

Mr 29/5/2019

24-5-19

Dear Mr Andrew

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

My name is Pat Kiffin and I am a Churchwarden at St. Francis Church, Leigh 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

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all bells 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. Which brings me to my final point. The pastoral care offered to Jonathan and his family has proved to be

iously 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.

SS,

NA
24/5/2011

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.

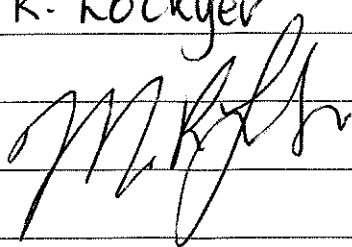
These church's have been successfully going for over 70 years creating a fantastic community within the church's all this time year in and year out, and what you are about to do is unspeakable.

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 wish's are.

Martin R. Lockyer



Submitted with
Mr Martin Lockyer

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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

Men
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

Handwritten initials and date: 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.

Handwritten signature: S. Andrew

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.

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(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.

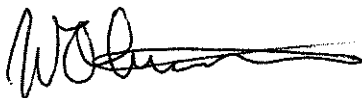
(3) What is proposed with a Team Rector and a Team Vicar (who we have been told repeatedly by the diocese, will be a "Church Planting Team Vicar") is only one person doing the job of a traditional parish priest. Already I know from my time as church warden and my continued involvement with St Francis 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



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, PCC 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 !!)

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 West Leigh). 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

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studies, probably because none had taken place. It also spoke about the 'Redeployment of people, buildings & finances' - the statement did not even have the grace to refer to, clergy, ministers or priests - just "people" of no more importance than buildings, finance - or quite a bit 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 to the Parish Five Year Strategic Plan & 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 those 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 or 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 live, Serve, Pray.

Yours sincerely
Jill Owen

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
or West Leigh - Havant, Havants

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" (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, deeds & prayer

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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 Wulfrid's Church Cowplain, which although in the Decorey is nowhere near the Cudes 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 "minibus" 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 those requests were met with silence.

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
 Tim Owen

22 May 2019.

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Dear Mr. Andrew.

Re: Pastoral Reorganisation in Leigh Park, Daven Park &
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 Bsts/Limiting the opportunity for current
Clergy to remain in post, Run those 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!!

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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 people's lives and outlook, building confidence & a sense of wellbeing, letting people see, through it's inclusivity, that the Church is here 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 Aids 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. Gerrard 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

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 Councils 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 solicitor) she has made a huge commitment to Jonathan, his calling (not a word used much at the moment, along with vocation) 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 Lechl 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

Jill Deane

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 iPhon

> 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: behalf of The Church of England <~~cc@st-albans~~>
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)

~~cc@st-albans~~

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 And

From: Sarah Stouse <~~sarah.stouse@dioceseportsmouth.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



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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

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.green@parish.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

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

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

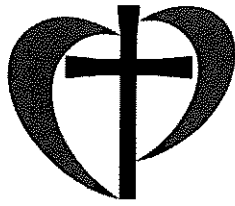
Draft Pastoral Scheme
Ref NB29/53b/RA

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



St Wilfrid's
Cowplain

Padnell Road
Cowplain
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO8 8DZ

~~01329 413215~~

www.stwilfridscowplain.co.uk

Vicar: Rev Ian Snares

~~ian@s-wilfridscowplain.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