if she couldn't. At the strategic meetings and the Bishops Council meetings we all spoke about our concerns regarding the lack of care that Jonathan and Carolyn were being given yet still, to date, no-one has picked up the phone to just see what help they may have needed or how they were coping. (I am sure that had Jonathan treated a parishioner in this manner he would rightly be held to account, but this has not been the case regarding his lack of support).

Please could you reconsider the proposal, bearing in mind our vision and our counter proposals?

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours faithfully

Mandy Hawke

Is this "informal consultation and then formal consultation" just a tick box process? How can we be reassured that our views will be considered or that they will really matter?

The community turned out in full despite the venue being of the area- this made getting to the meeting a challenge for many as public transport made it impossible to get there. The diocese did provide some transport but it was only after a lot of protest from the parishes.

What detailed studies have been carried out to arrive at the decision that this area is part of the project?

No one could answer this.

Can you confirm that the local community's views were taken into consideration in this study? Who has been to see what happens in the community here? Have local schools, groups etc been consulted in this study?

No one had been to speak to members of above groups. The diocese did not seem to know what was already happening on the estate.

What has led Leigh Park and The Warren to fall into this plan? The dioceses web page implies a sense of failure that it has not engaged with the local community – this is a very unpleasant feeling and dismissive of all the work that already happens across the estate by the church.

Has anyone from the Diocese been here and spoken to community groups about where the local church fits with what they do? Has anyone spoken to local heads at the schools? Has anyone found out about how the PO9 Food Bank operates? Have you seen the evaluations from The Prayer Spaces In Schools? Are you aware of the community involvement in the annual Christmas play led by the church?

No one had been to speak to members of above groups. The diocese did not seem to know what was already happening on the estate

What are the details of the new posts being created? I assume you are well aware of the two vicars' strengths by now and would automatically encourage them to be part of the new project to ensure these strengths are used and built on. Please can you clarify the plans you have for them?

At no time did anyone reassure us that the two vicars' strengths were valued and could be used in the new plan.

Presumably to be able to submit an application to the national church for some of the funding you have had to outline numbers of personnel needed. It would be helpful to know what these posts are in broad outline so we have some idea of the "bigger picture" for those of us already on our faith journey.

All we were told was that the team vicar and team planting vicar would decide what was needed once in post and it would possibly be within two years of their appointment.

It seems the Bishop already endorses this multi-million pound project as he has launched it on the web site. How can he be impartial and able to make the final decision if this is the case?

No response to this question.

Who is responsible for the pastoral care of the two vicars? Can we be reassured that they are making sure the vicars are getting the level of care they need at this very difficult time? Can we be reassured that this care will be impartial and appropriate to their needs?

We were told that phone calls had been made- that was not true. A booklet of counsellors was given to Jonathan and his wife that they could use to get six counselling sessions. This is not what we meant by pastoral care.

Our Shared Vision

OUR SHARED VISION

We will share
the Good News that people are
made by God, known by God
and loved by God –
transforming the way they think about themselves,
others, their community,
the world around them
and God.

1. SPIRITUALITY

We will provide holistic and seamless
opportunity
for reflection on the mysteries of the
world and our part in them
and so encourage spiritual maturity
and a developing understanding
of the fullness of life.

4. SOLIDARITY NOT CHARITY

We will stand in solidarity
with our neighbours as we face life's
challenges together.

3. CREATIVE USE OF OUR SACRED SPACE

We will create space for
encounter
with each other and with God.

2. WORSHIP

We will create authentic worship
which is true to our aim and communicates
it
- peaceful, embracing, encouraging, joyful,
meaningful, making connections;
holding its integrity;
true to the people we serve and to God.

5. COMMUNITY COHESION

We will work with, alongside
and for our neighbours and community partners
to create a community of
nurture, learning and opportunity
where all can flourish and grow.

Heart of the Park

St Francis, Leigh Park and St Clare, Warren Park

Rex Andrew

From: norma hunt <r
Sent: 26 May 2019 13:11
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: NORMA HUNT

I am a Church Warden at St.Francis. I oppose the proposed scheme being put before the Church Commisioners. Firstly because even after all our meetings with Bishop Council, no one seems to understand what we are saying. Leigh Park is a very particular type of Community. Secondly, we have a thriving Church at St.Francis, led by Rev.Jonathan Jeffrey. We have very close links with the Community, which is much of our Mission work. We were the first to take Prayer Space into our local schools.Our Church Hall is used every day, sometimes twice. Everyone in the local Community knows, Jonathan and his very hard working wife Carolyn. Their three children attend the local schools.They are always there, even for non-Church goers. Thirdly, you will be missing out on a good opportunity, whose put 19 yrs into fostering good relations.,if you don't see how to make a place for Jonathan at St.Francis and Rev. Karina at St.Albans. We gave the Bishop Council at least 3 venue's for a Church Plant.

Yours faithfully Norma Hunt

Rex Andrew

From: Amber Hurry
Sent: 26 May 2019 16:57
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: Against proposalsfor St Francis

Dear Church Commissioners,

I am writing to you to let you know how upset I am with the plans for my local church and more importantly Father Jonathon.

I am 12 years old and have known Father Jonathon all my life and also he christened me and has supported me and my family through the good times and the bad. Recently I have moved to secondary school and the mission statement is unity, community and opportunity, in connection to this I would like to you to answer consider these questions: Is your decision right for the community? Is it uniting the community? And finally, are you giving Father Jonathon an opportunity? If you are struggling to answer these questions listen to me and the community. st Francis without Father Jonathon is like a body without a heart it just doesn't work but it isn't only church services that Father Jonathon organizes he also organizes community pantomimes, Christmas fayres, summer fayres, arts and crafts on Christmas eve, harvest festivals and many more fun and exciting events for all the family if you get rid of Father Jonathon I will never go to church again and I would lose faith getting rid of Father Jonathon would break the community. Me and my brothers are the future of st Francis, so I urge you to listen to my views.

Yours sincerely,
Amber Hurry

Rex Andrew

From: Kieran Hurry <...>
Sent: 29 May 2019 13:04
To: Rex Andrew

Dear Church commissioners,

I am writing to tell you my feelings on the change that has been suggested for my church St Francis in Leigh Park. I do not agree with the reorganisation that has been proposed.

My name is Cameron Hurry and I am 10 years old and I have been going to St Francis Church all my life.

I was baptised by Father Jonathon and I want you to know that he does more than just take our service on Sundays. He works in my community and comes to our school all the time.

Everybody I know likes and trusts him and we don't want him to go. He teaches all about Jesus and how we should live our lives as God would want us to.

He is part of the community and builds trust in the community. His door is always open and he brings our community together.

I am against the proposal because it will mean we lose the Vicar we all trust and love.

Please listen to me.

Kind Regards and God Bless

Cameron Hurry (10 years old)

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



Rex Andrew

From: Claire Hurry
Sent: 24 May 2019 14:08
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: AGAINST proposals for St Francis Church

Importance: High

Dear Rex,

I am writing to you to have my voice heard with the plans for re organisation for my local parish of St Francis in Leigh Park in Havant and to state that I am AGAINST the plans.

I feel very upset at the plans as I feel they do not take into consideration the work that has been done by Father Jonathan and his family and parishioners. Father Jonathon is an icon within the community and has built up an immense amount of trust and faith within the community. If the plans go ahead and he is removed from post the community will collapse as the faith and trust built up by Father Jonathan will be lost.

I have been around in a number of situations where children will call out to him in the street because they are so genuinely pleased to see him and want to talk to him - what more could you want for the future of the church to have those children that are growing up to know where to turn before it is too late should they need help and guidance.

Leigh Park is a unique community and although not everyone will go to church on a regular basis the strength of support within the community shows that just because there isn't a bum on a seat the faith isn't there.

Father Jonathan and his family work hard to support the community and have even in the last few years arranged and produced a community pantomime, my family have also been involved with this and has helped my children to be less shy through the work that they did within this production. The whole community was involved whether that be behind the scenes, performing or just coming along to watch the performances.

After reading our local newspaper on the 20th October where Bishop Christopher was interviewed and stated within this that "what we will offer will depend on what these communities want" however after the consultation period and the numerous letters, emails and petitions sent in the plans remained unchanged which meant they had not listened to the community and have not offered "what the community want"

I challenged this point direct with the diocese on their facebook page to which they responded that what he meant was for this second stage.

It feels all along this process that the full details have not been communicated and stories seem to change to suit the needs of the Diocese. I really feel that the community has not been listened to and if like was quoted in the evening news we will do what the community wants these plans will not go ahead and Father Jonathan will remain in in post. If however the plans do go ahead then the promise of doing what the community want will have not been kept and again the community will have been lied to.

Faith and trust will be lost if this goes ahead.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Kind Regards
Claire Hurry



Virus-free. www.avg.com

George Hurry

Her
10/15/2019

PH

Dear Church Commissioners,

I am writing this letter in response to the presentation given on the Portsmouth Diocese Resourcing Growth project given at the start of the informal consultation period for the deanery of Havant and in response to the draft proposal. My parish church is that of St Francis and as such my points are made with this church and Father Jeffery in mind.

After listening to the presentation and subsequent reading on the Diocese website I am focusing on the three questions that you have asked us all to consider:

1. What do you like about the ideas that we have outlined so far?
2. What concerns you?
3. What have we not considered that we might need to look at further?

I shall break these considerations down into their component parts for clarity.

Firstly, what do I like about the ideas outlined so far? You state in your proposal that you *"want to free people from the burdens of finances, administration, and buildings so that rather than only maintaining the existing church they will also be able to support new projects, opportunities, and communities"*. I fully embrace and welcome the fact that the diocese recognises the fact that Father Jeffery is overburdened with the administrative tasks involved in running the parish. Giving him this support will allow him to continue his ministry within my community of which he is an integral part.

I am not ashamed to say this is the only part of the proposal that I can see any positivity in. This brings me onto what concerns me.

I will first and foremost address my most worrying concern, and that is the fact that there will be the possibility of losing Father Jeffery from St Francis and our community. I understand that this is a genuine possibility as he has already been told that he may lose his job within its current being.

I tell you now with all the confidence that I possess, if you remove Father Jeffery from his current post and take him out of the community in Leigh Park you will single handedly cause irreparable reputational damage to not only the diocese but the church of England. The trust that Father Jeffery has built up with the people of Leigh Park is a feat that no-one else in my 43 years of living on the estate has ever achieved and by removing him would be short sighted and damaging.

You say that by working with more children and families this leads to growth. This is already being done by Father Jonathan. There is not a child on the estate that does not know him by name and will not call out to him in the street. At a time when the relationship with young people and the harm caused by certain individuals in the church against young people is being addressed, are you prepared to destroy this trust and faith in the church (gained by Father Jeffery) by removing such a trusted member of the clergy. If you do you are further pushing the youth away from the church and not encouraging growth.

When you say that where churches relate to local need- e.g. debt, food poverty, housing, carers, loneliness-then they can also help people grow in faith, I take this as a personal insult that you do not realise Father Jeffery is here in the community doing exactly that. He lives in this community, serves this community walks amongst the community, is the community. His family are part of the community and he understands and relates more to the community of Leigh Park than anyone in the diocese. If you do not realise this, then your proposals are flawed from the very start in the fact that you are prepared to decide to remove the Christian trusted rock of the community and replace him with someone who cannot relate to the people because they do not know the people. Leigh Park is a place where trust is hard earned, Father Jeffery has achieved this.

