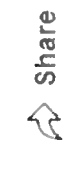


8



The Church Council (PCC) are still able to fight the diocese's decision but we need your feedback to share please...we have another 7 weeks in which we can do this.

Chris Elmes and Marilyn Jeffrey 9 comments



Chris Elmes It needs people from St. Alban's to take notice and start protesting! There are one or two on here but no great numbers - and as their PCC has agreed to not fight the changes, this could be a problem!

Like Reply 14w 1

Mandy Ferdinando Personally, I have recently attended a funeral held by father Jonathan. I've been, sadly to a few funerals, and never before have I seen one like father Jonathan does. The respect, the kindness, the compassion shown was something I've not seen before. I was moved by the way it was all done and for me, I've never seen anything like this before. I've also seen school performances in church like the nativity. The children love father Jonathan and how he responds to them. I've seen pantomimes, and may I add, awesome performances from the man himself. I've seen many things father Jonathan has done for our community. His family too. When I went to church for the first time ever here, his family made me feel welcome and not to sit alone. I don't know many people like father Jonathan who will come and see people during the night, being there when needed and not just as a friend but as a vicar. What more can I say. We don't want to loose him because he is our community. He's held many peoples events, funerals, christenings and many more.

Like Reply 14w 3

Jill Dunham Over the years I've lived in/near Leigh Park, very few of the clergy of any denomination have committed to the area for the long haul - the only others I know was Jack Walker, who was at LP Baptist for twenty years and Sara and Barney Barron, who were working on the park for over fifteen years. It's these people, along with Jonathan, who've built up relationships and made a difference.

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Like Reply 14w



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Like Reply 14w



Karen Adams For me I can never thank father Jonathan even for everything he has done for me and my family I have met other vicars who couldn't be bothered and this put me off but meeting father Jonathan for the first time completely changed the way I feel towards how I saw churches he actually does care for this community where others done he goes out his way to help in anyway he can quite recently I lost my baby boy at 16 weeks gestation when arranging his funeral I was a mess I wasn't understanding what was going on I was struggling the only thing I did know was I wanted father Jonathan to do the service because I trusted him I know that he truly cares about us as a community and in such a short time when we asked him he could have said no to us as it was on top of Christmas he also had to do many things but he spoke to us he was more then happy to do it he saw how much I was struggling and he let me take my time as we went through things and on the day of my son funeral he was constantly checking if we were ok he made Michael service so beautiful and heartfelt and I personally don't think anyone could have been that caring towards us even after I lost my son when I was able to make it to church he checked to see if I was ok and if I needed anything even now nearly 3 months later and he still checks how we are my 2 girls have really warmed to him my youngest who has major difficulty with meeting new people but she met father Jonathan she relaxed she around him because of that I was able to take her to church



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some of us might not actually have religion but when it comes to our vicars and our churches we won't stick around and let it be destroyed it not easy to build up with a relationship and respect

vicars and our churches we won't stick around and let it be destroyed it not easy to build up with a relationship and respect

Like Reply 14w Edited



Paul Mcleod It's no good the diocese trying to find a fault with why their congregations want to keep their current vicars. All that says is we'd already made this decision and we want everyone to just agree. Clearly it's not just about Jonathan and Karinas personality. If as vicars they'd not done their job well, if as professionals they'd not consistently done right by their congregations they wouldn't have the over whelming love and support they have. The diocese mentioning " they might leave" is irrelevant compared to previous history, the here and now, all the good work they've done. The diocese need to as they said in beginning listen and take into account the parishioners views. The diocese will then save everyone's time, energy, stop the stress their putting on everyone involved, including themselves. Jonathan and Karinas devotion, work may well have added to the congregations, I'm certain replacing them will lead to the diocese losing parisheners. This will not go away, the congregations will not just sit by and allow the diocese to railroad through their ideas. Diocese one question. Do you really want to risk losing a large number of your congregations for the assumption changes will bring new members to the church? Word of mouth, the views of current parisheners will be a strong part of gaining new parisheners.

Like Reply 14w Edited



Chris Elmes Paul Mcleod - I feel that if people want or need to worship in a church - they will do so. If it is not something they want, they will not! There are so many churches in Leigh Park that people have plenty of choice, depending on their beliefs and the sort of worship they respond to - some people may move from one to the other but there will not suddenly be a huge upsurge in worship, no matter how many people the Diocese send here.

However, if they study the plan Jonathan and Karina have for the future, and give them the help they want, need and have been asking for over years, how this community would benefit!

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Sadly the Diocese will not be forgiven for the dog's breakfast they have made of this whole process.

Like Reply 14w



Paul Mcleod Chris Elmes well Said

Like Reply 14w



Moe Horswell How many times do we need to tell them all the good works carried out by Jonathan and Karine, which is over and above that expected from a priest. Many people have shared personal accounts of the unconditional love and support provided, yet still the Diocese want more!! Perhaps they should go back and revisit the emails and letters they have already received OR would they like us to send them all again??

Like Reply 14w



Chris Worthington You cannot divide a person from who they are and what they do. The compassion they both show is more than shown by other priests. I seriously feel that if they are moved on the parishes will not only lose their priests but also a lot of followers as the trust in the diocese will be gone. They are the job, the carer,

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Like Reply 14w



1



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Like Reply 14w



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Like Reply 14w



2

Write a comment



Paula Jeffrey-Powell

9 February

Yesterday I said there should be something in Portsmouth News today. Nothing has been seen yet. It is an article written by their reporter Byron Melton and Fr Jonathan was able to comment in it... I will let you know when I find it.





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Like Reply 14w 1



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Like Reply 14w 2

Write a comment



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Paula Jeffrey-Powell  
2 February

Hi all...

I've been thinking about what you have all said about involving the media... To be honest, as I said in the past when the media was mentioned during the public consultation stage - The decision should come from the community and not the vicar. Jonathan has a lot to deal with right now and as a community who think the world of him - and Karina and are determined to fight for them to stay - I think that decision should come from the people of the community.

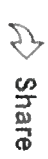
This is YOUR vicar. YOUR friend. the same person who has touch your hearts and the hearts of many others too by the love and service they have shown over the years and all the hard work that has been undertaken by them to build up the relationship between the 'Church' and the Community - Which is now being torn out from under our feet!

