

Ne  
24/5/2019

22nd May 2019

Rex Andrew - Pastoral  
The Church of England - Church Commissioners  
Church House  
Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3AZ

Dear Mr Andrew

Your ref: NB29/3/RA

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 - Diocese of Portsmouth  
Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St Nicholas in the Castle; Carisbrooke; Gatcombe;  
Newport and Newport St. John**

I am writing to you as a member of St. Paul's Barton, Isle of Wight and wish to formally make representation and object against the proposed pastoral reorganisation by Revd. Bishop Christopher Foster and the Portsmouth Diocese. The appointment of ordained clergy and pioneers to move round the 5 churches in the new proposed parish will not help the churches. It will have a negative effect on church growth. Pastoral care and other areas of church life will be greatly affected without each church having its own minister.

My proposals based on a church I attended before moving to the Island in the year 2000 are as follows.

Each church should have its own minister who should meet the following requirements

- 1 The minister should be a person who not only works for God but one who walks with the Lord daily.
- 2 A person who is able to discern the spiritual and practical gifts of all those in his congregation, which will enable him to delegate the work of all parts of church life to the right persons under his leadership.
- 3 A leader who recognises that for a church to grow both spiritually and in numbers it must hold more than one service each Sunday and also have midweek services. It is a fact that many people have to work on a Sunday morning, afternoon or evening. e.g. those who work in hospitals, police and fire service etc the list is endless. So anyone working in one of the previously mentioned slots would be unable to attend church. Having more than one service on a Sunday or midweek services would give these people the opportunity to attend a service. Having more people attending church will enable many lay people to be involved in leading and preaching.

The appointment of a Church Leader who meets the above requirements will quickly see his church grow. More people attending church also means an increase in giving to the church. With extra financial and human resources and with the Lord's guidance it is easier to do what God wants.

- i.e. To love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.  
and To love our neighbour as ourselves,  
And to take the message of Jesus into the whole world

I attach for your information a copy of the details of my previous church where through prayer, focussing on the Lord and trusting in Him, amazing things have happened.

Yours sincerely



Gary Hughes

# ST PETER'S CHURCH IPSLEY REDDITCH WORCS

## About Us

## Services

X St Peter's has three different congregations that provide a variety of styles of worship. The ethos of the church is best described as open evangelical. This number of services is possible because of the involvement of many lay people in leading and preaching. St Peter's @ 9:45 is informal with a café style service once a month. The morning service at 11.15 follows common worship and is traditional in style. The Evening Service is a service of the word or communion and aims to provide deeper teaching. A number of people use their musical gifts with a variety of instruments to lead the sung worship. Both organ and more contemporary music are used.



## Mid-week and wider activities



A wide range of activities are held during the week. There are house groups, a monthly lunch club, monthly coffee morning and a Trade Justice Group. The practice of meeting for morning prayers each day has developed in recent years and is valued by a number of people. We have links with the community through schools, with clergy regularly taking assemblies at the local First and Middle schools in Winyates. Lay people are involved in running lunch time activities at Ipsley CE RSA

Academy. We have been able to promote our Christmas and Easter services at a local supermarket. Much positive contact is made with families through visits relating to baptisms, thanksgivings, weddings and funerals.

## Children and Young People

Scramblers, a mothers and toddlers group catering for non-church children meets weekly.

## Where We Meet

St Peter's meets in an attractive church building, which is approximately 700 years old with evidence of an earlier structure dating back 1,000 years. It is a Grade II\*



listed building. Total seating capacity is about 130. The building consists of a nave and chancel with a west tower. The north and south aisles were taken down during the 19th Century. The Bell Tower has a modern gantry of six bells which are rung mainly at weddings.

In 2008 a new contemporary stained glass window, 'The Holy Spirit', by Tom Denny, was installed to celebrate the quiet but powerful work of the Holy Spirit, particularly seen in the spiritual and physical growth of the church in the parish during the 30 early years of the Redditch New Town Development. In 2009 the church building was internally refurbished to provide a beautiful, comfortable and welcoming place of worship which speaks of God's love and grace to all people.

A large modern Church Centre, including offices, conference rooms, kitchen and storage was built with a link to the north side of the church in 1993. The premises are extensively used by the church, deanery, diocese and community groups.

Ms. AM Jones

I.O.W

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

12 May 2019

Dear Mr Andrew,

**Your ref: NB29/3/RA**

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – Diocese of Portsmouth**

**Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St. Nicholas in the Castle; Carisbrooke; Gatcombe; Newport and Newport St. John**

I am writing to you as a member of St. Paul's, Barton, Isle of Wight and wish to formally make representation and object against the proposed pastoral reorganisation by Rt Revd. Bishop Christopher Foster and the Portsmouth Diocese.

I am officially objecting on the following grounds.

1. Firstly, and most importantly after prayer, fasting and seeking the Lord as a congregation I do not believe this scheme is the Lord's will for Newport or the St. Paul's family.
2. This proposed scheme is already causing long term damage to a flourishing and growing Anglican church in Newport.
3. The Diocese failed to act reasonably or fairly since the start of the informal consultation in October 2018 by not giving adequate notice of the initial formal meeting.
4. At our meeting of the congregation, not a single person was in favour of the proposed scheme, so introducing this scheme will not only be against the heartfelt will of St. Paul's congregation, but will also most likely result in a significant portion of the congregation leaving the Church of England.


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5. I had the impression from the Diocese that the release of funds from the Church Commissioners for mission in Newport was conditional upon this reorganisation. I now believe this may not be the case.
  6. The Rt Revd. Christopher Foster has not made any provision under the proposed pastoral scheme for orthodox evangelical parishes.
  7. The Church of England made a promise to all of its congregations that it would engage all in 'mutual flourishing'. The consequence of this Pastoral Measure is that St. Paul's would be left without the opportunity to appoint an incumbent with the gifts and charisms that our community needs to flourish, indeed those which have made us what we are. As a result of this plan I have lost confidence in the Diocese of Portsmouth to deliver on the national church's promise of 'mutual flourishing'. I therefore have no choice but to reject the Pastoral Measure.
  8. As a church at St. Paul's, we are committed to the authority of scripture and the ethical values of the orthodox Christian tradition. Therefore, it is with great sadness and very reluctantly I have come to the conclusion that I have lost confidence in both the Bishop's judgement and his future strategy for the Isle of Wight and the wider Diocese.

Thank you for your consideration of this and I would welcome an opportunity to speak to the Commissioners should a hearing be held. I would be very grateful if you would personally reply to my letter and forward me any response from my Diocesan Bishop.

I very much hope that serious consideration is made to my objections before serious damage is caused to a wonderful church family.

Yours sincerely,

  
Susan Mary Jones

**Rex Andrew**

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**From:** Kirsty Le Floch  
**Sent:** 27 May 2019  
**To:** Rex Andrew  
**Subject:** Ref NB29/3/R4

Diocese of Portsmouth

Dear Mr Andrew

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011- Diocese of Portsmouth

Benefices of Barton, Carisbrooke, St Nicholas in the Castle, Carisbrooke, Gatcombe, Newport and Newport St John

As a member of the congregation and PCC of St Pauls Barton, I am writing to object to the proposed pastoral reorganisation in Newport Isle of Wight.

It was confirmed during the consultation process that the motivation for the pastoral measure is the realisation of the need to do things differently in the light of dwindling church attendance in many parishes, the concern being that if there is no change, the church will cease to exist.

If the cause of the problem is not properly identified and dealt with, there is a significant risk that new efforts, time and money will be wasted, as the foundations must firstly be sound before building. If they are not, the decline will continue under the revised proposed structure.

Jesus is the head of the body "from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow." Colossians 2 v19. If the crucial connection with the Head is lost, the church cannot grow. It is **His** church that **He** builds in **His** way. The true body of Christ will not cease to exist. Decaying church buildings, worldly religion, structures, titles and worldly models of church may however cease to exist. "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots."(Matt 15v13).