You also say that it is more likely that you will attract those who have never gone to church before by also providing new, accessible, child friendly worship services. Yet again you have failed by your assumption that this is not already happening. It is happening at St Francis but then you would know this if you did as Father Jeffery does and be there for the youth of Leigh Park on a regular basis. If you remove Father Jeffery you will not attract more people to church (and by church I don't mean the physical building, I mean the family of the church) you will achieve the opposite and push people away. Father Jeffery has baptised all three of my children at St Francis, being there on the start of the journey into the Christian faith, guiding them to be good Christians on a weekly basis both in church and at school, teaching them to follow the right path. If you remove him from St Francis, my children have all told me that they will never go to church again and would worship God from home as will I. This is not getting more people into church this is destroying their faith. I will go a step further and inform you that after 43 of me being a Christian Father Jeffery baptised me at St Francis on 28/04/19, such is the ability he has to draw people to faith.

The final aspect is the question of what you have not considered. Well the answer to this question is quite simple. You have not until this point considered what the People of Leigh Park want from the diocese, and this is quite simple.

We want to keep Father Jeffery as our priest, and if you keep your word that you will do what the people want you will keep him in post, you will not rip the heart of the Christian ministry out of the estate.

Father Jeffery is all things to all people on the estate, in a word of uncertainty he brings Gods love and hope to everybody he meets, he is always there to listen, to help, to guide and to teach the way of the Lord.

By removing him from the community and the people of Leigh Park you are taking away their hope and their faith in the Church of England.

In conclusion I do not agree or support the draft proposal for the re-organisation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Hurry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George Hurry

would be listened to. Clearly this was not the case. For myself and many others I feel that this was already a done deal by the Diocese.

My family have lived in Leigh Park since 1951, before St Francis was built. My late father laid the parquet floor in the original church of St Francis. Over the years the church has been my mainstay for weddings, christenings and funerals, not forgetting family parties. This is true for many other Leigh Park families.

More than 100 people attended the meeting in October, which for some reason was held outside the parish. I think all those people realise that the church must change, but in what way?

3
£9.1 million available to be invested plus an extra £1.4 million over 5 years.

What I would say is that 756 signatures to keep the jobs of our vicars must count for something.

What I don't understand is with all this money available why ~~has~~^{is} Father Jonathon facing redundancy?

Father Jonathon and his family are at the heart of the community in Leigh Park. People of different religions that I talk too, my friends and neighbours cannot believe that the Church of England is being so heartless.

Father Jonathon is a modest, full of integrity man of God. The work he does in the community, without a doubt is the work

Rex Andrew

From:

Sent:

To:

26 May 2019 17:14

Rex Andrew

k.com>

Dear church commissioners,

I am writing to tell you how disappointed I am with your proposal concerning father Jonathon and St Francis which I am completely against. I have known father Jonathon my whole life, he also christened me and it would be a huge loss for him to leave, father Jonathon does a lot more than you know and this wonderful man shouldn't lose his job and house because it isn't just him you are affecting it is his whole family, so please consider this when you are making your decision. He also organises fun events like summer and Christmas fayres, arts and crafts at Easter and Christmas, every year he also organises a community pantomime, which I was lucky enough to be part of last year, which I believe brings the community closer together. Also if you get rid of father Jonathan I will never go to church again, this affects me as well as the 252 other people in the community.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Hurry

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Rex Andrew

From: David Paice
Sent: 29 May 2019 14:27
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: pastoral Re -organisation st Francis church Leigh park

We Oppose these plans

We are writing to oppose these plans, because having a service every three weeks, and not our style of worship is no good for my wife and I.

I have been going to this church for over 55 years as you can imagine it is very hard to change.

Our priest Fr Jonathan knows the schools and Leigh park like the back of his hand and has the support and trust of the whole community.

This has been gained over many years. Many vulnerable people have found comfort and strength from coming to our services every week. This routine should not be broken.

Over the past few months these plans have caused great distress to all concerned. I'm sure this was not the intention but I think you should consider this in your decision

We pray that God will give you the strength to make the correct decision .

With love

Pam & Dave Paice

8.

To treat someone who has done so much good for the Deanery, Diocese and community in this manner is shortsighted, dismissive and disgraceful —
"Shame on you Church of England"

There was no reply from the Diocese to this 'Facebook' posting.

Whatever the outcome of this exercise, should my Son-in-law and his family have to move on, he will know one thing — that the sign of his defeat, will also be the sign of his triumph — of the Love & Respect of the people he served.

You will be glad to know that this is to set before you my thoughts on the final stage of the process.

"The Outcome of the Public Consultation".

Yours sincerely
With Best Regards

Jim Dewar

Rex Andrew

From: Matthew Pik
Sent: 24 April 2019 12:37
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: Benefice of St Francis, Leigh Park

Reference: NB29/53b/RA

Good afternoon,

I write regarding the above reference number, which relates to the draft Pastoral Scheme affecting the Benefices of St Francis, St Clare and St Alban.

My name is Matthew Pike, I am 33 years of age and live in Leigh Park which is predominantly served by St Francis Church and our wonderful Father Jonathan Jeffery.

I have a deep connection to this church as my family members have attended services here since it was built in 1963.

Family baptisms, weddings, funerals and even birthday parties have all been held here.

I myself was not baptised as a child, my parents wanted it to be a path that I chose on my accord if I so wished.

I am proud to say that I was baptised on 22nd May 2016 in a private service held by Father Jonathan.

Speaking of which, Father Jonathan is not only a devout Christian but also a fantastic human being.

He does so much for our community here in Leigh Park and really does "go the extra mile" to make sure everything is done as it should be.

His sermon during Midnight Mass is always a highlight of my year and I always leave the church with a warm feeling.

Learning of the proposed reorganisation of our parishes deeply saddened me.

Father Jonathan is a pillar of our community here and a lot of people rely on his words, wisdom and gentle approach.

More than you may think.

I personally believe that the proposed reorganisation is the wrong decision and I am firmly against it.

St Francis Church is at the heart of our community and we need to keep our own identity as new generations grow up within Leigh Park.

Lots of messages against this proposal were sent to the Diocese of Portsmouth over the last few months and we were told that they would take the community opinion into account.

This has not happened and a lot of the community feel very let down.

Therefore, I am sending this message today to give you a better understanding of how it will affect our whole community here.

I really hope these plans aren't put into place and that our Parishes can stay as they are.

The old saying is "don't fix what isn't broken." We certainly aren't broken, but run the risk of breaking if these plans are motioned.

Thank you for your understanding, I hope this has been helpful reading.

God bless.

Best regards,
Mr Matthew Pike.

Se from my iPhone





Rex Andrew

From: Paula Jeffrey-Powell
Sent: 27 May 2019 05:17
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: Opose to Diocese of Portsmouth Parish Reorganisation

Date: Sunday 26th May 2019

Dear Church Commissioners,

I write to you to express my wish to oppose the Diocese of Portsmouth's proposal for Parish Reorganisation In Leigh Park, Warren Park and West Leigh.

Right from the very beginning the whole process has felt extremely inadequate and unfair.

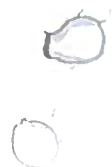
To begin with our vicar was called to a meeting to be told of these proposals and offered a compensation package for loss of post should it go ahead aka redundancy. He had no prior warning as to what this meeting would entail.

Following this meeting an announcement was made between him and the vicar of West Leigh addressed to the congregation jointly. He was then accused of misleading and forcing the hand of the other vicar with regards to the announcement. This has since been found to be untruthful and his name has since been cleared. Following the meeting no one got in touch with him to see how he and his family were, in fact he was called a liar by an Archdeacon at one of our PCC meetings and accused of stirring the whole situation up. We were also told at this meeting that we were the only ones causing problems and that everyone else had accepted what was to be. It clearly was not just us as others emerged from the other areas affected.

Following the announcement in the church of the proposals, a member of the Church uploaded the notice onto Social Media and a group of support to both vicars in our area was formed - by a member of our community who does not attend church services I hasten to add, but the ministry our vicar serves within our community has had a profound affect on her life to the point she has fought for him throughout this process.

She is not the only member of this community to do so. Other matters which have taken place include an online petition which was set up and reached hundreds of signatures from far and wide, petitions from our ecumenical friends, letters from schools and so forth,

In October the diocese offered a Public Meeting for people to attend, however, this meeting was placed away from our community in a hard to reach area where people had difficulty attending. After I had been in touch with the diocese they agreed to lay on transport, but still, people were unable to attend i.e. people like my mother who would have been able to attend had the meeting been local but due to her having severe rheumatoid arthritis she was unable to board a coach and so was unable to attend the meeting. She, like me, has attended our church for as long as I have so she found it particularly upsetting that she could not attend this meeting. There were many people in this very same situation due to illness, disability and elderly age who felt extremely excluded from the meeting for this reason. Although we tried to reason with the diocese and request for a meeting to be held in a neutral place locally so all people could attend i.e. in a school, we were refused. And so the true scale of attendance that should have been at that meeting, in fact were excluded. This is so very wrong. However. On the night of the said meeting well over 100 people did turn up in support of our vicar and that of St Albans. They were accused of being a 'rowdy group' rude, shouting and inconsiderate, when in fact they were passionate about why they were there and wanted their voices



heard. The people in my community have been let down so many times over the years by those in authority and are more often than not overlooked and looked down upon. They are used to rejection and often feel their voice does not count. To us at St Francis and St Clare's their voice DOES count! And we would like their voices to be heard on this occasion. They wanted their voices heard by the diocese too and felt once again, after each time the diocese made their decisions, their voices did not count when the diocese chose to go forward to you with their decision. My community are very much angry and upset by what has taken place so far.

The notes following the meeting were also not a true and accurate account of the meeting.

Being the social Media Coordinator for St Francis and St Clare's Church, throughout the whole of this process from the beginning until now on the public page to 'Save the Vicars' which was set up by a member of the public - as previously stated - I have helped to guide people through and clarified church terminology to them. They have opened up to me about their experience of the ministry to which our vicar serves so lovingly and dedicated. They see him as not only their vicar at the church within the community but also their friend. A lot of people may not attend our Church Services but they are connected to the church through the ministry of which our vicar serves and he does so with Jesus very much in his heart.

His ministry within our community is not a light one. He is one vicar with two Churches to run single handily. In the public media the bishop of Portsmouth is quoted as saying this proposal is for those areas where we fail to reach their communities especially young people.... Well if that is the case then he has certainly chosen the wrong church to associate this with. As far as young people go, our vicar is extremely active in all the local schools and attends regular assemblies and assists with school work. The children on the estate know him by name and acknowledge him as do their families. This is a very close relationship between the Church and the young people of our estate which the 'Church' cries out for... and we deliver in abundance. Add to this he, along with others from our church, is actively involved with Prayer Spaces in Schools. Some of our schools are considered some of the most deprived in Hampshire. For the children to interact with events such as Prayer Spaces in Schools and to enjoy it... that is an amazing achievement. This is due to the kind of relationship our vicar has built up over time within his ministry. We also have Food Bank which runs from our church - Which at the public meeting the diocese informed us we did not have, their information was not up-to-date with what our Church provides within our community.

The Church ministers to various local groups as well as having very strong relationships with our ecumenical partners within our community, such as our local Roman Catholic friends whom we share our Easter preparations with to name but a few examples.

Within our community we have eleven different denominations all within very close proximity to one another. Our Roman Catholic Friends are two minutes away, we have a 'Family Church' five minutes away. There is an evangelical church, again five minutes away as Baptist, Methodist, as well as many others. It would seem many attend church within our community but there are such a vast amount of denominations for them to attend too. We have very close ties to these mainly thanks to the ministry offered by our vicar.