I fear however, that this relationship between the Church in general (not talking locally) and our community has now become very damaged in our community due to the diocese not listening and working 'with' the community they are trying to change. The 'Trust' they hoped to build on... is now 'non-existent'.

As far as I'm concerned you're the one's who are standing up for 'one of your own' - for what is right. Do what is in your heart!

Karen Adams, Kelly Chuter and 19 others

20 comments 1 share



Helen Young Please can you ask for members on here to vote on media involvement. then, Paula Jeffrey-Powell? I vote Yes. x

Like Reply 15w



Diane Marie I vote yes.

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This is Y... See more

Karen Adams, Kelly Chuter and 19 others 20 comments 1 share

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Helen Young Please can you ask for members on here to vote on media involvement, then, Paula Jeffrey-Powell? I vote Yes.x

Like Reply 15w

Diane Marie I vote yes

Like Reply 15w

Nicky Carol Parker I vote yes xx

Like Reply 15w

George Hurry I vote yes

Like Reply 15w

Jennifer Hurry I vote Yes

Like Reply 15w

Carolyn Shannon I vote yes

Like Reply 15w

Ken Whitwick I vote yes

Like Reply 15w

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Carolyn Shannon I vote yes

Like Reply 15w



Ken Whitwick I vote yes

Like Reply 15w



Helen Young Is anything happening yet with involving the media please, Paula Jeffrey-Powell.x

Like Reply 14w



Chris Elmes Reporter rang again but there was no new information I could give him as waiting for result from deanery Synod etc. We now know that although Karina values our support, the West Leigh PCC have agreed not to fight it! This complicates matters for Everyone!

Like Reply 14w



Helen Young Oh no, that's such a shame. They should be fighting this too. Yes it really does complicate things. Karina must feel it's a battle she can't win.

Like Reply 14w



Diane Marie Helen Young or do they think it will go in her favour if she applies for the new job!!!

Like Reply 14w



Helen Young I hadn't thought of it like before that. Diane Marie, just about trying to save them both and reverse this.x

Like Reply 14w



Write a reply



Paula Jeffrey-Powell Media is in hand. Look out for tomorrow's



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Paula Jeffrey-Powell shared a post.

3 April

Update...



St Francis, Leigh Park

Published by Paula Jeffrey-Powell · 3 April

Proposed Parish Reorganisation Update...

Tonight the Bishop's Council meet to discuss the next stage of the Parish Reorganisation proposals.

We have submitted papers on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St Francis & St Clares regarding the appalling way in which we feel this whole situation has been handled and the negative affect it has had on our vicar and community.

We have offered them a counter proposal for a vision we feel would benefit everyone concerned in our area.

We pray for the members of Bishop's Council tonight, for guidance and love as they make these very important decisions. We hope they will listen and make decisions based on what their heart tells them and build on the foundations already in place rather than remove the foundations and start from scratch... Those foundations being the priestly ministry already shown within our community through the love and service offered by Fr Jonathan and Reverend Karina on a daily basis and include them into the new vision.

**Tonight** Fr Jonathan will be meeting with the whole Bishop's Council at 7pm to make a personal statement to all present

To Fr Jonathan, Carolyn, Reverend Karina and all those affected by these proposals, we wish you the very best of luck and our love. You are all very much in our thoughts and prayers both tonight and as you await the outcome of tonight's meeting. We are right here with you!  
GOOD LUCK!! 🍀

St Francis & St Clares Social Media Coordinator



2

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# Save leigh park st Francis church and st Clare and West leigh vicars

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Like Reply 6w



Mandy Ferdinando replied · 3 replies



Write a comment



Mandy Ferdinando

5 April

## Anyone else received an email too? Not one bit of notice taken from us 😞

Marilyn Jeffrey

1 comment

Like Comment Share



Marilyn Jeffrey Yes got mine. 🙄

Like Reply 6w



Write a comment



Paula Jeffrey-Powell shared a photo.

5 April



Save leigh park st Francis church and st Clare and West leigh



Paula

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# Save leigh park st Francis church and st Clare and West leigh vicars

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Interacting as yourself



Paula Jeffrey-Powell

5 April

This is the email letter being received from Jenny Hollingsworth at the diocese. It is no different to what is on their website. It is NOT acceptable and not thorough enough with detail... but hey that's the diocese for you!!

PROPOSED PASTORAL RE

organisation

Inbox

JENNY HOLLINGSWORTH

12:01 (8 minutes ago) to Portsmouth

Dear all,

i'm writing to you again because you expressed interest in our plans for pastoral reorganisation and/or gave us your email address at one of the public meetings we held last October. There has been another development that we'd like to keep you informed about.

We'd like to let you know that the Bishop's Council of our diocese has recommended plans to reorganise parishes along the lines that were suggested in January. They have asked the bishop to recommend these plans to the national Church of England, which will take the ultimate decision.

As you will know, the original plans were drawn up to reorganise parishes in three separate areas of our diocese because our Bishop's Council wanted us all to become more committed as disciples of Jesus, to have a greater impact as Christians on our local communities, and to enlarge our church congregations.

The idea was that new teams of ministers – clergy and non-clergy – would be created in central Gosport, Newport, and the Leigh Park estates, to plant brand new congregations, inspire and deepen discipleship, promote evangelism, and improve church buildings – as well as maintain traditional worship.

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You will be aware that there was a period of informal consultation about these plans last autumn, which was then followed by two months of formal consultation between the end of January and the end of March this year. During this time, clergy, PCCs and other interested parties were given the chance to give a formal response to our proposals.

During this process, many points were raised, relating to all aspects of these proposals, and the responses were examined very thoroughly. Members of our Bishop's Council met individual clergy, PCCs and deanery synods during this time, and also provided an opportunity for those clergy involved to address the Bishop's Council directly at its meeting on April 3.

At the meeting, members considered the issues that had been raised in turn, looking at concerns about the process to date, team ministries versus group ministries, the designation of clergy posts, and the value of traditional parish ministry.

After very lengthy discussion and debate, the Bishop's Council members ultimately decided they were in favour of a new parish structure in all three areas. However, they were also aware that, in the initial stages of the process, there were things that could have been done differently to make it easier for those affected. Although the legally required process was followed, this has not been an easy process for anyone to experience. For the distress that has been felt, they are sorry.