Jesus teaches that He is the true vine and His father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in him that bears no fruit. He teaches that we must remain in him and we cannot bear fruit apart from him as apart from him we can do nothing. If we remain in him we will bear much fruit. If we do not remain in him we are like a branch which is thrown away, withers and is burnt in the fire. (John 15)

The bible specifies that leaders in the church must hold firm to the word so they can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it (Titus 1v9). All must be filled with the Holy Spirit- even those chosen to wait on tables in the early church had to be full of the Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6 v3). Jesus specifically instructed the disciples to wait until they had been clothed with power from on high before going out. (Luke 24v49)(Acts1v4. Ephesians 5v18 commands us to be filled with the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who teaches us all things (John 14v26). Without him no one can teach effectively. "If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit." (Matt15v14) No one holding the office of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher can equip the people for works of service without the Holy Spirit.

A healthy body comes by the Spirit, when the body is operating as it should (Ephesians 4v11-16, Romans 12v3-8), with each part of the body operating in the gifts and callings God has given them. This body will be an effective light in the world.

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The Word of God commands us in many places to come out, be separate, be holy, to be in but not of the world. We are to have no fellowship with the deeds of darkness and to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. It is from the place of being separate, that we can be a light, influence and witness to the world, not by becoming like it.

Knowing the truth sets people free. We must not be afraid to speak the truth in love. We are to fear God not man. It is in speaking the truth in love that "we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work". (Eph 4 v15-16).

Without truth, people will be tossed back and forth by every wind of teaching. The bible warns us that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. (1 Tim 4 v1). "The time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires. So they will turn their ears away from the truth. (2 Timothy 4v3). God's word however stands changeless and His word cannot be compromised,

There is no toleration of sin or false teaching in the early church. "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough" Gal 5v9. We are instructed not to give the devil a foothold (Eph 4v27). The church will not function effectively if sin is ignored/tolerated/affirmed etc.. People need to encounter the presence and power of God when they attend church as this is what brings lasting change and will encourage them to keep coming and bring their friends and family. People aren't going to be changed by false teaching, affirmation of sin, ritual empty services or a seeker friendly version still devoid of the presence of God. .

When the church is operating as the bible instructs, it will be healthy and there will be unity and God will cause the church to grow. The church will then be a light in the world and able to influence the world. Any change should therefore firstly involve repentance and return to the Word, a commitment to a complete dismantling of everything non biblical, removal of ungodly influences, elimination of empty religion, false teachings and toleration/affirmation of sin and a return to true living relationship with God through Jesus by the Spirit. As the bible instructs, all in position must be born again Spirit filled Christians. The church needs to operate according to biblical principles and as the bible instructs. The church must remain in Him otherwise it can do nothing and can't survive.

The proposed pastoral reorganisation does not appear to address fundamental issues. It would appear that the scheme is being pushed through without any attempt to firstly get the foundations right. As such it appears that the aims of the scheme are unlikely ultimately to be met.

In addition, the proposed reorganisation is likely to lead to significant damage to existing congregations. St Pauls Barton is currently a thriving congregation, but the majority are likely to leave the Church of England if the measure is implemented and the Diocese do not address the fundamental issues. The proposal will therefore accelerate the problem which the reorganisation was apparently seeking to address.

It would appear unlikely to be possible to recruit clergy who meet biblical criteria for appointment to leadership positions, in view of the position the Diocese have adopted. This will cause a further decline and move away from the Word.



People are of course free to refuse to come under the forced new structure, which appears to be man's plan and not God's plan. The Diocese seem to have lost sight of the fact that without people, they have no church, even if they do end up with their new structure. Alienating, discouraging, destroying trust and treating people with disdain, will do nothing to encourage people to stay or come. Steam rolling through the scheme in all the circumstances would seem foolhardy and destructive and a significant waste of funds and will do nothing to further the Kingdom of God in Newport.

Thank you for considering this email and I await a response shortly.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Le Floch

Mr Andrew - Pastoral  
Church of England - Church Commissioners  
Church House  
Great Smith Road  
London  
SW1P3AZ

*Rec  
20/5/2019*

May 15th 2019

Dear Mr Andrew

**Your ref: NB29/3/RA**

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011-Diocese of Portsmouth**

**Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St.Nicholas in the Castle; Gatcombe; Newport and Newport St. John.**

My wife and I have been active Members of St Paul's Church Barton for fourteen years.

St Paul's is a Bible Believing, Worship Orientated and Mission Minded Fellowship with an attendance on Sundays of between seventy & eighty members.

We do not believe our Faith is for an hour on Sundays. We have four Home Groups, the one with which we are involved has twenty members meeting fortnightly to Worship, study the Bible and to chat. The other three have a similar attendance between them.

Norma and I are involved in a Mission minded 'Tea & Chat' once a month. This is intended to be a non threatening environment both for Members and those who live in the vicinity to enjoy each other's company, chat, drink tea, eat cake and enjoy the ever popular quiz. This is attended by between 25 & 30 people.

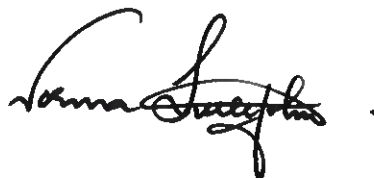
The church also run a 'Messy Church' every three months, has three Prayer Groups two meeting weekly and the other monthly. The Church is involved with a Parent and Toddler Group on Tuesdays and Children's work on Sundays. There is also midweek Communion or Morning Prayer weekly.

All this has been achieved under the Lord's guidance during an interregnum of just over four years. We thank our Churchwardens and PCC for the oversight.

We are desperate for a full time Vicar, there is an estate within our area with a population of two thousand souls who need to know the LORD.

We would ask you please to consider most fervently our request to disengage St Paul's from the proposed "team ministry" and allow us a full time Vicar. This would encourage and organise us to use the Giftings which the Lord has enabled so many of the congregation to receive to grow the Church and Kingdom just as our Lord commanded.

Yours sincerely



Malcolm & Norma Littlejohn.

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

**Unless the Lord builds the house,  
the builders labour in vain.  
Psalm 127 v1**

20.05.19

Dear Mr. Andrew,

**Your ref: NB29/3/RA**

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 - Diocese of Portsmouth**

**Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St. Nicholas in the Castle, Carisbrooke; Gatcombe;  
Newport and Newport St. John**

I am writing with reference to your communication dated 12.04.19 regarding the above draft Pastoral Scheme and would be most grateful if you and your fellow Commissioners would prayerfully reflect on and respond to the information that follows when making your decision in this matter.

As a member of the congregation of St. Paul's Barton for nearly 20 years and a PCC Deanery Synod Representative for some time, I am deeply concerned about the likely negative effects that the proposals, if enacted, would have. These do not only relate to the parish of Barton but also to the mission, witness, ministry, congregations and Church of England presence in Newport.

**Why is this being proposed and has the Diocese listened to feedback?**

My first objection is to the clarity of purpose and Diocesan rationale behind the proposal. In the communications and consultation process so far, the Diocese of Portsmouth have publicly stated that:

*"It would involve the parishes of Newport Minster, St John's Newport, Carisbrooke and Barton forming one new team ministry, with a team rector, a team vicar, and church-planting team vicar – those three clergy would also be responsible for the parish of Gatcombe."*

1. It's difficult to see how this would work practically and pastorally, and more importantly missionally across 6 churches, 3 of which at present have an incumbent (and more recently St. John's with, for a short time, an additional Vicar) and one, St. Paul's Barton, with a 0.5 vacancy that had been agreed by the Diocese to also encompass a 0.5 "pioneer" role. With such a "stretch" of basic resource how can the church minister effectively to the town and to the existing churches?

2. We have been told that it is also about money and that without the amalgamation of the parishes as proposed then you as the Church Commissioners would not grant any funding for much needed mission.

Is it correct that funding for pioneering and mission (said to be unavailable to support existing congregations) is conditional upon such parish reorganization? If so, why is this?

3. It has also been suggested by the Diocese that Newport had been selected by the Commissioners as an 'underperforming' area and that you have suggested that they must take some action – would this be correct?
4. In dialogue with Diocesan officials, many people from different areas challenged the basis on which the scheme was proposed, and it quickly became clear that they had not really done their homework. Sadly, little knowledge of the individual churches involved was demonstrated and much was apparently based on annual statistics and returns. If a church or churches are "failing" how is this quantified?