The relationship between the 'Church' and the community has never been as strong as it is at present. I can vouch personally for this as I have been at St Francis for 38 years...I began as a 7 year old child and my children now attend (my daughter is now that 7 year old and son about to turn 13). I have watched so many clergy come and go throughout those years. I have watched so many things tried and tested...some have worked others have not. But throughout all of this thus far, never has our Church had the close relationship with our community as it does now. The fact that so many turned out to the public meeting in support of our church proves this. Our Church was also packed to standing room only when the Bishop came to visit recently because the community came to support us. The diocese are a fool to suggest we are failing with our relationship between the Church and our community. It is the strongest I have ever known it to be. Yes, statistics may show low attendance from time to time - this is happening throughout the whole Church -, but I was brought up to believe that the 'Church' was the people of God. I was brought up to believe that we go to wherever God calls us to be and that calling is to serve 'HIS' people where ever they may be. This is what we do. We take God to HIS people within our community to those to whom he sends. Our vicar is central to the ministry of that role with the relationship he has built up with them over the many years of living amongst us. Many people in our community find it hard to trust people but they now trust him with their lives.

We were told at meetings with Archdeacon (who incidentally was not the one from our area she has not been seen since the public meeting). We were told that we were not to look at this proposal process in a personal way...but it is a

personal way because it is affecting the lives of priests and is an attack on their ministry. It is also personal to their families too who support them, and it is an attack on our Church and community who value their ministry as a whole. At the public meeting we were told that a team from the diocese had made their decision to reorganise us based on the outcome of a meeting in the vicarage which took place for one afternoon. You CANNOT base a decision on something as huge as this on the outcome of one meeting! I work in a hospital and the Care Quality Commissioners visit the work place over a period of consecutive days / weeks before they make the slightest decision in how to improve the place and even then they involve staff 'on the shop floor' with the decision process. School Governors are the same, so how on earth do the diocese feel they can make such an important decision with possible detrimental affect based on one afternoon's meeting is ludicrous. Add this to the fact we were also told at the public meeting by diocesan staff, that the diocese would visit our community within 6 months (or possibly weeks?) following the meeting, to liaise with our community to get their thoughts and feelings on the proposals and to see what they want, after all the bishop was again quoted in the paper as say we will do what the community wants.. This has not taken place. At a recent meeting they changed their answer and said they would visit our community to see what they would like once the legal part of the process had been formally completed. This is in complete contrast to what was first stated at the public meeting. In fact, throughout the whole of this process so far, every meeting I've attended as a member of the Church Council with the diocese's team I have more often than not found many irregularities in their replies. They seem to change every meeting so there is no real clarification of what is proposed. We were also requested by members of the Bishop's Council to come up with a vision of our own, and so we did. Members from the Diocesan team listened to it and said how much they enjoyed it. We have tried to explain, our five year vision - which we as a PCC and put together before the proposals existed - were not that much different to what was being proposed. We were also questioned on how would we feel if our vicar decided one day to leave for ministry else where in the future and what the difference would be to them going now through this proposal. Our reply is simple and loud, that would be 'his' decision to leave and we would accept that, where as, as it stands at present he is being forced from his post and his place within our community.

Which brings me on to my next point... The legislation. According to the Legislation in the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, clergy affected by reorganisation (to my understanding) can and should be designated to the new created posts unless good reason. Our vicar is being made redundant though this decision is not what the Legislation envisages for the process. To make clergy redundant is not in the spirit of the legislation. Having sat as a member on the PCC, the Deanery and Diocesan Synods I have heard many people's reactions to this and they are not fully aware of the true implications of this process. I hear what is said at Synods and compare it to what is said by the diocesan staff to the local Church Council. Above all of this people have often told me that other dioceses are watching in disbelief because it is unheard of to make clergy redundant - removed from posts.

Another aspect the Church of England focus on are the lack of young children within our churches and the fact that most are infant school age. At our Church we run a B'uzz club once a month and when altogether, we have around 20 children most of whom are teenagers. These Children are the Church of Today. These children are needed to keep the Faith alive for the future of the Church. These young people have built up their lives in the church. These young people are upset and threatening to leave the 'Church' as a whole due to the way their vicar has been treated throughout this whole process and due to the way his ministry is being targeted. The Church of England are trying to reach out to these youngsters and they are going to lose them because the sort of 'Church' the diocese is portraying with the removal of priests is not the Church they know and love, yet the diocese are wanting a different kind of ministry to reach out to young people such as these.

Our young people are not the only ones questioning the reputation of the church. Our community is criticizing the reputation of the 'Church' too. They have seen the Church as always being there for them, listening to them and allowing them to have their voice heard. The 'Church' listens to them (at least they do in our community!). These, again, are the very people you - the Church -are trying to reach out to. These are the very people the diocese are pushing away because they refuse to listen. The community have spoken in such loud voice how they value the ministry of their vicar and they wish that to continue. But, once again, sadly their voices have counted for nothing. They know this and the name of the Church of England is once again being dragged through the mud.

Our 'Church' is thriving. It is growing. It is reaching out to those who need us the most. It is meeting people 'where they are, in all times and places. This was what St Francis was told to do when Jesus told him to 'Build up my Church'... This is what we do. This is what our vicar does in abundance.

Throughout the whole of this long drawn out process there has been one rather huge issue of importance which has struck a cord. That being a lack of compassion from the diocese for those affected by this process.

The fact that no one had been in touch with our vicar and his family to check in and see how they were following their shocking news. At the Chrism Mass the clergy affected by the reorganisation were not mentioned. It's as if they did not exist. The only contact our vicar and his family have had (to my knowledge) was through them being the ones to request the help. Not one person checked in on them. This is wrong on so many levels. It is emotionally draining for them, it is frightening to not know where their future lies. It is upsetting for their children who are not sure if they will have a roof over their heads once all this ends. Yet no one checked in on them to follow up their well-being. It has been a battle to find answers to this point. The one reoccurring answer has been 'we are learning from this experience for the next time.

I come onto my next point in that the geographical area is not suitable for this reorganisation proposal. We are happy to change to help the 'Church' move forward, but the plans proposed form problems in that St Alban's is too far for some people. It also has a dual carriageway running right between the parishes. People have said they will stop attending permanently rather than to attempt crossing over this road. A lot of people who would normally attend would be unable to do travel here due to their age, illness or disability. This would discriminate those who would otherwise normally attend.

This will not produce growth in the church but more decline regardless what posts are put into place.

As I mentioned earlier in this email, the diocese staff at the public meeting has some very inaccurate information relayed to the public. One example of this was suggestion from them that for a Food Bank to run. The problem with this was that we already operate a food bank from within our church which is run by a member of our community. Just one example. Also whilst presenting their presentation they talked of pioneer ministers but when we informed them ours had left earlier in the year they looked bewildered.

My concern is where is the Sacredness of Priesthood through out the whole of this process? People who are called to priesthood spend many a day - some even years - examining a call from God to priesthood. Some tried to avoid God's calling until they no longer could and then it takes an awful lot of courage to speak to your parish priest let alone go through the process of Director of Ordinands, Vocation Advisors, examination panels and the Bishop's Advisory Panels. This is a very long and nerve wracking process to be a part of. Then following acknowledgement from the Bishop's advisory panel and the Bishop himself, you then begin the years of training and finally Ordination. Before Ordination the Bishop and his team have to discern if you have a true calling from God to priesthood. This is not like the secular world whereas you go for an interview and start the job the next day. This is the 'Church' who process is very thorough and lengthy. So through all of this very long period of discernment and training the priest stands before the people in ordination and has to have his/her calling publicly announced. So my question is throughout all of this when the priest's heart has been searched thoroughly and tested and the bishop publicly declares a true calling from God, how can the bishop now turn around and say these priests must be removed form their posts and make them feel their ministry is a failure. Is he admitting he got their calling wrong...Does that actually happen!?...

My vicar has very recently repeatedly said he feels very strongly God calls him to remain in our community and I feel that calling should be adhered to.

So again I ask, where in all of these proposals does the sacredness of priesthood belong?

At one of the meetings with the Bishop's staff one of the members told my vicar, his wife and all of us present regarding why he should not stay as a part of this new style of ministry that to do so would like be putting 'New wine into old skins'. This was not acceptable.

The way I look upon all of this is...

This new reorganisation proposal can either be like the foolish man who built his house upon the sands, where the foundations were removed and when the storms came in it collapsed to the ground. Now these 'foundations' that were removed are those of our vicar and that of St Albans. If their ministry from over the years is completely wiped out and new ministry brought in from scratch, it will not withstand the test of time.

However, if this reorganisation were to be like the man who built his house upon the rocks, on solid foundations and it stood the storms and test of time. Reorganisation can work this way. Keep the foundations in place which is the ministry known and loved by the community, and build on those foundations with other people forming part of the team in the allocated slots. This would be such a strong and firm ministry within our community and enable the Gospel to be shared and heard loud and clear. We need these foundations to remain for the Church to flourish. We need these people who are well and truly established within their ministry in our community. Build on this! Build something strong and which withstands the test of time. A 'Church Planting Vicar' - which the diocese is asking for - is good but we have three allocated posts in our area with only 2 filled. Why can the main legal part of the proposals be that of Team Rector, Team Vicar responsible for Pastoral Ministry, and the third post that of the Church Planting vicar. It would make so much more sense, then people can be designated to the new posts. When the official paperwork arrived from the Bishop's Council after their first decision, four or five positions were created on that piece of paper to be decided by the bishop and his council. However, when the most recent decisions were publicly announced the diocese chose Team Rector and Team Vicar (Church planting vicar. This announcement was made very public on Social Media. The diocese had the opportunity to make the Church Planting vicar as the third post rather than the second, but they have chosen one which they know would not fit for our vicar.

On another point... Our vicar has single handily run two churches single handed i.e. with no other clergy to assist. The parish of Leigh Park is in itself a HUGE estate...to combine it with West Leigh too and make the Parish even larger is absolutely crazy! If one vicar struggled with two there' no way one priest can cover that vast amount of space. It would therefore make more sense to allocate Team Rector and Team Vicar for Pastoral with Church Planting vicar based at third church and other local areas within our community. It would make more sense to combine St Francis and St Clare's Church, as not only are they already joint benefice and work very closely together as well as being in very close proximity to one another, but their Saint's they are named after are linked to one another.

So I now end this letter with my formal objection to the proposals from the Portsmouth Diocese regarding Parish reorganisation, on the grounds that the whole process from start to finish has been disorganised, misinformed, misleading, uncompassionate to those affected, inconsiderate, unfair and the fact the Parish size will become too large.

Along with this email, I have also sent a letter version of what I write here.

With kindest regards

Paula Jeffrey-Powell

--

Paula Jeffrey-Powell

****My Greatest Wish is that my kids always know how much I love them and they walk through the rest of their lives knowing that I'll always be there for them whenever they need me****



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MA
20/5/2019

TO REX ANDREW

"IN OPPOSITION"

I AM making it known that I am
against the Proposals being put forward
by the Church Commissioners and the
Bishop of Portsmouth.

The "Pastoral Scheme" being proposed
will certainly not be of any benefit
to the Council Estate of Leigh Park or
the Parishes of "The WARREN" or
"West Leigh" "The Bishop" or the
Commissioners just do not understand the
Complexity of these Parishes. They are
not like city areas where things are
right on your doorstep passing trade as you
might say.