Those members of our Bishop's Council – who are elected representatives from our C of E parishes – will offer to return to those parishes they visited during the consultation periods. They want to talk through specific points made by clergy and PCCs in their responses to the proposals and to consider a way forward that might address some of those concerns.

The formal proposals recommended in Gosport include the creation of a new team ministry covering Bridgeman, Elson and Rowner, and a new team

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The formal proposals recommended in Gosport include the creation of a new team ministry covering Bridgemary, Elson and Rowner; and a new team ministry covering Forton, Christ Church and Holy Trinity. The suggestion from the PCC of St John's, Forton, that its building should become a mission hub for Gosport cannot be considered by the Bishop's Council until June, when a report has been received from the national C of E's Church Buildings Council.

The proposals recommended in the Havant deanery are for a new team ministry covering West Leigh, Leigh Park and Warren Park. And the proposals recommended on the Isle of Wight are for a new team ministry covering Newport Minster, St John's, Carisbrooke and Barton. Its clergy would also have responsibility for the separate parish of Gatcombe.

These formal proposals for parish reorganisation will now be considered by the Church Commissioners, who are responsible for legal structures in parishes across the Church of England. They will also consult with the clergy, parishes, residents and other interested parties over the coming months before making a final decision.

Thank you for your interest, and for your participation in this process so far. We will continue to keep you informed about progress.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Hollingsworth

Secretary to Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee

4 comments

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Thank you for your interest, and for your participation in this process so far.

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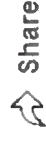
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Like Reply 6w



2



Paula Jeffrey-Powell Hi Ken Whitwick you need to put this on their page as they cannot see this post - as far as I know

Like Reply 6w



Paula Jeffrey-Powell Please don't leave yet Ken. Jonathan needs you more than ever at the moment. We'll all leave together at the end if Church Commissioners don't change this. Lets stay and help Jonathan and Carolyn through this together united as one Church Family who believes in supporting one another

Like Reply 6w



1



Mandy Ferdinando Don't give up. Keep fighting till the end. They are worth the fight.

Like Reply 6w



Write a reply



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Mandy Ferdinando 5 April

I know I'm not alone when I say I don't get all the legal jargon regarding the diocese and all these people making decisions against the communities views about this big shake up of the churches and our vicars losing there jobs. But what I do know is, these vicars, personally for me, father Jonathan and family, have been in some of the communities family's for years and years. He's been our vicar for marriages, funerals, christenings and even been there at the end of people's lives. Supporting families. Being there at hours when they should be asleep. Children look forward to seeing them at schools and father Jonathan has made a huge impact on the whole of leigh park. When I first moved my children to Riders school, father Jonathan was one of the first people, along with his wife, to make us feel welcome. I attended a family funeral recently that father Jonathan held, I've never seen so much respect and compassion before. I cannot believe this is happening and quite frankly, I have no interest in anyone else being our vicar. God bless him and his family and the other vicars, and their families. I know people are angry, but please don't give up just yet. Let's fight this, somehow, till the end. Let's show our vicars that we stand by them and their families. God bless you all AMEN

You, Marilyn Jeffrey, Alison Watson and 18 others

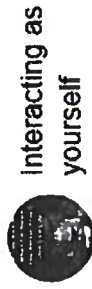
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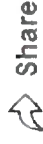
Bettina Brown

5 April

I am beyond angry - am feeling that our thoughts and wishes have been ignored and were probably never in the offing.

Chris Elmes and 2 others

4 comments



Marilyn Parker There is a world a part from a feeling and a fact...the fact is it was a done deal from the beginning..and that's a fact

Like Reply 6w Edited

3



Paula Jeffrey-Powell Xx

Like Reply 6w



Jennifer Hurry Perhaps as the head of the Church of England, the Queen should be made aware of the way our vicar and community is being ignored .

Like Reply 6w



Paula Jeffrey-Powell Church Commissioners are the ones to complain to when we receive the green light Jennifer Hurry. They are the National Church of England committee who will make the next and final decisions. This part of the process enable's the Public to have a voice at the highest level in this whole process. They have the power to accept the proposals or tum them around. I will let people know when the green light is given and then we can charge at them with our voices 😊

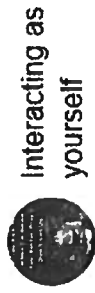
Like Reply 6w



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# Save leigh park st Francis church and st Clare and West leigh vicars

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Chris Elmes is feeling angry.

5 April

Had the e mail and, for once, am lost for words at such a callous disregard of everything and everybody.

Just shows what the diocese thinks of us!



You, Darren Mckenna, Norma Hunt and 3 others

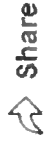
6 comments



Angry



Comment



Share



Helen Young Well said Chris, they are hard as nails!



2

Like Reply 6w



Jill Dunham I'm a Baptist and once asked a CofE bigwig (not based in LP) why the churches on the estate were high church. 'Oh, the poor enjoy the spectacle and colour of a traditional service' was his (very patronising) answer. Me: 'How do you know, have you asked any of them?' He mumbled and walked away. I've never really trusted anyone above parish priest/minister since in any denomination!

Like Reply 6w



1



Norma Hunt At the moment, don't really know what to think or do. We all thought common sense and God's will, would lead us all to a middle ground that would suit everyone, with compromise on all levels.

Like Reply 6w



1



Chris Elmes Common sense and Portsmouth Diocese are two different things. I think the Archdeacon made it abundantly clear at the meeting that we could say what we liked but it would make no difference! I am so angry!

Like Reply 6w



1



Helen Young Can the press be informed of how devastated everyone is?



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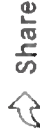
6 comments



Angry



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Like Reply 6w



2



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Like Reply 6w



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## St Francis, Leigh Park

Published by Paula Jeffrey-Powell · 7 April

\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ\*\*\*\*\*

Please read a statement from Fr Jonathan Jeffery regarding the recent decision taken by the Bishop's Council & Bishop of Portsmouth regarding their decision not to change their proposals for Parish Re-organisation for the Churches of our community which was read out at the morning service.

Firstly...

To explain this process so far in an easier way - As many of you will know the Diocese of Portsmouth are proposing to bring St Francis, St Clare's and St Albans together to work as three Churches with one team led ministry throughout all three churches. Their proposal is for a TEAM MINISTRY - that is, ONE Parish Rector (priest who is in charge of the running of everything) will remain in post, one 'Church Planting' vicar, and a make-up of other team members joining them.