A senior serving clergyman on the Island has pointed out at Deanery Synod that the annual appraisals for incumbents do not include any discussion about the statistics or "performance" in growth or otherwise. Would this apparent failure to discuss at 'grass roots' level and then act on figures alone seem to be doing the clergy and the churches a grave disservice?

5. So far, no financial or attendance statistical details for the parishes has been provided or publicly shared by the Diocese in any part of the proposals or consultations. Why not? This information is easily available to them. If they are the basis of any proposed 'action' surely they are the first port of call?

In conversation with one Diocesan official I asked for details and was told "one church has had a large decline, another is in decline, another smaller but stable and St. Paul's was doing OK" (I've spared the names!) Bearing in mind that St. Paul's had been in interregnum for 4 years plus already no reduction in numbers is certainly against the trend!

6. I have been deeply concerned about the transparency and objectivity of the process from the start. Particularly regarding communication, impartiality and fair representation.

St. Paul's has been in vacancy since November 2014, therefore has no vicar, we have no readers and no wider representation outside the usual Deanery Synod arrangements. Throughout our vacancy we have been lovingly and faithfully supported by Rev. Carol Smart (a retired hospital chaplain) who was co-opted to the PCC and several retired/non-post evangelical vicars.

In contrast, there are other Newport churches where:

- the vicar is also a member of Bishop's Council;
- the vicar's wife is a member of General Synod;
- the incumbent is an Area Dean and Missional Coordinator;
- the incumbent has quite publicly articulated the merits of redundancy!

Added to this, the two Isle of Wight Representatives on Bishops Council, or any others, have to my knowledge never joined us for any form of worship or even direct discussion with the PCC so would appear to have no working knowledge of St. Paul's. Finally, the Archdeacon with whom we had enjoyed a good relationship and understanding, Ven. Peter Sutton, has now moved on. It's difficult to see how a Bishop's Council can deem to have considered issues of which the church has had little direct discussion with decision makers over.

7. It is interesting to note that at the conclusion of the informal process, other than removing the parishes of Newchurch and Arreton from the scheme, absolutely no other changes have been made to the scheme whatsoever even following meetings with all four churches involved as well as communal gatherings. The feeling is always "this is going to happen regardless". Any objections or suggestions have either been overruled in discussion or not responded to at all.

I, and I am sure others too, have been made to feel as if we're against mission or any form of cooperation which is not the case. Diocesan representation at these meetings has been forceful and somehow the outcome is that they are always right, and our suggestions have no merit – this is disheartening as obviously no true partnership exists here. The net result of this has been that many of the PCC engaging in these so-called consultations have seen them as 'a waste of time'. We know that the Diocese have reflected on these encounters, starting with the hastily called public meeting on day one – with 4 days' notice! – and flowing through the process. They have stated:

***"There was an understanding among Bishop's Council members that, especially in the initial stages of this 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 genuinely sorry"***

To the eyes of many, myself included, this has done little to repair the deep damage caused by the indecent haste of this proposal, its minimal substance and lack of genuine dialogue in seeking God's will for the Anglican church in Newport.

Perhaps more telling is the complete lack of Diocesan learning from the case of the reorganisation of the churches in **West Wight** (Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 Benefices of Brighstone and Brooke with Mottistone; Shorwell with Kingston; Calbourne with Newtown; Shalfleet; Thorley; Freshwater; Yarmouth; and Christ Church Totland Bay Proposed Pastoral Scheme) in 2018 of which you will be familiar from your own work on it:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/consultation/West-Wight>

Reading this case through, there were several comments made about feelings of bullying, lack of consultation and poor or non-existent communication. I also note that in this case the Bishop's representations were made on the work prepared by the then Archdeacon and Area Dean based upon the former's 'Isle of Wight Plan'. Although not a part of the IOW Plan the Newport proposal



doesn't appear to have had this level of thinking/reasoning and analysis, or if it has none has been suggested to us.

To demonstrate that I still have a sense of humour left, I have to share the enjoyment I obtained from the WW Diocesan Submission papers, particularly the unredacted minutes of the Deanery Council Meeting of October 2016. Remembering we had now been in Vacancy for two years at this point and we were keen to see some movement, this is the update on our situation...

**b) Vacancies – update**

**Both the bishop and Archdeacon of the Meon have been to St. Paul's, Barton. They have a growing congregation. It was noted the custom is to distribute communion by cup. The vacancy prayer was said each time. It is very long and probably overdoes their theological understanding of the place of Israel in salvation history.**

Oh joy! – talk of a vicar would have been nice!

**Practical concerns and objections:**

1. Turning now to the practical implications of the proposal, it is clear that the proposal would eradicate any form of long held and traditional parish ministry, ignore the possible benefits of Group working or ministry and completely 'centralise' buildings, finance functions and ministry. Additionally, and more crucially the prayerful input of any church through its congregation, PCC, or Parish Representatives in any appointment process (particularly in the initial stage of this proposal) is now removed.

There has been talk of a paid 'parish administrator' appointment although not in the draft scheme. This would involve more outgoings and a financial burden to churches where the work is at present undertaken at zero cost!

This is God's church and I sincerely believe that he works through and with his people. It is the heartfelt desire of myself and I know of many others to see a Godly appointment of an incumbent at St. Paul's who we can all serve the Lord together with, who is our friend, leader and co-worker in bringing Jesus to the people in our Parish!

**2. Measure 5 Establishment of a team ministry:**

Why is a team ministry necessary? St. Paul's PCC made, what I believe to be helpful and positive suggestions in a letter dated 19/11/2018 (See Appendix 1 below) to which the Diocese made no response. The centralization of functions and ministry will not assist in local outreach or pastoring. People identify with a local church and vicar. The opportunities for longer term relationships will no longer exist.

Pastoral oversight is now reduced to a Rector and two team Vicars. No change to the existing status quo except that a 0.5 vacancy at St. Paul's is ignored!

**5(3)** now removes the input of anyone (laity, PCC, Readers etc.) in any appointment. Only the Bishop may appoint to the 'Team'. This change is



drastic, and in my view unacceptable as it removes all dialogue between God's people in a particular place in the appointment of local leadership.

3. **6 Presentation of Rector**

To myself as a layman this is unclear. Does it mean that the Team Rector would be appointed by the Bishop and the others listed? (a plea for plain English please). If so, comments above apply.

More importantly, is it the Bishop's intention to combine the 0.5 post of Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight with a 0.5 Team Rector post?

Would the appointment of a rector be based at Newport Minster? This is unclear.

4. **7 The offices of Vicar in the team ministry**

The vicars in the team ministry are appointed by the Bishop and the Rector jointly. Again, as expressed above, there is no other input or opportunity for any others to be a part of this process, as was previously the case with the selection and appointment of an incumbent to a parish.

**7(a)** suggests that the Bishop with consent from the Team Rector and the agreement of a vicar concerned may appoint such a person to specific ministry in one of the churches (i.e. name them as the vicar of a specific church). This all seem counterproductive as under the existing parish arrangements vicars are appointed to parishes! What it does, yet again, mean is that to all intents and purposes a church may well have the possibility of a vicar of its own (obviously not a parish) **but** only one chosen by the Bishop and Rector. Again, there is an uncomfortable pattern of 'top down' only selection and appointment emerging here.

5. **8 Representation of the laity**

As a layman this aspect of the measure causes me extreme discomfort. There is little in the Measure for representation of the laity and it seems to be deflected to another document the **Instrument** to which there is 'no right of representation'. Why are proposals for the laity representation not clearly included, even if this means simply stating the position under the defined Church Representation rules? In meetings at which the Diocese have been present there has been no explanation of this part of their plans!

Also, only the notes by the Diocesan Office mention the 'Dispossession of the Clergy'. Would I therefore be right in thinking that the Measure per se makes no provision for the dispossession of existing incumbents?

It has been put to us that all current incumbents are at risk of redundancy under the measure. The Bishop's explanation of this would be much appreciated.