Everything done here at Leigh Park
has been done by hard work of our
Parish Priests - Katrina and the most hard
working priest we have ever had Father
Jonathan Jeffrey - and he was not
even included in the consultations for



3
YES we know there must be change but do not forget the Church is about the love of God. Love your neighbours and so to continue in that faith let us keep those in whose faith and love we have been guided by these past 18 years father Jonathon & Carolyn Jeffrey and family. Phoebe-Jem & Gabriel

How come, you can even think of "turfing" them from the vicarage and probably replace them with no one of any experience of "Council estate working"

Why tear down "foundations of love-faith. Love of Anglican traditions - and replace with "Shifting Sands" because that what it seems to all of us, (as we do not know what the future will become) at our Church at St Francis Leigh Park

I know Rex Andrew you will have been informed of all the things done in our Community - and Church

Prayers in School - Starlight Festival all our Xmas Fairs - Summer Fairs - Wedding - Funerals. Baptism - all done and may I say done with the "love of Christ" at the heart of it all. Please make sure you really consider all our proposals - led by father Jonathon Jeffrey.

Yours Sincerely

Beryl Frances Jones

These new proposals - Surely the parish priests should have been included in talks and at least asked their opinions on actions to be taken.

A team ministry to be established for the area for the "New Benfleet" what will the team 'ministry' as said - know anything whatsoever of "Leigh Park Community" and "Estate". This estate is the most "Unique" in any of the Hampshire County. We are not like "Harbour Church" or St Margarets Highland Road having a constant public passing by the doors.

Harbour Church is in any area right near Portsmouth City Centre - Universities - plus homeless - in the streets. Straightway there is a ready made 'souls' to be welcomed in to a ministry.

Here in Leigh Park we have worked hard to achieve our "church congregation" and our most exceptional "Community Spirit" and that has been done by having such hard working leaders.

Why would you want to take that away by putting in people that know nothing of our estate or church - never attended a "church service" here or any of our activities which we put out to the "Community" and anyone looking for help, and most of all finding the LOVE of Jesus coming from our Church.

St Francis RIDERS LANE LEIGH PARK

Mr 24/5/2019

24-5-19

Dear Mr Andrew

Re: Mission + Pastoral Measure 2011; Diocese of Portsmouth; St. Francis

My name is Pat Kifforan and I am a Churchwarden at St. Francis Church, Heigh Park. I have lived on this Council estate, which is one of the largest in Europe, since I was nine years old. I am now seventy-four. In that time, since the 'Right to Buy' innovation, the estate has split into two very distinct social levels and geographic areas. Originally the estate was built after World War II to house the poor and homeless of Portsmouth. When tenants took up the Right to Buy they often moved on to greener pastures and the developers moved in. This shift has diminished the original sense of unity and social coherence. The focus of our outreach has, therefore, been upon drawing the community together through large-scale inclusive events such as annual community pantomime, involvement in a large scale Passion Play and a festival that has put local people in touch with providers. We have also engaged with three local schools through our Prayer Spaces. We also have a very busy food bank and are involved in a local schools provision of Holiday Lunches for children who have free school meals.

You will realize by our response to the proposed Pastoral Scheme that the community and the PCC members, including myself, are fiercely against the scheme as it stands. We are extremely hurt by the implicit accusation that all our efforts have been ill-judged and failing to proclaim the love of God and commitment to Jesus. Also that massively under-resourced as we are, we are being compared with a 'top-down', fully resourced

ATP Puffs and Whistles Scheme which threatens to swamp our 'bottom-up' organic style of ministry which by its very nature is extremely fragile, tentative and brings with it its own style of commitment and expression. Skills that can be used by the local church are a rarity and the burden of administration, ministry and mission rest heavily upon the incumbent.

There have been many priests pass through this parish. It was once a training parish. There were always one or two curates here. Father Jonathan and his wife Carolyn are the first to embed themselves so deeply and committedly into the heart of this community with all its foibles and complexity. No-one from the Bishops Council have ever been to observe how well and appropriately Jonathan's ministry works here. Mission here is a delicate process demanding immense amounts of time, sensitivity and understanding. We were asked for our suggestions. We requested a group ministry as more suitable for us but this was not considered appropriate.

As will be evident to you, our response to this scheme is very much an emotional one because we have no skills to argue the legalities. I personally feel that the scheme is a cynical attempt, dressed up in missionary garb, to get people into church for its own financial gain. In his book 'The Rebirth of God', John Philip Newell (a former priest in this Diocese) says that now is the time for the church to give freely to the community, not because they will come to church but because all that we have is given to us to bring about the community's well being. Wick brings me to my final point. The pastoral care offered to Jonathan and his family has proved to be

ously inadequate and on occasion non-existent. Fortunately they are articulate and perceptive enough, not only to speak for this poor and powerless community but to highlight their own sense of public humiliation and lack of loving support from the Diocese. If similar schemes are to be rolled out nationwide then communities, congregations and clergy must not be left so damaged, all in the cause of modernization and finance.

I am left wondering where Christ is in all this. I read of Jesus standing alone before Pilate, then to be brutalized and then crucified because of His love for the poor and powerless and posed a threat to those in authority. The Archbishop of Canterbury enjoined the recent Synod to "listen to the voice of the poor". The poor are trying to speak!

Yours sincerely

Pat Killoran

MRS P. KILLORAN.

ES,

NA
24/5/2019

Dear Sirs/Madam

I am writing to you to lodge my concerns about your proposal to break up the church's in our area of Leigh-Park concerning St Francis's, St Clare's and St Albans.

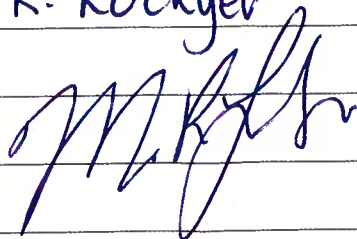
These church's have been successfully going for over 70 years creating a fantastic community within the church's all this time year in and year out, and what you are about to do is unspeakable.

I have to ask you personally, do you not ever hear the voice of God, I can assure you that our God is not agreeable to what you intend to do, as I listen to him regularly.

I am totally against your proposals to destroy our church community, and to make our/your FE Jonathan and Katrina redundant.

Would you please accept my offer of a one to one conversation with your Bishop as it may help you greatly to do what our God's wishes are.

Martin R. Lockyer



Submitted with
Mr Martin Lochyer

19
24/5/2019

15th May 2019

Dear Sirs

I write to oppose the re-organisation of the Parish of Leigh Park, St Faiths, St Claires and St Albans, within the Diocese of Portsmouth.

I returned home to Leigh Park summer of 2018, searching for an Anglican C.O.E service. Having successfully settled into church of St. Francis, with Father Johnathon, I attend both Sunday and Wednesday service, have registered onto Electoral Roll and joined P.C. Committee.

St. Francis is an integral part of my community. Please keep Anglican Service and Father Johnathon as heart of our community, within the Parish of Leigh Park.

Yours Sincerely



Ms Patricia Penny.



Apologies for incorrect surname of addresses in
Previous letter dated 19th May

Me
29/5/2019

Rex Andrew
Church Commissioners
Church House
Great Smith Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AZ

Dear Sir

RE: Benefices of St Francis, Leigh Park, St Clare's, Warren Park and St Alban's West Leigh

It is with some consternation that I bring this matter to your attention.

In the parish of St Francis and Clare's, the incumbent and his wife (both qualified solicitors), were called by God to minister within socially deprived areas, as is Leigh Park, and Warren Park and West Leigh.

They have clearly lived the love of Christ amongst the people they have served and shared their lives with. This is remarkably demonstrated by the fact that for some years now parishioners have been invited annually to share with them their summer holiday: this year 41 parishioners will accompany them to the Isle of Wight.

It appears that this incumbent has been informed that he is to be either made redundant or accept a rural parish ministry, with the option of reapplying for his current position, with no guarantee that he will be successful.

The question arises – is this an economic, political or spiritual decision? Should it not be investigated and reconsidered?

Having now seen and read the proposed Pastoral Scheme Draft:

1. I am against the proposed scheme in that it would involve the possible redundancy of Jonathan Jeffrey for the reasons given above. It would also be essential for the smooth transition to a team ministry for the incumbent to have an intimate relationship, knowledge and understanding of the community.
2. I believe that the above proposal would be contrary to Christian love, teaching and values in that it involves the incumbent of St Francis, Leigh Park who was called by God to work specifically in socially deprived areas and NOT in rural parishes.

3. I am an involved Christian in an adjacent parish.

Yours faithfully

J. Napier

Jane Napier

de
22/5/2019

17 May 2019

Rex Andrew, Esq.,
Pastoral
The Church Commissioners,
Church House,
Great Smith Street,
LONDON
SW1P 3AZ

Dear Mr Andrew

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011
Diocese of Portsmouth
Benefices of St Francis, Leigh Park; Warren Park, St Clare and West Leigh, St Alban

I am member of the Church Family and on the electoral roll of St Francis Church, Leigh Park. I am a former member of the PCC at St Francis.

I oppose the proposal as set out in the draft Pastoral Scheme.

- * The diocese and the Bishop's Council have not listened to the Voice of this Community.
- * The diocese and the Bishop's Council have not listened to the Voice of the PCC's of St Francis & St Clare
- * The diocese and the Bishop's Council have not listened to the Voice of individual members of the church nor of the Vicar Jonathan Jeffery.

When the proposed pastoral re-organisation was announced two amazing things happened. First an online Petition was started via Facebook which collected over 600 signatures from people across the Community of Leigh Park, Warren Park & West Leigh.

The campaign was headed "Save our Vicars" but it was not ,as the diocese seems to suggest, resistant to any change in these parishes. When people wrote saying that they wanted Fr Jonathan or Karina to keep their jobs and stay in post, that was not a technical argument for no reorganisation. What was meant was that they valued the ministry of Jonathan and Karina, trusted them as champions of this community, and wanted them to be at the heart of any changes or developments proposed.

Indeed, to make these two priests "redundant" – for them to "lose their Office" - was described by one person as "tearing the heart out of our community"

The Diocese suggested that because so many differing comments were made there was no one, clear proposal from the community, and that many were resistant to any change. I believe that the diocese has completely misunderstood the Voice of our Community on this.

S. R. C. O. W. E. R.

The second amazing thing was that even though the Public Consultation Meeting was called at short-notice and was held at a venue several miles away from the Leigh Park Estate (in St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain) around 150 local people from Leigh Park still made the huge effort to attend. The meeting was billed as a Consultation but the representatives of the diocesan team were reluctant to hear the Voice of the Community, they constantly shut down comments from the floor and tried to move the meeting into small groups or written submissions, which they should have known would be a hard forum for many from our community to access. Again the conclusion was that the meeting was difficult and unhelpful whereas in reality it was the view of our community being passionately expressed.

To ignore the very people that the diocese sought to consult with is a fundamental flaw in the process of consultation and this has been evidenced by the failure to change or adapt the draft proposals for reorganisation.

Much the same has happened in the formal stage of consultation with the "interested parties". I know that people from right across our estate have continued to be in correspondence with the Bishop, his team and with the diocese via social media.

Towards the end of the formal consultation process Bishop Christopher came to a Sunday Eucharist in St Francis to preside and preach, and to hear the voice of the people again after the service. We had over 150 in church for that service, for the reception that followed afterwards, and many spoke directly with the Bishop.