To do this FR JONATHAN & REVEREND KARINA will loose their existing posts as your Parish Priests as these posts will cease to exist under the new proposals. They will have to apply to the new posts, but are not guaranteed to be accepted. The second priest post to form part of this team will be that of a 'Church Planting Vicar'. This is a post where a priest comes into post to 'plant' new congregations throughout our community. Not your normal Parish Priest which you have now.

So to put it in a more simpler way, Fr Jonathan and Reverend Karina will be losing their positions as Parish Priests within Leigh Park, Warren Park & West Leigh... aka in secular terms this means Redundancy. If this proposal is accepted they will receive notice this year for end of post and will be offered a compensation package.

Although we - the Church Council of St Francis & St Clare - were asked by the Bishop's Council at a meeting at the early stages to propose a vision of our own to offer and it was presented to them and the Strategic Team as well as Fr Jonathan submitting, this was clearly not good enough for them to accept and after numerous meetings and numerous attempts and a VERY loud outcry from the members of our community including at the public meeting first held when the news was first announced, they have decided to go ahead with their own proposal and not ours. They have made this same decision for all of the ten priests affected across Portsmouth Diocese.

The next stage of consultations is now in the hands of the Church of England Church Commissioners who have the final decisions of to either accept the proposals and put them into place, but they also have the power to over turn the decision of the diocese. The members of our community can once again become involved and send their thoughts, concerns and objections to the Church Commissioners and they have to take them very seriously. The Church Commissioners are the highest decision makers to which the Diocese are





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GROUP CONVERSATIONS: [Fancy a night out?](#) [Sara, Julie, Donna](#)

Published by Paula Jeffrey Powell 7 April

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The Church Commissioners are the highest decision makers to which the Diocese are held accountable.

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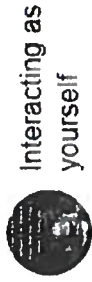
Leigh Park Christmas Grotto 2018

114 members

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# Foreign vicars

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all in our prayers at this time.

Our love and support continue for Fr Jonathan, Carolyn and their lovely family.

We would also like to acknowledge those who have sent us messages of support, love and prayers from other diocese's outside of Portsmouth, as well as those from within our own diocese. We have very much appreciated your kindness and love and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Social Media Coordinator - St Francis & St Clare

## Discussion

Kathryn Parker, Chris Elmes and 5 others 5 comments 2 shares

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Chris Elmes Please let me know where and when comments should be sent. I'll be writing!  
 Like Reply 6w 2

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Michelle Pressman me too Chris xx  
 Like Reply 5w

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Paula Jeffrey-Powell Thank you. As soon as we know, we will post another announcement on here.  
 Like Reply 5w 2

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Write a reply

Michelle Pressman Uuuuuuurgh, have no words, not unexpected but hurt and angry. Will write to church commissioners as well but I think we can safely say this decision was made a long time ago and the "church" is just following due process. Uuuuuuurgh again. Big love to Jonathan, Carolyn and their gorgeous family( not forgetting lola !! ) xx

Like Reply 5w



# st Clare and West leigh vicars

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PORTSMOUTH ANGLICAN.ORG

## Diocese of Portsmouth - News - Bishop's Council recommends parish reorganisation plans

Members voted in favour of proposals to reorganise parishes in three separate areas of...

You, Karen Davidson, Marilyn Jeffrey and 3 others 24 comments 1 share

Angry Comment Share

Claire Hurry So much for listening to the community! Like Reply 7w 1

Karen Davidson They had already made their minds up. They haven't listened at all x Like Reply 7w 3

Karen Davidson Ken Whitwick Like Reply 7w

Mandy Ferdinando I've just had an email x Like Reply 7w

Paula Jeffrey-Powell Everyone has. I will share it on here! Like Reply 7w

Mandy Ferdinando Paula Jeffrey-Powell unreal and I'm speechless Like Reply 7w

Donna Armstrong They didn't listen at all&on the evening of the

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Mandy Ferdinando Paula Jeffrey-Powell unreal and I'm speechless

Like Reply 7w



Donna Armstrong They didn't listen at all&on the evening of the 1st meeting at complain church we all knew then that their minds were made up!well good bye to our st francis st Albans and St claires!there the same as our government useless

Like Reply 7w



Helen Young So angry about this. Can anything be done to persuade the church commissioners how terrible they this is like a protest somewhere?

Like Reply 7w



Paula Jeffrey-Powell So much for "What the community wants!"

Community view

### Church's £9m investment

...of the church's investment in the new building...

Like Reply 7w



Michelle Pressman What a joke...disgusting.

Like Reply 5w



Write a reply

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Paula Jeffrey-Powell They're in for a shock then if people follow their threat through... that won't help the numbers grow will it!

Like Reply 7w Edited  1




Donna Armstrong Paula Jeffrey-Powell it's absolutely gutting for u all!

Like Reply 7w



Paul Mcleod Paula Jeffrey-Powell no it won't and word of mouth is very important. With a reduction in current church goers they'll have less people spreading the word. If a newcomer came along they might be put off by a small congregation. I'm sure this is about money. Not actually about spending more, rather a reduction in churches - building running costs. This is also about a few deciding what they think's best. Ignoring the will of the people. They are behaving like politicians, business people. Not people of a faith, not loving, caring people. The sort of church hierarchy you see behaving like megalomaniacs in historical films such as about Henry the 8th.

Like Reply 7w  4




Donna Armstrong Paul Mcleod well said x

Like Reply 7w



Paul Mcleod What about gathering a response from the congregations. Pass on their response. Get a total and pass on of how many people have said they'll stop going to these churches. Gaurentee if it goes ahead as planned within 18 months the church will announce the sell off of at least one of these churches for redevelopment.

Like Reply 7w  1



Michelle Pressman Paula Jeffrey-Powell Exactly xx

Like Reply 6w

# leigh vicars

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Like Reply 7w

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Like Reply 7w

Michelle Pressman Paula Jeffrey-Powell Exactly xx

Like Reply 6w

Write a reply



Marilyn Parker It was a done deal from the very beginning.. Fact...