6. **More confusion arises in reading the Diocesan Office notes** where in point 3 regarding appointment of team vicars where reference is made to paragraph **2(6)** of Schedule 3 of the Mission and Pastoral measure is this referring to the Draft Scheme (where there is no Schedule 3) or the 2011 Legislation (not provided)?

Bearing in mind the complexity of these documents and the lack of clarity from the Diocese in consultations so far, is it now necessary for a PCC or other interested party to engage the services of an ecclesiastical lawyer to obtain clarification?

7. **Turning now to the administration provisions 8(a)** these are presumably only possibilities "The Bishop may by Instrument" or possibly the Bishop "may not" if he so pleases – is this the case? The proposed new arrangements appear to make provision for one PCC and presumably some churchwardens (this is unclear) and District Church Councils (DCC's) for each place of worship along with Deputy Churchwardens who may have the duties of Churchwardens delegated to them.

Quite frankly what a mess! In the notes from the Diocesan Office it states that "*the proposed union of benefices and parishes is necessary to free up people and finance and decrease the burden of administration and buildings etc.*"

Our churches, on the whole, and particularly St. Paul's have been blessed with effective and hardworking PCC's. Adding yet another layer of 'management' would have the effect of needing more resource and once people that prayerfully work and volunteer in their own areas see their roles 'centralised' they will inevitably will lose interest as it is no longer local or relevant to them. Furthermore, the thought for existing officeholders i.e. Churchwardens, Treasurers, Health & Safety Officers etc. taking on responsibility for 6 buildings (let alone halls etc.) is hardly likely to encourage volunteers!

I know we're not able to object to the **Instrument** (why not?) but it does seem faintly ridiculous that after a scheme demolishing parishes great effort goes into re-creating Districts each with their own Annual Meetings, representations etc. etc. This simply doubles up what is already in place. Reduction of administration it is not!

In the words of G. K. Chesterton: "*Don't ever take a fence down until you know the reason it was put up.*"

## 8. **Finance**

There has been no clarity on finance under the proposals from the Diocese, I wonder what freeing up finances (above) really means.

- i. St. Johns have an expensive buildings project in hand – how will St. Paul's money going to that help the community in our area?
- ii. Newport Minster has an enormous ongoing buildings refurbishment expense in hand – how will St. Paul's money going to that help the community in our area?
- iii. The Minster obtains money from Lottery Funded and Freemasonry sources. These are avenues of funding that many of the PCC and congregation at St. Paul's would find unacceptable.

- iv. St. Paul's has financed both its own flooring and heating projects from the sacrificial giving of believers.
- v. There is currently no working relationship between any of the churches involved, this is not new but historic. During the interregnum I am not aware that there have been any tangible offers for help from these areas either.
- vi. There have been no details supplied of even basic financials for each parish. Our wardens have attempted to engage in Warden to Warden or PCC to PCC engagement but have been blocked by incumbents!
- vii. Would believers really be happy about inheriting another churches parish share deficit? – how would St. Paul's money going to that help the community in our area?
- viii. Owing to the length of the interregnum and with the support of the congregation the PCC withheld our parish share for 2019 (other than an offer of a contribution to Diocesan expenses). This was to facilitate further discussion over our vacancy. Over the years the monies paid (on time and in full) have amounted to tens of thousands of pounds with little or no response to our request for a reduction during vacancy. The church simply requested a meeting to discuss the situation which was most disappointingly denied to us.

Subsequently all parish share contributions from St. Paul's have ceased. As a matter of conscience, I and others also I believe, have retained our giving to St. Paul's at this stage pending further developments and I believe the church income has significantly dropped.

**Spiritual, missional and pastoral concerns and objections:**

1. Missionally at St. Paul's we see huge opportunities within our current parish area. We have been blessed with one of the largest new housing developments on the Island for decades, which is still being expanded. There are strategically no other churches in the area leaving us with many new houses in walking distance! During the interregnum we have started 'Tea & Chat' for older people and Messy Church on Saturdays aimed at the unchurched families involved in our well attended Mums and Toddler Group. We are also privileged to host Revive Newport's Youth Café that helps and ministers to some of the most marginalised young people in our area.

Centralisation of mission and pastoral initiatives will not be able to capitalize on these wonderful mission opportunities as we need to work closely with and love our community. We often prayer walk this area seeking the Lord's presence!

2. What point is there to having a known and visible vicarage in a deprived urban area possibly occupied by "a member of staff" with no real connection to the church opposite?
3. All four churches in the proposal have significantly different worship styles, churchmanship and theology. St. Paul's is charismatic, prophetic, traditionally

biblical, evangelical (in the traditional understanding) and largely non-liturgical with many of us from free church backgrounds – called by God to be there.

4. St. Paul's is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and subscribes to its aims and theology, particularly concerning marriage. I think it is highly significant that only a handful of churches in the Diocese of Portsmouth are members. This says much. None of these are in Newport.
5. Whilst we enjoy good relations with many of the other churches in Newport and are active members of Churches Working Together in the town, in practice there is only minor input from the other Anglican churches in town, we are far closer to the free churches than to fellow Anglicans. The divide has been historic as I mentioned above and although we have expressed a willingness to look at working together for the Kingdom this has simply not happened.

**Joining together churches with such historic independence into a 'forced marriage' would be catastrophic. Much better that we prayerfully seek to pursue mission opportunities much more informally as the Lord leads.**

Reluctance to sacrifice independent mission and operation is not only a province of St. Paul's. In reporting at Deanery Synod St. John's seemed to have some form of interest (apparently with a 11-page list of terms and concerns!), the Minster again somewhat reluctantly and Carisbrooke in desperation and with concerns as they were short of a Treasurer and PCC Secretary. None of which seems the basis for a productive alliance.

6. "Is this scheme of man or God?" Said an anonymous voice at the first public meeting. As a close and loving fellowship at St. Paul's we have devoted time and effort in prayer, fasting, seeking the scriptures and evaluating, tongues and interpretations and words of knowledge as to the Lord's will for not only our fellowship but for all our fellow churches. Many of us, myself included, really feel that this is not God's will for the way forward.
7. God has historically given many of us at St. Paul's a strong theological calling and conviction regarding His purposes for the Jewish people and His land Israel. Much traditional Biblical understanding has been replaced in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with replacement theology.
8. The Bishop has made no provision under the scheme for orthodox evangelical parishes. Our understanding has (for 5 years now) been expressed in our Parish Profile when seeking leadership:

*"We pray and desire our Priest-in-Charge to be Christ centered, truly believing that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, and in it's authority. A Charismatic, Evangelical, filled with the Holy Spirit. We pray for someone who is encouraging, motivating, prayerful, and open to the Holy Spirit's leading, encouraging us all in the 'gifts' of the Holy Spirit. It is essential that our new Priest-in-Charge agrees 'covenants' with us in regard to our understanding of the Jewish roots of the Christian faith, that they reject replacement theology (supersessionism) and understand the importance of Israel in regard to end times eschatology. Our Priest-in-Charge must have an orthodox, Biblical view of sexuality, relationships*

*and marriage and must not be connected with Freemasonry nor in favour of multi-faith worship."*

9. The Bishop has made no provision under the scheme for churches who may have subscribed to declarations regarding the rejection or oversight by female incumbents or Bishops. I believe this to be the current position at St. Paul's.
10. During the interregnum, the Diocese and the church prayerfully sought a new incumbent to a 0.5 post along with any possibilities to increase this, culminating in agreement, last year, to advertise for a post of 0.5 Parish Priest and 0.5 Pioneer Minister (existing funding was apparently available for this), which the church was excited and enthusiastic about! Very disappointingly, the Diocese then simply called a public meeting with proposals for this scheme instead. Thus, the 'mission ready, congregation at St. Paul's continues without the full-time leadership and ministry that the Parish and congregation would benefit from.
11. Following the Bishop's recent appointment of an Archdeacon to the Isle of Wight who champions very forthright and uncompromising views on sexuality and marriage it would appear impossible for St. Paul's to come under such oversight as envisaged in 8 above. With no alternative oversight provision offered I believe that should the measure go ahead in its current form the outlook for the congregation and the wider parish is very bleak, most likely resulting in the demise of a vibrant and spirit filled church and it's witness to our community.