Again, the Bishop's Council ignored the Voice of our Community – Fr Jonathan even used the opportunity to speak directly to the Bishop's Council at their full council meeting but absolutely no change was made to the draft proposal that has gone forward to you and the Church Commissioners.

This is totally contrary to what the bishop said at the outset, when he stated that he would listen to voice of the people affected and do what they wanted as right for their community.

I feel that it is also worth pointing out that one of the chief architects of the proposed reorganisation was Archdeacon Joanne Grenfell. It has just been announced that she is to be the next Bishop of Stepney. It is ironic that for a scheme that threatens to ruin the church in our community, and which is likely to be funded for at least five years, and affect our worshipping communities long after that, Joanne Grenfell will have left the Portsmouth diocese and been consecrated as bishop even before a final decision is reached over our futures. This seems to reflect a crass dismissal of our Community and a lack of shared commitment by those in authority in our diocese.

I oppose the proposed scheme for Leigh Park, Warren Park and West Leigh.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Shirley Oliver



Mr
22/5/2019

Havant.
PO9 1DG
17th May 2019

Rex Andrew, Esq.,
Pastoral Division of the Church Commissioners,
Church House,
Great Smith Street,
LONDON
SW1P 3AZ

Dear Mr Andrew

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011

Diocese of Portsmouth

Benefices of St Francis, Leigh Park; Warren Park, St Clare and West Leigh, St Alban

I am on the electoral roll of Leigh Park, St Francis (shown as "St Francis, Leigh Park" in the heading of your letter) and am a former Church Warden of the parish. I am a current member of the PCC and know that the PCC Secretary is writing with a full submission. However, I wanted to write personally too. I oppose the proposal as set out in the draft Pastoral Scheme.

I wish to make the following points:-

(1) The proposal speaks of "building blocks" of two clergy posts – a Team Rector and a Team Vicar. The remaining posts in any new scheme are dependent upon an award of funding. This funding is by no means certain. In any event, the funding is only for a five-year period. At the end of that period the proposed scheme reverts to the two posts to cover the three areas.

Under the Havant Deanery Plan the parishes of Leigh Park, Warren Park and West Leigh have been allocated three stipendiary clergy posts and this is entirely warranted given the sizes of the parish and our indices of deprivation which indicate the scale of the challenge of mission here.

I am therefore fearful that the proposed scheme will lessen not increase the essential clergy provision across our areas and that this can only be detrimental to the furtherance of mission.

(2) For too long now the clergy, Fr Jonathan Jeffery and Canon Karina Green have been working unaided in their parishes. There have been curates but these have been of mixed success (the present curate for West Leigh now lives in Winchester!), often unsuitable and unhelpful to the full-time job of ministry and mission in this place. They have laboured hard and my experience of Fr Jonathan is of a man deeply rooted in service to our church and our Community and doing an amazing job with little or no support from the diocese.

It is wrong to criticise the Mission and ministry of these two faithful priests who have received inadequate support from the diocese, and compare it to a new scheme that no doubt will be fully funded, fully resourced and fully supported. That is inequitable.

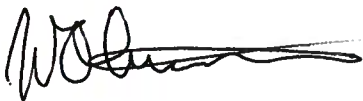
(3) What is proposed with a Team Rector and a Team Vicar (who we have been told repeatedly by the diocese, will be a "Church Planting Team Vicar") is only one person doing the job of a traditional parish priest. Already I know from my time as church warden and my continued involvement with St Francis that our Vicar Fr Jonathan carries a heavy work-load. He does huge numbers of School assemblies (often 3 a week), an amazing number of Baptisms and is busy with funerals, weddings, pastoral visits, committees and Community Groups.

To add the work-load from St Alban's West Leigh where there is a Church School, a County primary school and a Secondary school, along with visits, baptisms, weddings and funerals creates a burden that is more than one person could possibly manage. This Team Rector is also likely to be required to lead and direct the Team of new pioneer and church-planting ministers, who, naturally enough will be concerned solely with their "new worshipping communities".

I cannot accept a scheme that puts such a burden on one priest – especially when the Deanery believes that it is a task to be shared by three!

I therefore oppose the proposed scheme for pastoral re-organisation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Oliver', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Oliver

29 April 2019.

Dear Sir,

Ref. Pastoral Reorganisation in Leigh Park,
Warren Park & West Leigh, Havant, Hants.

I oppose the Proposal on the Grounds of a
Flawed Initial Process

And Lack of Meaningful Clergy Consultation

As you will be aware Portsmouth Diocese has proposed Reorganisation of a number of Parishes, among them, those listed above and these are the only ones on which I can comment. Firstly, I must express an interest. The incumbent of St Francis' Church, Leigh Park & St Clare's Church, Warren Park is my Son-in-law - The Revd Jonathon Jeffery. I attend St Francis Church regularly, that is when I am not at my usual Church - St Mary, Portsea, which I have attended for roughly sixty five years & where I have held various posts, in the past, including Deputy Church Warden, PEC Secretary and been a member of various committees.

Now that Bishop Christopher Foster has formally presented these proposals to you, I should like you to know how Portsmouth Diocese has handled this whole sad affair.

On Tuesday 2nd October 2018, my son-in-law Revd Jeffery received an email from Portsmouth Diocesan Office & told to attend a meeting on Friday 5th October in order to be "updated" regarding a matter of significant pastoral reorganisation. He had, had no previous notice of this or indication of what was coming, however, he cancelled his appointments and attended. (Luckily no funerals, that day !!)

At the meeting he was told that at Bishop's Council the following Monday, a proposal would be put forward to merge his two parishes with a neighbouring Parish (St Alban's Westleigh). He was told that if the proposals were accepted following a consultation period, his post would cease to exist. He was informed that new posts would be created and that he could apply for one of these posts "should he so wish". He was given details of a compensation package for "Loss of office" and an offer of "re-training" (As what?) Callous in the extreme, don't you think? He was told it was about "doing ministry differently - in these places". The first Public Consultation was set for 17th October less than two weeks later. Within forty minutes he was on his way home!!

Jonathan has been the incumbent of these parishes for eighteen years. He has a wife (my daughter), a daughter of seventeen (doing A levels) a son of fourteen (starting GCSE's) and a son of eleven at the local school and changing school in September this year. He had to explain to his family the implications of what was happening, that it was likely that he wouldn't have a position anymore and if that was the case, they would have to move from their home.

On Tuesday 9th October, the headline in the local paper on the Diocesan website was - "Multi. Million Pound Investment to help mission and ministry - because the Church in these areas is not reaching the people of the wider community. The statement went on to say - "there are ambitious plans, developed from detailed studies," however, it failed to fill in any details of these

Studies, probably because none had taken place. It also spoke about the 'Redeployment of people, buildings & finances' - the statement didn't even have the grace to refer to, clergy, ministers or priests - just "people" of no more importance than buildings, finance - or quite a lot of the Archbishop's money!! What a terrible indictment for a couple (my son-in-law & daughter) who have committed the past eighteen years to ministry in an area which is amongst the ten percent most socially deprived in the country, in this vast housing estate with a population of around sixteen thousand and sent their children to the local school (where my daughter is Chair of Governors)

My son-in-law has asked many times to be involved in dialogue & planning for the future. Indeed, my daughter tells me that Jonathan asked to meet or speak with the Archdeacon regarding future changes & the Parish Five Year Strategic Plans & was referred to the Strategic Manager, with whom he had a meeting in April or May of 2018. On Jonathan's request a further meeting with the Strategic Manager took place in June or July 2018, but at no stage was Jonathan made aware that these two conversations were a prelude to Pastoral Reorganisation. He heard nothing further until the e-mail in October which I describe above.

The clergy in all the parishes involved have been publicly humiliated by this process, in my opinion, and have been made to feel that they are "not up to the job". This I believe has brought the Diocese (& the Church of England) into disrepute, by appearing to be run on some sort

of corporate lines, mentioning legal guidelines, procedures and investment & with an indecent haste to "get their hands on the money". There has never been any mention of vocation or service and has nothing to do with the Gospel of Love, Compassion or Generosity of Spirit.

This has been acknowledged to some extent on the Diocesan website (but not in the local press) I quote "There is an understanding that, especially in the initial stages of this process, there were things which could have been done differently to make it easier for those affected. For any distress felt, we are sorry" An apology of sorts, but I am afraid too little, too late!

This letter is to set before you only the initial stage of the process, which is apparently following the legislation and will give a wonderful priest and his family six months notice period and a compensation package (if he is unsuccessful & humiliated by not getting what is to all intents & purposes his own job)

Because, of course, this is all about Church Planting, process & money and nothing about This life, This vocation, this example of hire, Serve, Pray.

Yours sincerely
Jill Owens.

Rex Andrew
Pastoral
Church Commissioners
Church House
Great Smith Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AZ

9th May 2019

Dear Sir,

Re: Pastoral Reorganisation in Leigh Park, Warren Park
in West Leigh - Havant, Hants.

I oppose the proposal on the grounds of
a) Flawed Initial Process: Lack of Meaningful Clergy Consultation.
b) Lack of Understanding of the People, Community & Local Area
and Ignoring the Findings of the Public Consultation.

Further to my letter of 29th April in which I explained my
initial opposition (a) to the process; and also expressed
an interest in that I not only worship regularly at St.
Francis Church, Leigh Park, but am Rev. Jeffery's mother-in-law.

After the news of the Reorganisation & the Public Consultation
was released the people of Leigh Park & Warren Park (the wider
community "not being reached") started an "on-line" petition
which in a short time had gathered around seven hundred
& fifty signatures & two hundred & fifty comments in support
of "Father Jonathan" (is also Rev. Green - St Albans). These
people know Rev. Jeffery from his weekly Assemblies in all
local schools, Prayer Spaces in schools, School visits
to St Francis Church, Messy Church, Craft Days, Sunday
Schools, Family Services, Save Start, The Community Centre,
his involvement in outside organisations, numerous initiatives
involving the wider community organised by St Francis
Church, the Food Bank run from the Church; as well
as all the support he gives through weddings, Baptisms &
funerals. The people love & respect a man they can (and do)
go to day & night through any situation, knowing they will be
upheld in word, deed & prayer.

When Rev. Jeffrey attended the interview at Diocesan Office he was told that he must wait for the Public Meeting in order to hear the full impact of the Proposal & its effect on his future, that of his family, his Church & his Congregation. Surely, this cannot be right, it is humiliating in the extreme to have to sit in a roomful of people & be told what your future may hold. Although, of course, we were told that the whole exercise was "within the legal guidelines" that old corporate phrase again — "Where is God in this?"

The Public Meeting was arranged for approximately two weeks after the clergy had received the news. The Meeting was to take place at St Wilfrid's Church Cowplain, which although in the Deanery is nowhere near the Curdes involved, in an out of the way area, difficult to access by Public transport. When I contacted the Diocese regarding the location, I was told that the meeting had to be on "neutral ground" I pointed out that if the Diocese was averse to using any of the Churches or Halls involved, there were many schools which would have been available. There was no response to my suggestion. Obviously, the Diocese, didn't want or think that many people would attend, so offered to supply a "mini-bus". How patronizing — in the event, they had to provide two coaches; and many more people — from the congregation & wider community attended, there were probably in the region of two hundred, with some people standing.