Like Reply 6w

Michelle Pressman Totally agree Marilyn x

Like Reply 6w

Ali Wake What's the point in asking everyone what they want as a community if no one wants to listen!! I've only just started to attend church for midnight mass and was looking to start attending other services with my family. Father Johnathon has been there through all my children growing up and he was the only reason I started to attend. I won't be going again after he leaves! if you can't trust the bishop to do the right thing then I've already lost faith!

Like Reply 6w

Michelle Pressman I know Ali the whole thing is just awful, have run out of words really, it is a disgrace x



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## Diocese of Portsmouth - News - Bishop's Council recommends parish reorganisation plans

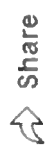
Members voted in favour of proposals to reorganise parishes in three separate areas of...

You and 6 others

32 comments 10 shares



Comment



Most relevant



Write a comment



**Paula Jeffrey-Powell** Diocese of Portsmouth So does this mean you haven't changed your original plans for Team Rector and Team Church Planting Vicar then? Which leaves our vicar out of the picture for one of the new posts then doesn't it?...

Like Reply 7w Edited

"Most relevant" is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out



**Diocese of Portsmouth** Hello, Paula. Yes, for clarification, the legal proposals that have been recommended are for a team ministry that would include at least a team rector and a team vicar serving Leigh Park, Warren Park and West Leigh. The intention of the Bishop's Council is still that one of these people will be a church-planting minister. The Bishop's Council want to respond in more detail to the documents sent to them by the clergy and PCCs, addressing specific points raised in those documents. They will do so within the next few days. Bishop's Council members also want to visit the parishes to explain the proposals and to consider ways forward that might address some of the concerns raised.

Angry Reply 7w





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**Paula Jeffrey-Powell** So one way or the other then one of our clergy will be replaced! No doubt our vicar at St Francis and St Clare!... So much for listening to the community's wants Portsmouth Diocese of Portsmouth. Very poor decision. The community you were trying to reach out to too... Good luck with that one... You're going to need it. It looks as though this will be my last year in a church too then as I will have no intention of stepping foot in another church in the Portsmouth Diocese once this is all done if it all goes through... Shame, I almost made it to 40 years. A lot of people have said they'd rather leave the church... Not going to help your numbers 'grow'... So much for Christian love. It doesn't matter how much you gloss it all up it IS about money!

Like Reply 7w Edited



**Mark James Paula Jeffrey-Powell** so why do you go to Church, is it not to worship with fellow Christians? Do we not follow Christ and trust that through humble prayer and reflection that ultimately G-d is in control and make this new way the new way that sees Kingdom growth. I feel G-ds heart would be grieved if a passionate follower left simply because they disagreed with a decision.

Like Reply 7w







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they disagree with a decision.

Like Reply 7w



Paula Jeffrey-Powell Mark James And making very good and experienced clergy redundant is a good thing how? ... The diocese - and in fact the Church of England - where doing a big push for more priests not long ago and now here they are removing them. This is not being done in the spirit of the legislation that was formed for reorganisation. In the Legislation it states those affected can be designated to the new posts being created... Portsmouth Diocese are not doing this... This is where my issue is. I have no problems with change and reorganisation for the 'Church' to move forward and grow, what I DO have a problem with is how this has all unfolded! We offered an alternative vision which enabled the clergy to remain a part of the reorganisation but as with everyone else affected they have been ignored. Other diocese are watching Portsmouth to see what happens. Not great so far. Add that to a news paper article back in October which I have uploaded to another FB page the bishop was quoted as saying "What we offer will depend on what these communities want"... Apparently not... The community spoke up and was ignored. What the diocese wants the diocese gets... as always.

Like Reply 7w

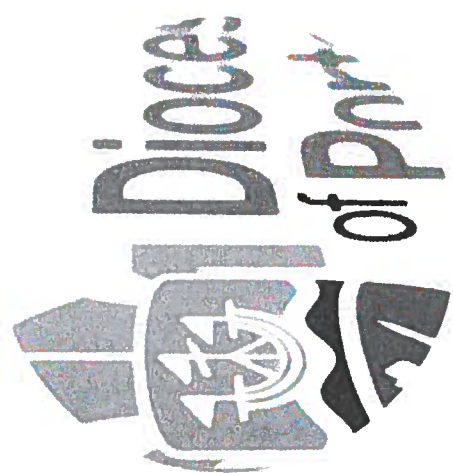


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Mark James Diocese of Portsmouth as a priest myself I feel your pain. Thank you for sticking up for us. It seems below that there is an opportunity for dialogue? Maybe something has been miscommunicated. I won't comment any further as much as I want to but there is little doubt from what I have seen elsewhere declining clergy will have a detrimental impact, although the right clergy in the right role can yield the opposite so it's complicated. I feel for those clergy who remain willingly. Suffice to say I also feel it would be a great shame to lose your passion. We need that so keep talking. Take the opportunity to listen and have positive input. I shall pray.

Like Reply 6w Edited



Paula Jeffrey-Powell Mark James Hi. Thank you. I've explored the vocation of priesthood a couple of times since 2001 but both time fell pregnant with my lovely two children so I had to give up... and I was probably never going to be good enough to fulfil such an amazing vocation anyway regardless of a daily bombarding. Funnily enough I was going to go back to revisit it in the near future... Guess I'm not





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Like Reply 6w Edited

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Like Reply 6w Edited



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celebration way. It will be an empty Church when/ if their vicar leaves. Very sad.

Like Reply 6w 1



**Diocese of Portsmouth** Paula Jeffrey-Powell No, no one who represents the diocese dislikes the community of Leigh Park and Warren Park. The Bishop's Council members who made this decision are ordinary clergy & lay people from other parishes in the diocese, who read all the responses & thought long & hard about all the points you raised before deciding. Some have already visited your PCCs and are keen to meet you again to explain their decision. By all means say all of these things when you meet face-to-face. You may well disagree with each other, but I hope they can show you that they do care. No, the bishop is not on Facebook himself, but many members of Bishop's Council are, and may well be reading your comments.