I apologise for the length of this submission but the proposed scheme raises, in so many areas, issues that are of deep spiritual and practical importance to me and I know many others too. Thank you for your time and interest in this matter.

If you'd like to know more about the fellowship at St. Paul's please see the church website [www.stpaulsbarton.co.uk](http://www.stpaulsbarton.co.uk)

Should the opportunity of a hearing be made available I would be happy to speak to the Commissioners concerning the proposal.

Your confirmation of receipt of this letter would be much appreciated.

I look forward to hearing from you further.

Yours sincerely,



**Kevin McCoy**

cc St. Paul's Barton PCC



**APPENDIX 1**

**St. Paul's Church  
Staplers Road  
Newport  
Isle of Wight**

**Jenny Hollingsworth  
Portsmouth Diocese Mission and Pastoral Committee  
1st Floor, Peninsular House  
Wharf Road  
Portsmouth  
PO2 8HB**

19th November 2018

Dear Jenny and the Portsmouth Diocese Mission and Pastoral Committee

**St. Paul's Barton, official PCC response to the proposed re-organisation in Newport**

Thank you for coming across to meet with St. Paul's PCC to consult and explore the possibility of parish re-organisation in Newport. Your team is brave to bring such proposals forward!

After discussion, prayer and fasting and listening to your comments we would like to be bold in making a positive suggestion for consideration.

Firstly though, we do need to give you our feedback on what has currently been proposed. It would be fair to say that St. Paul's PCC would not be in favour of a Team Ministry, with a team Rector. The suggestion of Newport Minster being a "mother" church with a combined PCC and all administration happening centrally is sounding like a nightmare! We do not think this would work on many levels, but specifically, as we suggested at our meeting, there would be "spiritual" and "theological" differences also to which we would not want to yoke ourselves. However, we are united in the Holy Spirit as born again Christians!

We have also listened to some of the concerns being expressed by the other Anglican churches in Newport; the loss of identity, historic parish boundaries, the unique and distinctive nature of each individual church not being favourably received.

However, before we make our suggestion we would also ask the steering group to take into account both the geography of the town as well as the great united work that is currently ongoing within *Churches Working Together in Newport*. In regard to the geography, Newport town is defined by the River Medina. To the East of the Medina, Barton Parish (which will soon have around one third of Newport's population) only has two churches within the parish, St. Paul's and the Pentecostal *Church on the Roundabout*. To the West of the river are the parishes of St Thomas', St. John's and St. Mary's Carisbrooke, along with 15 other churches! We would ask you to take this into account within your discussions and in relation to where clergy are deployed.



As an active member of *Churches Working Together in Newport* we feel working ecumenically, particularly in regard to our social responsibility as Christians, and Mission and Evangelism, is highly important. This is an area where we have great unity. Newport has *Revive* providing *The Living Room*, *Newport Youth Café* (who meet at *St. Paul's Christian Centre*) and *Needs and Seeds* amongst many other things, along with *Youth for Christ* having its base in Newport and providing a regular youth worship event. *Churches Working Together in Newport* have respect for the diversity within the different congregations, but a desire to work together, although there is sadly less input from the Anglican clergy, except Kevin at the Minster.

Please do take into account all that's currently happening, but also the strengths of the two other major churches in the town, *Castlehold Baptist Church*, that has a large family congregation and *True Vine Church* that has a large congregation and is now meeting in a refurbished cinema within the town centre.

Taking all this into account, hearing other churches' feedback and the views we expressed to you, we would like to make a bold suggestion for consideration that we hope might release the funding, grow our congregations and see revival come to Newport. One thing, however, that was clearly missing from your presentation was who would provide pastoral support, give clear leadership within a church and also provide systematic teaching to the various congregations within Newport.

So to our proposal...

- To enable all four parishes in Newport to have adequate pastoral care, have a defined leader as well as having a systematic teaching plan and seek what the Lord is specifically asking them to do, an identifiable ordained leader in each church is essential. This could be achieved by having all four churches having an ordained half post to deal with each individual parish - we understand the current allocation for Newport is 2.8. These individual priests would work parochially at this level and give that clearly defined leader to each fellowship. People also identify with their local parish church and we would suggest this is particularly relevant to *St. Paul's* being in its clear geographic position and at *St. Mary's Carisbrooke*, but this is not essential when reaching out in mission (it does not matter which church someone attends!). At the level of mission and evangelism, parish boundaries could be blurred across the town.
- Keeping each church with a definable leader who understands the spiritual and theological needs of each congregation, would give congregations security to grow and be who God intends them to be.

However, this alone is insufficient. At *St. Paul's*, while we get a healthy congregation, having 150 seats but only filling around 90 on a good Sunday, isn't good enough! We accept the possibility that *St Paul's*, and other churches, may not be around in 10-15 years' time if significant efforts are not made to re-engage younger people. Things do need to change across the town, for churches to connect with their communities, to proclaim the gospel and grow!

- So as part of our proposal we would suggest that all four churches have the parochial half post topped up to one full post, with the second part of each of the posts specifically tailored to mission and evangelism, perhaps one to connect with schools and families, one to plant a new congregation, one with specific skills as an evangelist

and one to coordinate the group. The four posts would then work across the town together, but most importantly within *Churches Working Together in Newport*. This would give a coordinated approach to mission, ensure that we work with our ecumenical partners, but maintain our distinctive churches, something that should be celebrated. Perhaps this should be part of the contract for all the new posts across the town.

So how might this look-

Newport Minister - 0.5 Parochial Post and 0.5 Pioneer Church Planter - a church plant (similar to that in Brighton or Harbour Church) would be a fantastic opportunity.

St. John's - 0.5 Parochial Post and 0.5 Pioneer to children and families

St. Mary's - 0.5 Parochial Post and 0.5 Pioneer Mission Group Coordinator

St. Paul's - 0.5 Parochial Post and 0.5 Pioneer Evangelist

The fifth post under your proposal could well be a secretarial, administrative role, specifically to the Pioneer part of each post, but with the option of churches being able to opt in for assistance on parochial matters should difficulties arise finding church officers to fill practical posts. We would hope this would give all the posts the practical secretarial support they need to release them not only as Pastors and Teachers, but in Pioneer Mission and Evangelism.

One thing we have found very helpful during our vacancy has been to give each member of the PCC a specific job description, so no one "just sits" on PCC, but takes an active and leading roll. We would be very happy to share our positive experiences of this with other parishes should they find it helpful.

Finally, it is a spiritual matter that has seemingly held back Newport and the Island over many years. It has been with much sadness that we have seen St. John's enter into a joint benefice with St. Thomas' over 20 years ago and to see the situation go wrong. St. John's diminished in size and strength and the two parishes separated just over 18 months ago. Thankfully St. John's now appear to be finding their feet! Ultimately though whoever comes to Newport has to be spiritually discerning and wise as to what they are dealing with, particularly at the Minster. This post and the future Archdeacon, who we guess will also be based at the Minster, are especially important. We have history in this area. St. Paul's, nearly 30 years ago, was released from serious bondage (needing involvement from the diocesan exorcist!!), so we hope that serious consideration is taken about who is eventually appointed.

We think that if these proposals can be "got right" there are potentially huge opportunities across Newport, but to get this wrong could cause much damage and fracturing. We want be at the forefront of this appointment process and a more united approach amongst all the C of E Churches can only be a good thing.

Finally, one more suggestion to consider for us at St. Paul's - The process over the last four years has been demanding and draining, but we have stood firm, the Lord providing everything we have needed and appearing to be continually doing so! - Hallelujah! - But we are now looking at possibly another 18 months of vacancy! Should this plan be agreed is there any possibility of the St. Paul's post being brought forward, perhaps the evangelist /group leader

part? This would also mean that the proposal that was agreed 6 months ago could be honoured.

As we are sure you know we are keen on Mission and not a church to resist change, it has certainly happened in St. Paul's in the last 20 years - we are unrecognisable from then!