The Panel at this Meeting (i.e. Archdeacon, Diocesan Secretary, "Director" for Mission plus others) had completely misjudged the depth of feeling of those present. The idea that people would look at a visual display, with "bullet points" & headings & be told that they are to break up into small groups & write their thoughts on "stickies"

(Known to most people as "post-it notes") is an extremely "middle class concept" & smacks of seminars & team building & can be very intimidating for some people, especially those who have no experience of this type of engagement. It also excludes those who are articulate but not literate. I quote an example, when a gentleman wanted to make a point he was told to "Pop it on a stickie" - how patronizing* (that word again) he then said to the person next to him - "That cuts me out - I can't write" - How humiliating, he couldn't, wouldn't express this to that member of the team, there were other similar incidents. Therefore people spoke passionately in support of their Clergy, they made their feelings known forcibly but not rudely (they certainly did not want to write on stickies!) People stated that they didn't mind change, if they could be led by Rev. Jeffery & Rev. Green. The notes following this meeting were poor, in parts, flippant & sarcastic. The note taker, was rude enough to parody & emphasize poor grammar. It is the point being made which is important, not the grammar used. There was no indication of numbers attending. Rev. Jeffery gave an address, at the end of which there was a standing ovation, none of the Panel engaged with him & his address was not noted.

Jonathan has no staff, a run down hall & not enough going into stewardship to make a difference. He, together with his wife, has worked tirelessly & with great dedication in these two parishes, for eighteen years. The people, not only of the congregation, but very much of the wider community, know & love him & St. Francis Church. As I have said before, he has asked many times to be involved in planning, in fact all meetings prior to 5th October 2018 were instigated by him, but

He has a great gift with people, he is keen for change and wants to & will implement those changes in this place, which has the potential to be dynamic, forward thinking & with great heart. Now, in the words of the Diocese, "He can apply for a job should he so wish"

What he has needed in the past & now more than ever is practical help, investment, prayerful support & encouragement in order to develop new & existing modes of worship & outreach, whilst still leading his existing congregation, who will happily follow him, they are good & faithful people. This is where he feels called to serve. The Archdeacon, Bishop's Council & those involved in this reorganisation do not appreciate the work which has gone on in those Parishes & Jonathan's efforts to "Build up the Church".

I have made representations to the Bishop, the Diocese & Bishop's Council along with many, many others, indeed Bishop's Council were forced to delay their findings as there was insufficient time to consider all the correspondence etc received, due to the vast numbers.

One comment on the Diocesan website stated - "we will consult with the people & give them what they want - however, these appear to be empty words. They have consulted, seen & heard what the people want, but those replies seem to have fallen on deaf ears."

This is to set before you, my view on the second stage of the process - The Public Consultation

Yours sincerely
 Jill Owen

22 May 2019.

Dear Mr. Andrew.

Re: Pastoral Reorganisation in Leigh Park, Derrinstown
West Leigh

I oppose the Proposal on the grounds of

- Flawed Initial Process? Lack of Meaningful Clergy Consultation
- Lack of Understanding of the People, Community, Local Area.
And Ignoring the findings of the Public Consultation.
- Using the Public Consultation as no more than a "PR Exercise"
And Failing to Designate Posts/Limiting the opportunity for current Clergy to remain in post, Run these new projects & Build on Ongoing Successes.

Thank you for acknowledging receipt of my correspondence, in which I explained in part my opposition to the above Proposal.

It seems that the Informal Public Consultation was simply paying lip service to all the Public Support for Rev. Jeffrey & Rev. Green and that, that support had little or no chance of making any impact on an already foregone conclusion.

On 9th October 2018. The Diocese put out a statement "We will be applying for €4.9m - the scheme could be made as early as 1st July 2019 & could come into effect on 1st December 2019. Between these dates we will look to recruit to new & vacant positions with the "people" starting in post by 1st January 2020. What splendid timing, how are the dispossessed clergy supposed to function through the Christmas period knowing that by January they will/may be redundant, and homeless!!

The Portsmouth News. 12th October 2018. "we will invest resources employ new "staff" in these areas to meet local needs, support families, engage with schools, to build relationships with groups with previously poor engagement". "These ambitious plans have been developed from a number of detailed studies" I realize that this was a general statement, but one which was extremely painful and insulting to Revd. Jeffrey, as for the "detailed studies", I believe that I mentioned them or rather the lack of them in a previous letter; and all these promises even before the Public Consultation.

As nothing of the Proposal was revealed until October 2018, it appears that the Diocese planned for the whole thing to go through "on the nod", if it were to be cut & dried by July 2019. What a way to treat a priest who has served in that place for eighteen years.

The Diocese has stated that ministry "in these places" does not engage with the local community, but has never bothered to attend any events organized by St Francis or St Clares, e.g. Community Nativity, Community Pantomime 2017 / Starlight-Festival. Community Pantomime 2018; these are "big" events, which invited people from all over the area to take part, to act sing, paint, sew, be involved. They embrace & empower people, many with problems & deep seated anxiety, people who have been excluded from middle class, mainstream advantages. This is a huge undertaking - which in some cases literally changed peoples lives and outlook, building confidence & a sense of wellbeing, letting people see, through it's inclusivity, that the Church is there for everyone & embracing them with the love of God. Just imagine what Fr. Jonathan his wife & the people of St Francis & St Clares could do with the right sort of investment. yet nobody from the Diocese came or knows the effects of the events.

=

The Diocese know nothing of the Food Bank run from the "Club" or "The Big Wrap" a Christmas event involving people from all over the area, giving their time & gifts to help the users of the Food Bank & the homeless, or the strong links St Francis Church has with St Michael & All Angels, Roman Catholic Church or how Fr. Cerrard of that Church, asked Fr. Jonathan to lead a joint Passover meal in St Michael's Church.

After the Informal Consultation & Public Meeting, it was clear that the people of St Francis & St Clares' could see the advantage of working together more closely but wanted to retain their current clergy. However, the Diocese have not taken this "on board", as they have announced & informed Rev. Jeffrey "Here is to be a Team Ministry, with a Team Rector & a Church Planting Team Vicar". The proposal for the Isle of Wight, is, I believe to include a Team Rector, Team Vicar & a Church Planting Team Vicar. I have asked why a similar solution could not be found for the Leigh Park Estates or why a Team Rector & Team Vicar could not oversee Church Planting Pioneers. I have never received a reply.

I have heard, many times from the Diocese, that it is a legal requirement that incumbents apply for their own position, if that post changes in nature (or the title changes), however, I feel certain that it must be possible to designate roles and therefore avoid a "free for all" in the jobs market (all very secular!), and if this is the case it would seem that decision is purely at the discretion of those at the top of the Diocese. Setting two, able, dedicated & committed Priests in competition for one position is appalling. Both may feel able to apply for Team Rector, whilst it is doubtful that either will even be short-listed for the position of Church Planting Team Vicar - Why is this happening? It seems beyond any Christian ethos, even should Rev. Jeffrey be selected for a post, would he (or any other experienced Priest) wish to be subordinate to

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Someone who knows nothing or next to nothing of his congregation or his community.

When I tell people about this situation they are amazed - non-church goers, that this should happen in any "work place", but find it appalling in a Christian context, and members of Churches in this Diocese have heard nothing about it apart from the Public Statement last October (which was mostly about investment) and are shocked when they realize the implications. As someone said - "But the Church of England made a promise to all congregations that it would engage in Mutual Flourishing, what has happened to that promise?"

I believe that the three areas involved in the Reorganisation are being used as an experiment - Church Planting, until now has only happened during an Interregnum. How terrible to be a Christian Guinea Pig!!

Before I close, I must mention my daughter. As Revd Jeffrey has very little help & no admin support, she is an integral part of his ministry. By not taking paid employment (she is a selector) she has made a huge commitment to Jonathan, his calling (not a word used much at the moment, along with vocations) and to the area in which they feel called to serve. She is without doubt a partner in his ministry.

To sum up, I will record a comment posted on 'Facebook' for the Diocese to read.

"I imagine Parishes understand that the Church's dynamics have changed over the years, but numbers will never grow without the right clergy. Fr. Jonathan & his family have been at the heart of the community for many years, not just as a Church but working with other agencies as representatives of the Diocese & the people of Leys Park & Warren Park, to improve and create opportunities for all."

To treat someone who has done so much good for the Deanery, Diocese and community in this manner is shortsighted, dismissive and disgraceful —
"Shame on you Church of England"

There was no reply from the Diocese to this 'Facebook' posting.

Whatever the outcome of this exercise & should my Son-in-law and his family have to move on, he will know one thing — that the sign of his defeat, will also be the sign of his triumph — of the Love & Respect of the people he served.

You will be glad to know that this is to set before you my thoughts on the final stage of the process.

"The Outcome of the Public Consultation".

Yours sincerely
With Best Regards

Jim Devereux



Rex Andrew

From: Carolyn Shannon <
Sent: 08 May 2019 19:08
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: Re: Reorganisation I feel it is appalling that we the devout and our friends from the community have not been listened to. After 45 years of devout worship, working within the church and all matter of other things I am totally distressed that we have n...

My name is Carolyn Shannon and I attend St. Francis, Leigh Park.

I have been a devout member of the parish for over 45 years, working in the parish, church duties etc. I am appalled that our feelings have not been taken into account and our plan for the reorganisation not listened to. I have felt from day one that this was a 'done deal'. I agree that there has to be changes, joining of parishes etc but not at the expense of our priests. The way that this whole situation has been handled is very bad. Our priests have had no help and we have been mentioned in minutes as if we are bad people.

The minutes from the public meeting were not complete and left out many points such.

The diocese did not know that the out reach workers had left their jobs many months before, their research was not very well done.

We already run many community projects such as a food bank and community lunch, also not known. One of the things mentioned by the speakers was that they wanted more work done with schools, we showed in the plans put forward that Jonathan can be in schools as much as 3/4 times a week.

We have stated that because of the size of what the joined parishes will cover that one priest would not be enough, also covered in our suggested plan.

We told the diocese that many of their plans or the way they suggested going around them would not work in Leigh Park. The community made it very clear that they didn't want our priests dismissed.

We have put forward a plan that allows for the reorganisation but also allows for our priests to keep their jobs(I know their titles and roles would be different) We as a parish and community agreed with the need for change. I know that the parish of St. Francis has been asking for meetings many months before the changes suggested to see if we could get help and come up with plans but no one ever came. This is partly why many of us feel that the reorganisation plans are a done deal and that we haven't been listened to.

I appreciate my first letter to you was difficult to understand and I am sorry that I didn't get it right when sending. I also realise that it probably came over as a bit of a rant but maybe now you can understand why. It feels like no one has taken into account our feelings or even tried to take on board many of our concerns let alone put any forward as accepted. Many people think we are being ignored because it was already a 'done deal'. I was extremely angry with the bishops homily on Maundy Thursday (a transcript can be read on the diocese website) I took it quite personally and it made it sound as if the bishop was being 'pushed around. It is not up to the bishop what happens it is up to the committees but as a priest the bishop is there to listen, pass on the word of god and be a priest first. The bishop sounded very arrogant and not the humble person he is meant to be.

I am in favour of the reorganisation but not the loss of our priests or the way it has been handled. Carolyn Shannon

Sent from my iPhone

> On 8 May 2019, at 16:59, Rex Andrew <rex.andrew@churchofengland.org> wrote:

>

> Dear Ms Shannon

>

> Thank you for your two e-mails. Unfortunately I am not sure which draft Scheme your representation relates to as we have quite a few draft Schemes out for consultation at the moment, so could I trouble you for your confirmation, please, on which parish(es) or benefice(es) you are referring to.

>

> Also, due to your comments appearing only in the 'Subject' field, I have been unable to make out your full views. Could I trouble you, please, to resend your e-mail with your comments in the body of the e-mail, and to reach me as

so as possible, please. I need to ensure we have correctly conveyed your views to the Commissioners' Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee when it comes to adjudicating on the matter.