Like Reply 6w 3



**Sarah Stouse** The people at At Francis church have asked for support, to build on the good work so why tear it apart?

Like Reply 6w 1



Write a reply

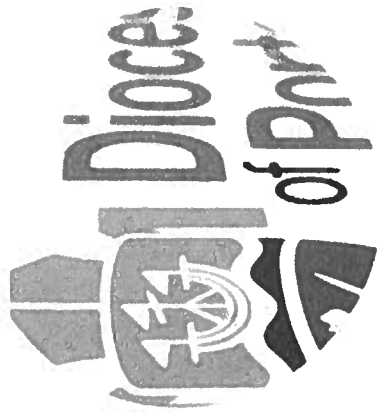


**Chris Elmes** Can you please clarify which plan this refers to - the original, the revised, or the re-revised? Your new plan makes no mention of a new Parish just a Team Ministry to cover the three churches. Does this include the existing clergy? Clarification please.

Like Reply 7w 1



**Mandy Ferdinando** I know I'm not alone when I say I don't get all the legal jargon regarding the diocese and all these people making decisions against the communities views about this big shake up of the churches and our vicars losing there jobs. But what I do know is,



original, the revised, or the re-revised? Your new plan makes no mention of a new Parish just a Team Ministry to cover the three churches. Does this include the existing clergy? Clarification please.

Like Reply 7w



**Mandy Ferdinando** I know I'm not alone when I say I don't get all the legal jargon regarding the diocese and all these people making decisions against the communities views about this big shake up of the churches and our vicars losing there jobs. But what I do know is, these vicars, personally for me, father Jonathan and family, have been in some of the communities family's for years and years. He's been our vicar for marriages, funerals, christenings and even been there at the end of people's lives. Supporting families. Being there at hours when they should be asleep. Children look forward to seeing them at schools and father Jonathan has made a huge impact on the whole of Leigh park. When I first moved my children to Riders school, father Jonathan was one of the first people, along with his wife, to make us feel welcome. I attended a family funeral recently that father Jonathan held, I've never seen so much respect and compassion before. I cannot believe this is happening and quite frankly, I have no interest in anyone else being our vicar. God bless him and his family and the other vicars, and their families

AMEN

Like Reply 5w



**Paula Jeffrey-Powell** Mandy Ferdinando Xx

Like Reply 6w Edited



Write a reply



**Carolyn Shannon** I am saddened and appalled that we, the faithful of Leigh Park and the wider community still do not appear to have been listened too. You asked us to come up with some sort of proposal as a way of moving forward but you have not taken what

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Carolyn Shannon I am saddened and appalled that we, the faithful of Leigh Park and the wider community still do not appear to have been listened too. You asked us to come up with some sort of proposal as a way of moving forward but you have not taken what we asked into account in any way. I have been a practicing member of this parish for over 40 years and it feels as if my feelings and that of everyone else is not important. It is important to reach out but not at the expense of us that remain here. We agreed that there needs to be change but nothing else seems to matter.

Like Reply 6w



Sarah Stouse I think the "church" is run like a business they just pretend to listen to the people they have already planned what it wants to do reorganize and start again tear down what is there and think that new is better!

Like Reply 6w



Ken Whitwick Thank you for ruining the community in Leigh park you were never going to change your mind I hope you are proud of what you have done.i have only just gone back to St Francis church after my wife died last year she was a regular at St Francis.I will not be going back I will find somewhere else to pray ,I hope you are pleased with yourselves.father Jonathan must be in bits.This all about money.

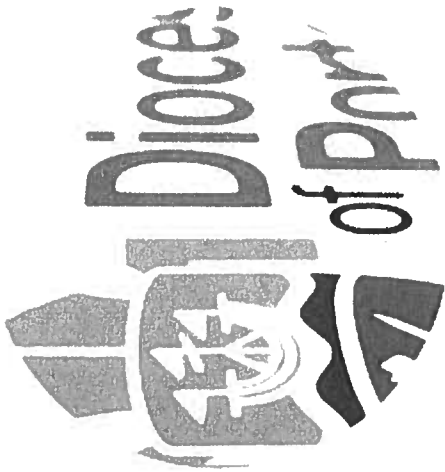
Like Reply 7w



Paula Jeffrey-Powell Hi Ken, please don't leave us yet, we need you 😊 and we'd miss you. Let's stay and help Jonathan and Carolyn through this first and we'll leave together at the end., They need our support more than ever right now. . Let's do this together. Hang in there a bit longer and stay strong You know I'm here if you ever need to talk x



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Tracey West Congratulations on ruining, dividing and destroying peoples' fragmenting faith by putting MONEY above people's spiritual needs. No one asked me for my vote and obviously we do not matter as people who live in the parishes affected. This is appalling behaviour which only proves that you are a sub division of an institution ruled by money (our money that we donate) which is no better than the appalling government of this once great country. For those of us who struggle with church but nonetheless have a deep faith you have pushed us further away by your ridiculous evangelical ideals which couldn't be further from Christ. Thank you.

Like Reply 6w



Claire Hurry So when you quoted in your article in the news on the 20/10/18 that "what we offer will depend on what these communities want" you actually meant you would do what you want anyway and just make it look like you were consulting the community? It is clear from the communities involvement that this is NOT what the community wanted! Maybe you could clarify this point, if you had done what the community wanted you would have changed your plans??

Like Reply 7w



Most relevant is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.



Diocese of Portsmouth Thanks for the opportunity to clarify that, Claire. Yes, the offer made on 20/10/18 still stands. There are two different things going on here - today's announcement relates to the legal side of things, which includes the potential merger of parishes into a team ministry.

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**Diocese of Portsmouth** Thanks for the opportunity to clarify that, Claire. Yes, the offer made on 20/10/18 still stands. There are two different things going on here - today's announcement relates to the legal side of things, which includes the potential merger of parishes into a team ministry, with at least two clergy serving West Leigh, Leigh Park and Warren Park. What the bishop was referring to (in his article that you've quoted from October) is the next stage, which we haven't started yet. Our Bishop's Council want those two clergy to be joined by other church employees who might have expertise in all sorts of areas. But it will be up to the local worshippers and community to help work out what kind of people they'd like us to recruit - it may be those with expertise in youth work or improving church buildings or admin or working in the community or something else completely. When we get to that stage, we'll genuinely want to know your suggestions.

Like Reply 7w

**Claire Hurry** So you are saying that the current priests (FR Jonathan and Karina) will remain in post and have support given to them?