We will continue to pray for wisdom, for the steering group and Bishop Christopher at this time and hope you will consider this proposal. We also hope it might fulfil all the other Newport Parishes' expectations, and drive us forward in proclaiming the gospel message together, bringing many to Christ in Newport and across the Island.

In Christ Jesus,

**St. Paul's PCC**

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

Mr  
Zulstow

20 May 2019

Dear Mr Andrew

**Your Ref: NB29/3/RA - Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – Diocese of Portsmouth  
Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St Nicholas in the Castle, Carisbrooke; Gatcombe; Newport; and  
Newport St. John**

I am writing as a member of St Paul's Barton with my comments and objections regarding the proposed reorganisation of the Newport, Isle of Wight, parishes. I have been part of the St Paul's family for 18 years and pretty much every Sunday wake up looking forward to worshipping God and hearing what He has to say to us. I have to say though, that since this proposal was announced, many in our congregation are finding the whole thing very difficult and bewildering.

This proposal came completely out of the blue, with no prior informal discussion between the Diocese and the church or seeking of God's will. We have been in vacancy for more than four and a half years and so already feel somewhat out of favour with the Diocese. We have no curate or readers and have been led during the complete time of vacancy by our churchwardens and PCC. During the period of vacancy, some people have moved away, or died, but we have maintained our numbers as new people have joined us.

In July last year, the Diocese agreed that our half-time vacancy would be combined with a new half-time pioneer post for Newport, for which £100,000 of funding over five years was already available. Over the summer, the PCC revised the church profile and waited for the Diocese to produce the job description. Nothing was forthcoming and all attempts by our churchwardens to contact the Diocese regarding the post were apparently ignored.

During the period of vacancy, we have greatly appreciated the assistance of a retired hospital chaplain, Rev Carol Smart, who has given us her support and helped to ensure that we have been able to participate in communion at least once a month. We have also appreciated assistance for some Sunday services from several other serving and retired Isle of Wight clergy. On other Sundays we have been pleased to have speakers from our own congregation, from other Island churches and organisations, and several from local, national and international Christian charities that we support financially. We have also used DVDs of speakers from Spring Harvest and New Wine.

Our previous vicar was at St Paul's for 18 years and was a very enthusiastic and gifted biblical scholar. His passion for the Lord and for scripture resulted in a congregation that loves to be taught and that recognises the Jewish roots of our faith and is keen to retain all that that means. During his time with us, and continuing

during the period of vacancy, we experienced the gifting of the Holy Spirit in tongues, interpretations and prophecy. One particular word received in 2009 concerns us being family, sticking together and loving one another and this is how we aim to be – welcoming all who the Lord brings to join us.

So, the thought of being joined with the three other churches in Newport fills us with fear. The initial presentation of the plan was very badly carried out at a public meeting of the Isle of Wight Deanery to which we were invited. No-one had any idea about what was coming. And so, presented with this plan in this way, of course everyone is going to be surprised and concerned. Not helped by one of the Archdeacons asserting that as probably the youngest person at the meeting (aged 46), this must prove the point that something needs to be done. Not only did this upset quite a few people at the meeting who were actually younger than her – but it completely wrote off the value of anyone over the age of 46!

On paper, and at first sight, the idea of a team ministry seems a good one. There could be many strengths, particularly in that those appointed to the team could use their particular giftings across the whole team, rather than just in one church. For example, someone may have a gift for preaching or evangelism that can be used in all four churches. Someone else may have a pastoral gift which again can be used across the whole team. These would be good things and beneficial to the mission of the whole church.

However, what is causing most worry, and what makes me think that this reorganisation is a bad idea, is who might be appointed to the team rector and team vicar posts, as we would have no say or input into this process, with the Bishop having almost complete control. The Bishop has caused distress to many with his recent appointment of a ~~██████████~~ Archdeacon for the Isle of Wight and this alone appears to show his lack of consideration for the views of many of his Diocesan flock who hold traditional biblical beliefs. In addition, the Bishop has expressed concern in the House of Lords for the poor and disadvantaged, but, in my view, he has not shown any apparent concern during four and a half years of vacancy for the poor and disadvantaged in St Paul's parish – one of the neediest in the Diocese.

It would have been better to at least introduce the idea of the four churches working together in a progressive way – rather than in one fell swoop! We could certainly have started with children's work, or youth work – areas where we all probably have a need of help and assistance, and a shared desire to see young people come to know Jesus. Once we got to know each other better, we may well have started to do other things together, to share our strengths and weaknesses, to discuss our theological differences, to agree to disagree and to love one another. As it is, this plan has probably pushed us in the other direction and to make each of the four churches more determined to keep its own identity.

We are well aware that our existing congregation is ageing and that we need to reach out to our community in mission and evangelism - but I do not believe that this reorganisation is the best way to do it.

Some of my particular concerns and objections are now listed:

- 1 The four churches in Newport are very different and have their own clear identities.
- 2 This is a forced marriage – we have no knowledge of each other in terms of numbers, finance, strengths, weaknesses and no information has been offered to us.
- 3 A partnership between Newport Minster and St Johns has already failed.
- 4 St Paul's has traditional views of marriage and relationships – we have concerns that the Bishop and new Archdeacon are unlikely to appoint leadership which shares these views.
- 5 In July 2018 the Diocese agreed to advertise a position at St Paul's as a half post for the church and a half post Pioneer Minister for Newport – with funds already available – what happened to that?
- 6 There will be no input from the four churches to the first appointments.
- 7 Currently we work with all the Christian churches in Newport, this reorganisation and appointment of the new Archdeacon makes that unlikely for the future.

\* Redacted  
by staff



- 8 St Paul's would support a group ministry that maintains independent parishes and leadership – we are very happy to work with the other churches in Newport in areas such as children's and youth work and evangelism.
- 9 There are no clear plans for dealing with the finance of the existing parishes, and, as mentioned above, we have no idea what the financial health of the other parishes is like.
- 10 There has been no opportunity to discuss anything with the Diocese other than the formal consultation meetings with representatives of the Diocese and Bishop's Council. These have been firmly steered in one direction by an Archdeacon.
- 11 We have been told that the reason for making one new parish (as well as to obtain funding) is to MAKE the churches work together. This feels a bit heavy handed.
- 12 The four churches are likely to have differing views on the appropriate use of church premises – St Paul's PCC has use of its parish centre 24/7 and does not let it out, other than to a Christian youth café and a disabled group.
- 13 St Paul's PCC would currently not accept grant funding from the lottery, from freemasonry or any grants with conditions attached – this is possibly not the case with the other churches.
- 14 The congregation of St Paul's comes from the whole Island – more people on the electoral roll live outside the parish than live in it.
- 15 Many of our congregation have a free church background and are very likely to leave the Church of England if this reorganisation goes ahead.
- 16 There has been a significant reduction in regular giving to St Paul's since these plans were announced due to uncertainty about future financial arrangements.
- 17 St Paul's is currently withholding Parish Share for 2019 – with the original aim of securing a meeting to discuss a reduction due to the length of vacancy. Our request for a meeting was rejected by the Diocese and no reduction in Parish Share was permitted.
- 18 Because St Paul's is in vacancy we have no clergy to act on our behalf in any discussions with the other three churches. We are not aware of any such discussions at all.
- 19 We are concerned for the clergy at the other churches in Newport who have been affected by stress and the threat of redundancy – this situation seems to be unprecedented.
- 20 Our churchwardens have attempted to have dialogue with the other churches, but this appears to have been blocked in one way or another.
- 21 St Paul's has self-funded building improvements in recent years, partly through surpluses set aside from previous years – this may not be possible under future financial arrangements.
- 22 We are aware that our congregation is ageing and that we need leadership/help to move forward – particularly in evangelism – we could have done this with a Pioneer minister, as proposed last year.
- 23 We would prefer independence (for example in the form of a proprietary chapel) – but this has been rejected by the Diocese.
- 24 The threat of this reorganisation, together with the appointment of the new Archdeacon, is causing, and will continue to cause, division within the Christian churches in Newport – the opposite of its aim.