>

> With my very best wishes

> Rex.

>

> Tel: 020 7898 1743

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Carolyn Shannon <

> Sent: 01 May 2019 15:45

> To: Rex Andrew <rex.andrew@churchofengland.org>

> Subject: Re: Reorganisation I feel it is appalling that we the devout and our friends from the community have not been listened to. After 45 years of devout worship, working within the church and all matter of other things I am totally distressed that we have n...

>

> Sorry I should have said I am against the plans to get rid of our

> priests. Carolyn Shannon

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On 1 May 2019, at 13:04, Carolyn Shannon

te:

>>

>>

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>

Rex Andrew

From: [redacted] on behalf of The Church of England <[redacted]>
Sent: 29 May 2019 08:51
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: Draft scheme query submission

Submitted on Tue, 28/05/2019 - 18:22

Submitted by:

Submitted values are:

1. Query or comment?

3. Write your submission

Your Name (required)
Tracey Smith

Email address (required)
~~[redacted]~~

Query:

I would like to make a representation as Co-Chair of Governors of St Albans CofE Primary School in Havant, on behalf of the whole governing body. We are aware of the impending change to the organisation concerning local churches in our area, particularly the consultation involving our linked church, St Albans of West Leigh.

As a church school we have an extremely strong/close relationship with St Albans church and the vicar, Karina Green. We have concerns regarding the impact of the future plans for St Alban's Church particularly with regards to the potential change the draft proposal might bring to our school/church relationship. At present the vicar plays a huge role within day-to-day school life, for example, leading assemblies and end of term Eucharist. As school/church relationships feature prominently within the SIAMS criteria, will consideration be given to ensure that church schools are able to meet the criteria under the reorganisation? We consider that the requirements and needs of church schools should be kept at the forefront of the decision-making process.



Rex Andrew

From: Sarah Stouse <~~sarah.stouse@diocese.org.uk~~>
Sent: 22 May 2019 18:42
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: Pastoral reorganisation.st Francis Leigh Park.

I am against this proposal because I don't feel that the people of Leigh Park have been listened to, over the years we have been promised improvements in our area but not always what is really needed, I thought the church would be different and listen to what the people say but that hasn't been the case. Fr Jonathan is well know and respected in the area, he works with the local schools and many other community groups, he deserves support from the diocese. It seems that once again Leigh Park is being used, it feels like we don't matter that we are perseved as small insignificant working class area that the hierarchy can do what they want to, if the diocese of Portsmouth what to reorganise parishes then why not pick one one that wants it.





Leigh Park Community Centre
Dunsbury Way
Havant
Hampshire
PO9 5BG

rex.andrew@churchofengland.org
Rex Andrew
Church House
Great Smith Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AZ

www.citizensadvicehavant.org.uk
www.parkfamilies.co.uk

24 May 2019

Dear Rex Andrew

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011
Diocese of Portsmouth
Benefices of St Francis, Leigh Park; St Clare, Warren Park and St. Alban, West Leigh

I wish to make formal representation against the draft pastoral scheme for the above benefices.

I have managed local community charities in the Leigh Park area for approaching ten years and wish to add my concerns to the significant local response that the Bishop of Portsmouth has already received regarding the proposals to merge Parishes and reduce Clergy resources.

I have a close working relationship with the local Clergy and I am more aware than most of the breadth and depth of work they undertake to support the vulnerable and less able in the local community. The Leigh Park community has an overwhelming impact on the social demographics for the Borough of Havant:

Deprivation

- 18 areas of deprivation, notably in Leigh Park, within the 20% most deprived areas in England; 6 are in the 10% most deprived. These areas all feature in Hampshire's highest twenty deprived areas, with Havant areas occupying the top five places and sixteen of the top twenty areas
- Over 32,000 residents are in the most deprived quartile of the population and nearly 5,000 children are classed as living in poverty

Education

- Education, skills and training indicators show Havant is within the most deprived 25% of local authorities in England

Chief Executive Jon Stuart

Citizens Advice Havant, formerly known as Havant & District Citizens Advice Bureau
Charity registration number: 1111564. Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered Number: 05517228 England.
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, FRN: 617630
Registered office: Leigh Park Community Centre, Dunsbury Way, Havant PO9 5BG





Health

- Life expectancy is 10.5 and 7.8 years lower for men and women respectively in the most deprived areas of Leigh Park when compared to the least deprived areas
- Around one third of adults are deemed obese and a fifth of Rising 5's children are classified as obese
- Public Health England's Health Profile for Havant shows a significantly worse than the England average in respect of children from low income families; GCSEs achieved; violent crime; smoking status of expectant mothers; excess weight in adults; hospital stays for self-harm; recorded diabetes
- Havant is almost double the Hampshire average in terms of economic inactivity as a result of long-term sickness and disability

Employment

- Unemployment rate of 4% is 14% higher than the South East rate of 3.5%
- For every 100 working age people, there are 61 older people, predicted to rise to 71 by 2021

Housing

- Proportion of socially rented accommodation over 10%, higher than 5% and 9% in Hampshire and England respectively; impact of 32% socially rented properties in Leigh Park

Whilst I understand the Diocese faces the same financial challenges we all do and needs to review resources and find economies; the prospects of local Clergy resources being scaled back cannot be underestimated. This community would face a massive loss because local charities are not able to step in and support individuals and families in the way that your hugely committed Clergy manage to. Your Clergy also performs an invaluable coordination role that invigorates community action by local organisations. I fear your plans will result in the community suffering a significant detrimental loss of wellbeing and this would be a painful and damaging setback that could be difficult to recover from.

I have already urged The Bishop of Portsmouth to understand the exceptional nature of Leigh Park and to support and protect the local Clergy in the vital work they are undertaking.

In the event of a hearing I request an opportunity to speak to the Commissioners regarding this representation.

Yours sincerely

Jon Stuart FRSA, FFA
Chief Executive
Citizens Advice Havant and Park Families



Rex Andrew

From: alison wake <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 07 May 2019 22:07
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: Re: Church proposal

To the Church of England and who ever is reading this,

I want to say I'm totally AGAINST the proposal for Leigh Park Churches! The idea is ludicrous, you want people to 'trust in god' how can anyone trust you after you want to take away Father Jonathon from a close community, no one likes the idea, you've made a community very angry by not even listening when everyone has already shared there disappointed opinion! We as a community should have the last day of who we want to be in our churches, and we've said Father Jonathon Jeffrey should stay!! When we walk to the shop and see him all our children know him and love him! The children would be so confused and upset as he is all we have known as that's what it's about?? Having a very trusted member of the church in a community. I really hope you listen to everyone here and not what you have proposed, the church would lose respect, it's really important to everyone here. So as a community we are against!!!

Thank you for reading

Mrs Wake



ALISON WATSON (MRS)

[REDACTED]

HAVANT
HAMPSHIRE

[REDACTED]

25 May 2019

To Whom It May Concern

Pastoral Reorganisation of St Francis Leigh Park, St Clare Warren Park and St Alban West Leigh

I write to oppose the above reorganisation with a number of reasons: -

Firstly, the proposal is to combine three parishes into one with a Team Rector and Church Planting Team Vicar. Two of the three parishes already work very closely together, having worked in plurality for many years, but because of the physical barrier of a dual carriage way and the cultural history that St Albans parish and West Leigh have never considered themselves to be any part of Leigh Park, I cannot see the proposal working. The Diocese had no current knowledge of the work of the parishes and the relationship between the parishes and the community they serve prior to creating the proposal and to create such an enormous parish without due regard for the needs of the people involved is incredibly short sighted.

At meetings during the first two phases of this consultation the PCCs of St Francis and St Clare have on many occasions discussed an alternative proposal of a ministry team with at least two priests and then a church planting minister, this makeup we believe would far better suit the needs of the community as the current incumbents are overstretched and to reduce the number of traditional priests would be impossible to sustain in the area.

Secondly, I feel that the size of the Pastoral Reorganisation involving so many parishes in one project has been detrimental to the process itself especially as we have been told that this is the first time anything of this type has been tried.

It has been made acutely clear to us that this all about money, although we are told repeatedly by the Diocese that "it is about doing ministry differently". We have been told that this level of investment would not be available if smaller schemes were put forward but to rush through meetings because "each parish must be treated equally" and there are so many parishes, clergy and PCCs involved is insulting when this is about the future of much loved clergy and established worshipping communities as well as new opportunities to bring people to God.

Thirdly at the start of this process the Bishop was reported in local newspaper and social media reports as being open to listening to the communities that this process is affecting. When the Bishop and his team were later questioned about how they had not listened to what the community here had told him, it was then changed to the Bishop will listen to what the community says when they are asked after the scheme has been agreed by the Church Commissioners.

Surely to remove clergy from their churches, homes and the communities they serve and then speak to a community who have been shouting for seven months that they want certain incumbents to stay is ridiculous. Not surprisingly the local community, of Leigh Park, now feel cheated and yet again not listened to as they overwhelmingly voiced their opinions that

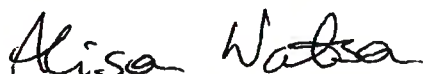
they wished the current incumbent to be retained as he has established himself as a loyal and trustworthy servant of the community.

Fourthly my biggest opposition to this scheme is the way in which it sweeps away all that is currently in place to start something new. I understand that numbers of people attending Sunday services are reducing nationally but we have more people coming to our church and these are people who give all of their time and talents in the service of God and we have just proved by our new Electoral Roll that numbers are actually rising.

If the ministry in this place is failing, and that was the wording used by the Diocese, how can something not tried or tested in this place be guaranteed to succeed. If the new Team Rector and Church Planting Team Vicar, as we have been told will be appointed, cannot meet the spiritual needs of the new larger parish that will have increased from some 16,000 people to over 25,000 people then surely those people who already worship in this place will be not be served nor will the community as a whole.

I am not opposed to change if it necessary, but this scheme does away with all the successes that have been achieved through hard work and dedication not just by the clergy but also by the lay team who work with them. We have been able to take Prayer Spaces into local schools, have one of the largest percentage of children attending church and work tirelessly to go out to our community and to provide occasions when the community can come in to our churches for worship, fellowship and community and I believe that if this reorganisation goes ahead and the Diocese imposes its will upon this community then the future looks very bleak indeed.

Yours faithfully



Alison Watson
PCC Secretary of St Francis Leigh Park



From: Helenyoung <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 30 May 2019 00:00
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: I'm against the proposed merger of the benefices of Saint Francis, Saint Clare's and Saint Alban's churches in Havant

To whom it may concern,

I am totally against the proposed scheme to merge all three of the above church parishes in Leigh-Park: Saint Francis, Warren Park: Saint Clare's and West Leigh Saint Albans churches. We have an amazing vicar in Father Jonathan Jeffery and I'm sure Canon Karina Green is held in high regard by her parishioners too. The whole community will be devastated if we lose Father Jonathan, who is a wonderful vicar and a very kind man. God put him here for a purpose and he has done so much for this community over the years. We have a thriving food bank thanks to him and volunteers, he visits schools regularly and all the children love him and run to him when they see him. He visits people in hospitals who are very ill in his own time and supports their relatives emotionally. He works 6 days a week even though he doesn't have to, but because he wants to. He has brought so many people closer to God and so many people have become Christians thanks to his influence. His wife and family put on Nativity plays and pantomimes every year, raising money for the church in the process. He is a wonderful man and this decision has been made against the will of his congregation and the community at large, whose views were completely ignored at the public meeting on October 15th last year at Saint Wilfrid's Church last year which I attended. Please don't turn your backs on his existing congregation as we are all imploring you to listen and accept the alternative proposal which has been put forward instead where we keep our vicars at the heart of this new plan instead.