Like Reply 7w

**Diocese of Portsmouth** No, I'm afraid that's not what I'm saying. The proposals that our Bishop's Council has recommended are to create two new clergy posts (team rector and team vicar), which the existing clergy will be able to apply for. But first the national Church of England has to look at what our Bishop's Council has recommended and take a final decision. Only if they give us the green light will these proposals go ahead.

Like Reply 7w

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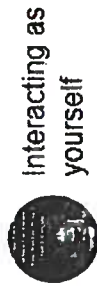
Paul Mcleod Never have so few bothered so many. One persons or a small group of people in your organization have decided to act as politicians - do what they want not what the masses have said they want and lied to them. You've also behaved like businessmen, looking at money. As a non church goer so that makes me impartial, you have not acted as caring, loving ' good Christians' you stand to alienate your parisheners and lose them to other denominations. They were, are your people in the community that would encourage people to join, word of mouth is very important. Any potential new comers could well be put off revisiting a small congregation. Religious words spring to mind repent rtf before it's too late. Different people, hierarchy on a different occasion could have decided to agree with your parisheners. An elite person, group isn't always right. I've heard many comments from people saying you'd already decided the outcome as it hasn't changed, natural I guess. A cynic might suggest that your plans hope to get such a low attendance here and there so you can justify in a Years time selling one of the Leigh Park churches for development. The behaviour of ' the few' remind me of watching historic films where the high clergy made the decisions were all powerful, ie during Henry the 8ths time. As someone who previously wrote about the difference your clergy made over 15 years ago when I worked alongside them and Father Jonathon and Karina since. Your church and your staff were and are different. Politics and part used business models used in a way to suit like has been the case here really sucks. The shambles of limited consultation, decisions made before any consultation draw me to compare this current episode to the political shambles that is Brexit. Yours hoping you actually listen to your clergy, your congregations and give them what they want, not what you want to impose.

Like Reply 6w

Write a comment...

# Save leigh park st Francis church and st Clare and West leigh vicars

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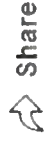
## Diocese of Portsmouth

7 May at 12:06

We're delighted to announce that the Ven Dr Joanne Grenfell is to be the new Bishop of Stepney. Downing Street has confirmed the news this afternoon. She will be consecrated bishop in July and start her new role in September. Details here: <http://bit.ly/2GZZ9Li>

Darren Mckenna and 5 others

8 comments



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Karen Davidson Horrible smug woman. Her attitude towards the peoples lives she's ruining was awful. Couldn't care less, had no interest in what the people had to say at the meeting. Hope she falls flat on her smug face.

Like Reply 2w

6

Father Jonathan is needed  
on this estate

J. NATHAN

Mrs My Cousins  
Father Jonathan is so  
needed on this estate He  
cares for everyone and  
will always help you

Jonathan helps the community  
by giving money and to the poor,

He goes to different schools every week  
e.g. Boncroft, Riders, Tronade and does  
prayer spaces. Tells different stories  
to children about christianity in different  
ways such as a story stick where  
children pick a bottle cap (that represent  
a story) and he tells them what story  
that is (about our faith).

Jonathan is a priest of Portsmouth  
Football club and that connects our  
community to the club through  
our Faith.

He goes to visit my Grandma's

house because she can no longer  
go to church due to her house's  
health.

Every body wants Jonathan to stay  
including ME!

As a 12 year old boy and my  
6 years old sister we object  
and what you are doing and  
find it upsetting because we  
want him to stay at St Frances  
Church because we like that he's  
our friends and he's there for  
us ALWAYS! PLEASE LET HIM  
STAY!

Theresa & Emily

Powells

~~Atty~~ Naughty

Dosses!  
for misery

Please do what you can to build on the huge foundation that Foster Jonathan & Carolyn have done here in Leigh Place & Leanne Park.

There is a strong community here that deserves to be looked after and Foster Jonathan's wishes are fundamental to the understanding to develop the work here - he knows this community & they know him.

Please listen to what we are all saying and allow our ideas to build the way forward.

Paul Hawke  
Derek Brennan

Having attended the 'Happy Clays' Hyper Churches that mainly cater for young students and also the more formal but modern Baptist Church in Bick (Lidcombe Baptist), I must express my deep concern at the instability and insipid teaching in the newer charismatic churches. Of course they appear to large numbers of young people and they appeared to me but let's face it when you are young you and you can indeed, with common with Christian ill-informed 'go' everywhere in your mind? However just because its popular and draws the numbers doesn't mean its right.

That's why I have so much respect for the central teaching in the Church of England and properly trained vicars not just pondering to popularity but sincerely faithful to the gospel and ~~the~~ serving the whole community.

In Jonathan and Caroline we have faithful servants who are very engaged with social issues and faithful to the gospel.

~~Leadership~~ matters, not just money and social costs.

Elizabeth Whyte

PS. We don't know what we have got until it's gone - a chosen for everyone

We want to keep our Church and Father's donation boxes we all love and a drive for the work we do for North Park (St Oswald).

Keep our Church for our community and services like weddings or Quirky Cottages.

We have been serving St. Peter's Church for 6 years because Father Jonathan and Caroline have been a wonderful support to us in times of need and our faith has grown and flourished in this wonderful Church, and to lose them would be devastating for us and the whole community of North Park.

We need desperately to keep our Anglican church in Leigh Park. We the undersigned support father Jonathan & Katrina. They work so hard and support every one in the community. Please reconsider the changes you want to make.

- Boyl Jones
- Joan Marshall
- Opaline Evans
- Belj Day
- Plany Cole
- Jim Reynolds
- David Paulson
- Dan Horn
- Ann Leacy
- Kevin Marshall
- Betty Hayward
- Shayne Coleman
- Norica Kane
- klara Arkin
- jean ficed
- Tom Green
- Nogey Burnwell
- Wawan Adams
- Deb Owen
- Dot Covertney
- Shirley Wernicker
- B. Fisher

I'm very surprised this has happened as they both do so much for the church and the community. It's change or it's out broken. So many adults & children in the parks respect and love them. So many kids a personally clash and we ourselves care please of what they both do because they have got the gumption to do it themselves.

My mother a widow living on her own fund so much joy and friendship in friends in St Francis Church please save it and father Jonathan Jan Goddad.

Where will the people go who take a traditional communion service you are leaving no where in Leigh Park Sylvia Marshall

We need to keep St Francis & Father Jonathan in Leigh Park, a very special person.