For the reasons above, but mostly because I am not convinced that this is the Lord's will for the church at St Paul's, I am objecting to the scheme. If there is a hearing, I would like an opportunity to speak to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Penny McCoy

(by email and post)



Mr Alex A. Merder

J,

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

12 May 2019

Dear Mr Andrew,

**Your ref: NB29/3/RA**

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – Diocese of Portsmouth**

**Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St. Nicholas in the Castle; Carisbrooke; Gatcombe; Newport and Newport St. John**

I am writing to you as a member of St. Paul's, Barton, Isle of Wight and wish to formally make representation and object against the proposed pastoral reorganisation by Rt Revd. Bishop Christopher Foster and the Portsmouth Diocese.

I am officially objecting on the following grounds.

1. Firstly, and most importantly after prayer, fasting and seeking the Lord as a congregation I do not believe this scheme is the Lord's will for Newport or the St. Paul's family.
2. This proposed scheme is already causing long term damage to a flourishing and growing Anglican church in Newport.
3. The Diocese failed to act reasonably or fairly since the start of the informal consultation in October 2018 by not giving adequate notice of the initial formal meeting.
4. At our meeting of the congregation, not a single person was in favour of the proposed scheme, so introducing this scheme will not only be against the heartfelt will of St. Paul's congregation, but will also most likely result in a significant portion of the congregation leaving the Church of England.

- 00
5. I had the impression from the Diocese that the release of funds from the Church Commissioners for mission in Newport was conditional upon this reorganisation. I now believe this may not be the case.
  6. The Rt Revd. Christopher Foster has not made any provision under the proposed pastoral scheme for orthodox evangelical parishes.
  7. The Church of England made a promise to all of its congregations that it would engage all in 'mutual flourishing'. The consequence of this Pastoral Measure is that St. Paul's would be left without the opportunity to appoint an incumbent with the gifts and charisms that our community needs to flourish, indeed those which have made us what we are. As a result of this plan I have lost confidence in the Diocese of Portsmouth to deliver on the national church's promise of 'mutual flourishing'. I therefore have no choice but to reject the Pastoral Measure.
  8. As a church at St. Paul's, we are committed to the authority of scripture and the ethical values of the orthodox Christian tradition. Therefore, it is with great sadness and very reluctantly I have come to the conclusion that I have lost confidence in both the Bishop's judgement and his future strategy for the Isle of Wight and the wider Diocese.

Thank you for your consideration of this and I would welcome an opportunity to speak to the Commissioners should a hearing be held. I would be very grateful if you would personally reply to my letter and forward me any response from my Diocesan Bishop.

I very much hope that serious consideration is made to my objections before serious damage is caused to a wonderful church family.

Yours sincerely,



MR A. A. McQUEEN

MRS JANE MCGHEE  
DRIVE  
~

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

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I have experienced something similar where a flourishing church I attended for about 10 years became part of a cluster with ~~no~~ no minister personally attached to the congregation. Repeatedly we had meetings amongst the congregation trying to figure out who was the 'go to' person but never resolved it as the overseeing minister was ~~not~~ too busy. The church has diminished to about 1/4 size. The diocese has promised us a half share.

Thank you for your consideration of this and I would welcome an opportunity to speak to the Commissioners should a hearing be held. I would be very grateful if you would personally reply to my letter and forward me any response from my Diocesan Bishop.

I very much hope that serious consideration is made to my objections before serious damage is caused to a wonderful church family.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Myleh

MRS JANE MYLEH

Minister for over 4 years.  
 why can't each of  
 the parishes have  
 their own "walks"  
 ministers so that  
 the gifts in the  
 different churches  
 can flourish as the  
 body of Christ as  
 St Paul says we  
 don't all want to be  
 ears or toes!  
 Also I do not think it  
 is right to "sack" the  
 people ministers!

275

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

12 May 2019

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5. I had the impression from the Diocese that the release of funds from the Church Commissioners for mission in Newport was conditional upon this reorganisation. I now believe this may not be the case.
6. The Rt Revd. Christopher Foster has not made any provision under the proposed pastoral scheme for orthodox evangelical parishes.
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8. As a church at St. Paul's, we are committed to the authority of scripture and the ethical values of the orthodox Christian tradition. Therefore, it is with great sadness and very reluctantly I have come to the conclusion that I have lost confidence in both the Bishop's judgement and his future strategy for the Isle of Wight and the wider Diocese.

I would be very grateful if you would personally reply to my letter and forward me any response from my Diocesan Bishop.

I very much hope that serious consideration is made to my objections before serious damage is caused to a wonderful church family.

Yours sincerely,





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

Dear Mr Andrew, YOUR REF: NB29/3/RA

My husband and I came to live on the Isle of Wight nine years ago, arriving with a few possessions, and had two friends living on the Island.

And now I ask you to return with me to Harare in Zimbabwe. We were part of a vibrant and growing Anglican Church as all the Anglican Churches were in the late 1990's with the communicants from all backgrounds, when the ruling Government Party began their interference of the Anglican Churches through the ZANU PF Bishop of Harare, Bishop Kanyonga. Our Church, St Luke's Greendale, had the police come and change the locks on the Church Doors and soon after the Church Hall. Then the Army ensured that we were not there on a Sunday. We all had to find alternate Christian Families. Frank and I became Presbyterians. Eventually all the Anglican Churches in Harare were closed by Bishop Kanyonga who was a puppet of the ruling Political Party with his own agenda.

We spent a number of months on our arrival here finding the church family that God had for us. We walked into St Paul's and immediately knew God had brought us to a Holy Spirit centred church. A year later, Frank had his first stroke and ongoing medical issues through the last eight years, and have been loved and upheld by the congregation of St Paul's.

One has come to expect the persecution of Christians by other religions, which I still find this hard to accept but it is quite unbelievable when this comes from within your own Church. It would seem that the Bishop of Portsmouth is only interested in his own agenda, and has no concern whatsoever for St Paul's Church Barton. As I understand, he is not in the least interested.

Two Bishops in two different countries, both Anglicans and both with their own agenda makes one wonder why we support this Church.

I write this as an eighty year old committed Christian, and ask for your response.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Anita Monk

20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

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

Dear Mr Andrew,

**Your ref: NB29/3/RA**

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – Diocese of Portsmouth**

**Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St. Nicholas in the Castle; Carisbrooke; Gatcombe; Newport and Newport St. John**

We are writing to you as members of St. Paul's, Barton, Isle of Wight and wish to formally make representation and object to the proposed pastoral reorganisation by Right Revd. Bishop Christopher Foster and the Portsmouth Diocese.

We are officially objecting on the following grounds:

1. Firstly, and most importantly after prayer, fasting and seeking the Lord as a congregation we do not believe this scheme is the Lord's will for Newport or the St. Paul's family.
2. This proposed scheme is already causing long term damage to a flourishing and growing Anglican church in Newport.
3. The Diocese failed to act reasonably or fairly since the start of the informal consultation in October 2018 by not giving adequate notice of the initial formal meeting.
4. At our meeting of the congregation, not a single person was in favour of the proposed scheme, so introducing this scheme will not only be against the heartfelt will of St. Paul's congregation, but will also most likely result in a significant portion of the congregation leaving the Church of England.

5. We were given the impression from the Diocese that the release of funds from the Church Commissioners for mission in Newport was conditional upon this reorganisation. We now believe this may not be the case.
6. The Right Revd. Christopher Foster has not made any provision under the proposed pastoral scheme for orthodox evangelical parishes.
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8. As a church at St. Paul's, we are committed to the authority of scripture and the ethical values of the orthodox Christian tradition. Therefore, it is with great sadness and very reluctantly we have come to the conclusion that we have lost confidence in both the Bishop's judgement and his future strategy for the Isle of Wight and the wider Diocese.
9. Furthermore, on a different topic (but one which was also implemented by the Bishop), we have cancelled the standing order (our monthly tithe) to St Paul's, and instead it will be sent to a Church which is not a part of the C of E. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

**REDACTED**  
**BY STAFF**

We would be very grateful if you would personally reply to our letter and forward to us any response from our Diocesan Bishop.