Yours Sincerely
Helen Young (Mrs)





Rex Andrew

From: Karina Green <~~karina.g@stalban.org~~>
Sent: 22 May 2019 14:29
To: Rex Andrew
Subject: Pastoral Reorganisation In Havant Deanery, Portsmouth Diocese
Attachments: Parish Boundary Responses.pdf; Pastoral Reorganisation letter March 2019 - Copy.pdf; KG Response 2019.pdf

Dear Rex

Attached are the letters that have been sent to Portsmouth Diocese as our responses during both the informal and formal stages of the consultation re the Proposed Pastoral Reorganisation within Portsmouth Diocese in the benefices of Leigh Park, St Francis; Warren Park, St Clare; and West Leigh, St Alban.

St Alban's PCC are unanimously behind the proposal. They see it as a positive way forward to enable Mission and Ministry to be co-ordinated and supported across the greater estate. We felt that it was important that you are able to read our responses to the proposed plan.

With kind regards

Karina

The Revd Canon Karina Green
Priest in Charge St Alban's West Leigh
Joint Area Dean Of Havant

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

St Alban's Vicarage, Martin Road, West Leigh, Havant, PO9 5TE





St. Alban's Welcomes You

Mrs Jenny Hollingsworth
Head of Mission and Resources and Deputy Diocesan Secretary,
Portsmouth Anglican Diocesan Office,
1st Floor Peninsular House,
Wharf Road,
Portsmouth, PO2 8HB

27th November 2018

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for coming and speaking with your colleagues to the PCC of St Alban's West Leigh, plus the visit by members of Bishops' Council about the proposed changes. The PCC appreciated the opportunities this allowed.

The PCC have been discussing over the past 18 months how we engage with our community in the light of the changes in our society, with pressures on all people around work commitments, family responsibilities and support, and changing patterns in church attendance and people's ability to offer their time and talents. We initially engaged with RDP, which stimulated a lot of discussion and creative thinking that started us looking outwards and into our community and beginning the Saturday Breakfast, and one or two new worship services during the year. This has then been followed by LYCIG, which again we have been and continue to work with, looking at our welcome, our building and outreach.

The feeling in the PCC was that in general, they felt that creating one benefice could be a positive move. They recognise we need more support and resources to engage with our community, and will continue to struggle if nothing changes. The main concern is that St Alban's can keep what makes them unique. We have understood that it will not mean stopping what we are doing with our weekly Eucharist but adding new ideas and styles of worship alongside, but want to ensure that this is what will happen.

The opportunity to explore new ways of doing mission and engaging with our community is exciting, and we realise that we now need to think through how that might look and happen in our context. The community of Leigh Park, Warren Park and West Leigh is diverse, with some amazing people and also some interesting challenges.

We are concerned about how it will all move forward when the decision is made and if there is some provision for supporting and helping people make this move emotionally and spiritually, particularly aware that at least one of the Incumbents could possibly no longer have a role within the new structure(s).

The other concern is around what happens if these plans do not come to fruition, for whatever reason? We realise we will still need help and support, particularly in relation to our building?

With kind regards

Sharon Hardie & David Vincent

Churchwardens

I agree that this solution is a necessary evil. Although I do not like the fact that the identity of St Alban's Church may be diluted, the reduction in admin is a necessity in these straitened times.

I would, if possible, prefer that services continued on a weekly basis at St. Alban's.

Paul Jerome PCC Member

I am very reluctant to agree to this proposal but there does not seem to be any other option. My concern is we lose our identity as being a loving family church with so many wonderful people, working hard within the community of West Leigh. I would still prefer our Sunday services to remain at St. Albans so we can support our older congregation who are a very important part of our family and would not want them to feel left out and isolated.

Jackie Howard PCC Member

Yes, I agree (with reservation) to the proposed boundary change(s).

St Albans Church, West Leigh has always had a strong identity and community spirit. Under the proposed boundary changes West Leigh will no longer exist as a parish and our special community will be broken. We want to protect what we have achieved and what we share. We have a mainly Christian community with good links prevalent between many different groups of people. - including a strengthening number of young people. This is a community to be fostered and nurtured.

Martin Boulter PCC Member

I accept the proposed boundary changes because the church must change if it has any chance of growth. We have recognised for some time now that St Albans Church does not have enough people willing/able to support you, our vicar, with all the mission and fundraising activities we, as a congregation, would like to be able to carry out.

Personally, I view this as a positive step for our church and hope very much that you are given a senior role in the new church organisation.


Alison Coleshill PCC Member

While I fear we may lose our West Leigh identity, there seems to be no other option to accept the boundary changes.

Cathy Stevens PCC Member and Deanery Representative

Having considered the various proposals and the opportunity to both listen and engage in dialogue with the Archdeacon, Deputy Diocesan Secretary and Strategic Planning Manager, I must, with a degree of uncertainty, agree in general terms with the proposal to combine the benefices of Leigh Park, Warren Park and West Leigh. However, whilst 'economy of scale' is a useful precept in some circumstances I am not wholly convinced that this is appropriate in this case.

We have an eclectic congregation across a wide band of ages and backgrounds. Many of our church members reside outside the parish boundaries and much of the reason for this lies in the nature of the worship, and from my perspective, importantly, the friendship and the welcome proffered to all who come both as worshipers and visitors. Many of us live closer to other Anglican churches but choose to attend St. Alban's because of its ethos.

 vision at St Alban's is 'Loving, Praying and Doing' and over recent times and with the leadership of our present incumbent I feel that we have made progress, as a congregation, to foster the spirit of this vision. I would not like to see this diminished seemingly as a smaller fish in a larger pool.

As a church, for a number of years, we have been fortunate to be largely self-sufficient, financially, through the generosity of our membership. Whether this would continue to the same degree in any new set up may be open to review.

We can only pray that this is the will of our loving God and feel safe in his hands for whatever may lie ahead.

Graham Whitlock PCC Member and PCC Secretary





St. Alban's
Welcomes You



Mrs Jenny Hollingsworth
Head of Mission and Resources and Deputy Diocesan Secretary
Diocese of Portsmouth
1st Floor Peninsular House
Wharf Road
Portsmouth
PO2 8HB

March 2019

Dear Jenny,

Following the meeting with the PCC of West Leigh, Alban on the evening of 14 March we have been asked for our formal response to the proposals which have been made to terminate the plurality of the benefice of Leigh Park and Warren Park and unite the benefice of Leigh Park, the benefice of Warren Park and the benefice of West Leigh.

Here in our parish of West Leigh we have been conscious of the changes which have, for some time, been taking place nationally and locally in many ways not least of which is attitudes towards church and its relevance within our community. We recognise the need for change and to respond actively to the challenges which face us all. We cannot sit back in isolation, resistant to change, and watch whilst all evolves around us. We have seen the benefits of debate through the RDP and latterly, LYCYG

It is probably fair to say that when we were first made aware, last autumn, of the proposed parochial changes our initial reaction was a degree of shock but quickly followed by the realisation that what we had discussed and prayed about both in PCC and with our congregation for some time had become a reality. We needed to do more to cast aside individual prejudices and attitudes and to look at what we had achieved already and see more clearly how a broader team approach was needed in both ordained and lay ministry.

Over the past few months we have welcomed a number of informal consultations with the diocesan mission team and Bishop's Council members and have been provided with detailed proposal documents to enable us to make a formal response. This has been most helpful and enabled us, as a parish, to see clearly what the pastoral changes will entail.

On behalf of West Leigh, we, the PCC, confirm that we are willing and prepared to move forward into the next stages of the implementation process if such is agreed following recommendations, through the Bishop to the Church Commissioners Pastoral Division. Needless to say, if there were to be any radical changes to that currently proposed we would ask to be informed.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Whitlock
Hon PCC Secretary





St. Alban's Welcomes You

Mrs Jenny Hollingsworth
Head of Mission and Resources and Deputy Diocesan Secretary,
Portsmouth Anglican Diocesan Office,
1st Floor Peninsular House,
Wharf Road,
Portsmouth, PO2 8HB

22nd March 2019

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for all the paperwork, the meetings with diocesan staff and Bishop's Council Members and the visit by Bishop Christopher that have taken place in respect of the Proposed Pastoral Reorganisation to create a new mission unit consisting of one Benefice in Leigh Park, Warren Park and West Leigh.

The proposed plan did not come as a surprise to me. As a parish we had begun to talk about working together with our neighbouring parishes, combining our limited resources and possibly joining together, as we could see a need. The coming together could support and enhance all that we are all already doing, enable new and creative ways of being church to develop, and share the Good News of God in this community.

I have discussed with the parish the changing needs of society and therefore the changing needs for mission and ministry. Together we recognise the need for change and I will support and work with the proposed changes to make Leigh Park, Warren Park and West Leigh one Benefice. A new team of lay and ordained people will together build a new vision and way forward for the Church in this proposed new parish.

Support will be needed for this transition to happen, to assist with the changes and the setting up of new structures. I am sure the diocese will provide.

I have no reason to oppose this plan and whole heartedly support it.

With kind regards

Karina B. Green.

The Revd Canon Karina Green
St Alban's Vicarage, Martin Road, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 5TE
Tel: 023 9307 6871 Email: canonkarina@talktalk.net
St Alban's Church, Bartons Road, West Leigh, Havant, PO9 5TE





The Church of England
Church Commissioners
Rex Andrews – Pastoral
Church House, Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3AZ

24 April 2019

Dear Mr Andrew,

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011
Diocese of Portsmouth
Benefices of St Francis, Leigh Park, Warren Park St Clare, and West Leigh St Alban

Draft Pastoral Scheme
Ref NB29/53b/RA

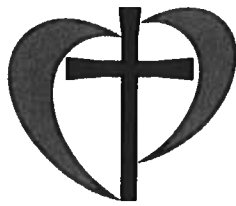
We are in receipt of the draft scheme as per the above and your request for representation.

As the Archdeacon of Portsdown I would like to express my full support for the scheme and the pastoral proposals affecting the aforementioned benefices.

Yours sincerely,

The Venerable Dr Joanne Grenfell
Archdeacon of Portsdown





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~~01253 722133~~
www.stwilfridscowplain.co.uk

Vicar: Rev Ian Snares
~~ian@stwilfridscowplain.co.uk~~

24 May 2019

Dear Rex

Re: Formal response to Leigh Park, Warren Park and West Leigh Pastoral Scheme

I am writing this response to your letter to me as Joint Area Dean for Havant Deanery on 15 April 2019.

My desire is to see the Church, especially local Anglican churches, grow their mission, serve their communities in appropriate ways and draw many to a living personal faith in Jesus Christ. In our changing and largely post-Christian society, this means that new forms of church, a variety of styles of worship, and creative ways to engage unchurched people with the Gospel are needed.

The Greater Leigh Park area is a complex and distinctive group of communities. It is essential that its local churches are equipped for mission in ways that are appropriate and seen to be resourced from within. I hope and pray that through working together, and taking advantage of the additional funding from the Church Commissioners, existing churches will be strengthened, new forms of church will be established and the Good News will impact many lives.

I therefore fully support this Pastoral Scheme.

Yours sincerely

Rev Ian Snares
Joint Area Dean, Havant Deanery