Father Jonathan and Katrina are the heart and soul of Leigh Park Community and people above need to understand that they both need to stay in Leigh Park.

We were upset to find out that

negotiating that other church should be done

I'm very surprised when I found out that person who is enjoying it when father Jonathan comes to school and around the area. -Kavon eed, a year 8

I really hope we don't lose Father Johnathan as a community priest he's done a fab job and the community love him save him x.

What a fantastic event! It would be awful to lose the community and support.

The community needs to be listened to. Father Johnathan can't be replaced!!!

a great church, happy people, & always supportive.

Father Johnathan has become very important in our daughters life. She sees him at Ridors school and talks warmly about his visits. He inspires her to be creative and thoughtful. Please preserve our community spirit.

Father Johnathan is the best I only saw his church we all love him & his family. He does a lot of good work x

One more, one church - Father Johnathan x  
" " " " Karina Green x

Father Johnathan & his family are the reason I was in this community. Father Johnathan was there for my mother & myself throughout my mother's cancer treatment. Whether it was leading an ear or shoulder or just for a cup of tea, I know I could call on him. All the family owe peace and spirit of community. Without them Leigh Park would be a darker place. x

St Francis Church was my Nana's church all her life. When she became unwell Father Johnathan continued to visit and support her, and when she was near the end of her life he gave her support & visits. I'm visiting her regularly in the care home and prayed with her.

After my Nan passed away  
Father Jonathan continued  
supporting the rest of the  
family, myself included and  
gave my Nan a beautiful  
send off. He is an amazing  
man who supports so many  
people. He should NOT be  
replaced. His local community  
both love and respect him.  
He cannot be replaced.  
Eleanor

I have known Jonathan since 2007  
when I started work at Making  
Space - a craft charity that had just  
opened in Leigh Park.

Jonathan was on the board of trustees  
I was a crucial part of the charity.  
Even when we left the board (and  
his allocated time) he had always  
supported us.

He comes to events & shares them with  
the community. He's always there  
at open studio & special events, being  
genuinely interested in the charity  
& the artists that have their  
studios there!

He had also supported me personally  
as an artist, commissioning me to  
create work for family & friends.

Over the last 10/11 years Jonathan  
remains a loyal & dedicated  
member of the community & a  
brilliant vicar!!

Ann



Let's not see. I say  
but two or three  
words. They are as  
follows. Spirit not four  
sp. he is made gift  
Please retain his  
Saviors. John (B.)

Jonathan is the kept  
Pope Compassion - and  
his whole family - and  
totally committed, totally  
involved with integrity  
compassion and spiritual  
If you take Jonathan and  
his family and all your  
kind folk, you will have  
the heart, grace the community  
power hand

I've been a resident of Leigh Park for 16 years. Father Jonathan is a major part of the community and should he not be here, a hole will be in the community that will be impossible to fill.

From activities around local schools to promote harvest Festival to talking part and writing scripts for the community performances, he has helped bring the community together.

Jo Lane  
Councillor for Havant Borough  
Council  
Representing Bath's Ward

Jonathan does a great job at St Francis church always approachable great with kids and the community

Jonathan is a pleasure to talk to he's always there to talk to when needed

I hire the hall every week & Jonathan is wonderful he always ensures that the heating is on & the hall is set up he not only is lovely to myself but also my streaming choir members it is my pleasure to feel such a part of the community!

Father Jonathan is a great man and part of our community - It would be so sad to lose him and his team - they are so such fab work and so appreciable.  
S. Budd.

St Francis Church is my church, and Father Jonathan is a huge part of this community in both a Christian sense and in a common sense. He baptised my Grandson, my husband was baptised at this church, and we married here. He has been there for me at times I have just needed to talk, and a lovely lovely gentleman + pastor. S. Othman (MS)

Father Jonathan is wonderful  
person and well respected by all.  
He works extremely hard for the  
community and will be sorely missed  
if he goes.  
Our Yvonne Weeks

Father Jonathan is an outstanding  
member of this close knit community,  
Always trying to better the people  
within Leigh Park, while maintaining  
high standards of the Church.

Walt Luke + Ealum Butler  
Active Communities Network.

Father Jonathan  
is a well respected member  
of our community nothing is  
too much trouble for this  
wonderful man and his family  
He works so hard within our  
community and will be sorely  
missed especially by all the  
school children he visits on  
a regular basis.

Very kind  
Kary Kaistick

Father Jonathan & Barbara  
have done wonderful things for  
the community over the years.  
I'd sooner be sad to see that  
change of its not Father Davis  
from Jonnie + Mark!

Father Jonathan is a wonderful gentleman who plays a big part of the Leigh part community, my children all love Father Jonathan & talk about him in their schools. We all look forward to the activities he puts on at the church at special times  
Dorothy

Father Jonathan is a pillar of the community and is well known for his kindness in and around Leigh Park. For his help and guidance and putting on activities for everyone and all the charity work he does is amazing  
Patricia

Father Jonathan is the heart of this community. Always with a friendly ear, support & encouragement. He is the rock that people here rely upon and creates a community spirit that would otherwise be lost.  
Mrs Kate Eppard.

Father Jonathan has visited and worked alongside my children school education for many years his personality is funny & easy. He this community would not be the same without him.  
S. Dwyer

Father Jonathan is a lovely gentleman really helpful, friendly and always willing to help we will miss him very much  
Lauren Clayburn

Father Jonathan is an amazing man full of love & compassion for all. We went him to stay at Francis & the local oven used him & his wonderful soul  
Rose Horswell

Leigh Park is favoured by housing someone that cares and believes in the people of our community and that someone is the very caring vicar Father Jonathan. He is so well loved.  
Barry Jones

father Jonathan is literally the best. Been doing his pants and been going to the christmas eve celebrations since I was little.

These have been amazing and I don't want them to go

frances Rustrick

Dear Father Jonathan,

" "

My man

love from

?

Jonathan & Carina are both  
hardworking, pioneering, community-  
minded, serving people and clergy.  
They lead a people follow - their  
fresh ideas & presence in the  
community they serve is valued  
by the people and they are much  
loved.

It's like them would leave a  
massive hole in those communities  
and dozens of years of faithful  
service would shift into potential  
future adventures.

Keep them both & build with &  
around them.

David H. Brown & M. L. W.