We very much hope that serious consideration is made to our objections before serious damage is caused to a wonderful church family.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Chris and Mrs Michele Neal

Mrs Stella Page

12<sup>th</sup> May 2019

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

12 May 2019

Dear Mr Andrew,

**Your ref: NB29/3/RA**


**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – Diocese of Portsmouth**

**Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St. Nicholas in the Castle; Carisbrooke; Gatcombe; Newport and Newport St. John**

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I would be very grateful if you would personally reply to my letter and forward me any response from my Diocesan Bishop.

I very much hope that serious consideration is made to my objections before serious damage is caused to a wonderful church family.

Yours sincerely,

*Stella Page*



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

12 May 2019

Dear Mr Andrew,

**Your ref: NB29/3/RA**

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – Diocese of Portsmouth  
Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St. Nicholas in the Castle; Carisbrooke; Gatcombe; Newport and  
Newport St. John**

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I would be very grateful if you would personally reply to my letter and forward me any response from my Diocesan Bishop.

I very much hope that serious consideration is made to my objections before serious damage is caused to a wonderful church family.

Yours sincerely,

**Rex Andrew**

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**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Attachments:**

Dear Mr Andrew

I am writing to make representation against the draft scheme re the Proposed Newport Parish Reorganisation.

I would like the opportunity to speak to the Commissioners if a hearing should be held.

Please can you reply to say that you have received my letter.

Thank you

Mrs Michele Pepperrell

10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

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

Dear Mr Andrew

Your Ref:NB29/3/RA  
Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – Diocese of Portsmouth  
Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St Nicholas in the Castle; Carisbrooke; Gatcombe; Newport and Newport St. John

I am writing to you as a member and PCC member of St Paul's Church, Barton, Isle of Wight to state my case in objecting to the proposed pastoral reorganisation by Rt Rev Bishop Christopher Foster and the Portsmouth Diocese.

I am officially objecting on the following grounds:

1. Firstly, I am disappointed that each church involved in the reorganisation was not consulted before the plans were put together. I believe we should have had the opportunity to sit down with members of the Diocese at the start and discuss what we thought best for our church and community. We are the ones who worship in Newport and have a better understanding of its needs than someone from the Diocese who doesn't even live on the Island let alone worship or serve here!
2. A lot of time and money has been wasted attending various meetings for both us and those from the Diocese coming over to the Island. This could have been prevented if we had been given the opportunity to come up with a plan together which we could have then hopefully agreed on. We are all busy people doing our best voluntarily to run a church and minister in our community. Time given to meetings means less time doing God's work in the community.
3. The proposed scheme is causing damage in that it has taken its toll on the health and relationships of many people in our church and as the majority are not in agreement with it, it will almost certainly cause division to a healthy thriving church family.
4. I am disappointed at the lack of help and support we as a church have received over the last 4 and half years of being in interregnum. We have effectively been left to run it with minimum help and only one visit from our Bishop to lead a service in all that time. We have requested meetings with him but to no avail.
5. We were led to believe during a meeting last year with Rev Allie Kerr and Archdeacon Gavin Collins that there would be the opportunity of a part time Priest combined with a Pioneer post for which we were in agreement with. We did not receive any communication that this would not be going ahead and feel let down.
6. As a PCC member I believe that we will have no say on how our church is run or who is appointed as our next Priest. As an orthodox evangelical church we would need a leader who is committed to the authority of scripture and who shares in our values of this tradition.
7. We believe that the Church of England is moving further and further away from the truth of scripture and becoming more like the world in appointing leaders who wish to push the LGBT agenda. We are called to live in the world but not be like it, to be holy, set apart for God. Sadly, we therefore have lost our trust and confidence in the Church of England and the Portsmouth Diocese to make sound judgement and right decisions in line with Gods will for us a church.

I would be grateful to receive a reply to this letter and any response from Bishop Christopher. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Michele Pepperrell

*Via email.*

10 May 2011

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

Dear Mr Andrew

Your Ref:NB29/3/RA  
Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – Diocese of Portsmouth  
Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St Nicholas in the Castle; Carisbrooke; Gatcombe; Newport and  
Newport St.John

I am writing to you as a member and PCC member of St Paul's Church, Barton, Isle of Wight to state my case in objecting to the proposed pastoral reorganisation by Rt Rev Bishop Christopher Foster and the Portsmouth Diocese.

I am officially objecting on the following grounds:

1. It is flawed thinking to suggest that less PCC meetings will result in a growth in mission activity.
2. Individual church tithing will reduce as each church will have less control over the expenditure.
3. Group PCC's will become unworkable as priorities within the individual churches would vary and finances would be finite.
4. An individual churches' PCC on average spends 3 hours every 6 weeks for meetings. How would this possibly work when the meeting has to cover 4 churches?
5. There is no clarity in this proposal, only vagueness and wishful thinking.
6. The consultation process revolved around how the proposed plan would work rather than whether the plan was a good idea or not. This has had the mistaken belief that the plan has considerable support within the Newport churches.
7. We at St Paul's have no trust in the Diocese or the Bishop as his handling of the vacancy over the last 4 years has been abysmal. This does not bode well for the future.

I would like an opportunity to speak to the Commissioners should a hearing be held.

Yours sincerely, Paul Pepperrell

12<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Mrs G.M. Perceall

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

12 May 2019

Dear Mr Andrew,

**Your ref: NB29/3/RA**

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – Diocese of Portsmouth**

**Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St. Nicholas in the Castle; Carisbrooke; Gatcombe; Newport and Newport St. John**

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I am officially objecting on the following grounds.

1. Firstly, and most importantly after prayer, fasting and seeking the Lord as a congregation I do not believe this scheme is the Lord's will for Newport or the St. Paul's family.
2. This proposed scheme is already causing long term damage to a flourishing and growing Anglican church in Newport.
3. The Diocese failed to act reasonably or fairly since the start of the informal consultation in October 2018 by not giving adequate notice of the initial formal meeting.
4. At our meeting of the congregation, not a single person was in favour of the proposed scheme, so introducing this scheme will not only be against the heartfelt will of St. Paul's congregation, but will also most likely result in a significant portion of the congregation leaving the Church of England.



5. I had the impression from the Diocese that the release of funds from the Church Commissioners for mission in Newport was conditional upon this reorganisation. I now believe this may not be the case.
6. The Rt Revd. Christopher Foster has not made any provision under the proposed pastoral scheme for orthodox evangelical parishes.
7. The Church of England made a promise to all of its congregations that it would engage all in 'mutual flourishing'. The consequence of this Pastoral Measure is that St. Paul's would be left without the opportunity to appoint an incumbent with the gifts and charisms that our community needs to flourish, indeed those which have made us what we are. As a result of this plan I have lost confidence in the Diocese of Portsmouth to deliver on the national church's promise of 'mutual flourishing'. I therefore have no choice but to reject the Pastoral Measure.
8. As a church at St. Paul's, we are committed to the authority of scripture and the ethical values of the orthodox Christian tradition. Therefore, it is with great sadness and very reluctantly I have come to the conclusion that I have lost confidence in both the Bishop's judgement and his future strategy for the Isle of Wight and the wider Diocese.

Thank you for your consideration of this and I would welcome an opportunity to speak to the Commissioners should a hearing be held. I would be very grateful if you would personally reply to my letter and forward me any response from my Diocesan Bishop.

I very much hope that serious consideration is made to my objections before serious damage is caused to a wonderful church family.

Yours sincerely,



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

12 May 2019

Dear Mr Andrew,

**Your ref: NB29/3/RA**

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – Diocese of Portsmouth  
Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St. Nicholas in the Castle; Carisbrooke; Gatcombe; Newport and  
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I would be very grateful if you would personally reply to my letter and forward me any response from my Diocesan Bishop.

I very much hope that serious consideration is made to my objections before serious damage is caused to a wonderful church family.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline E. Poynter (Mrs)  
FD

IGHT.

Mrs. Mary Prangnell,

M  
16/5/2019

Mr. Rex Andrew (pastoral),  
The Church of England – Church Commissioners,  
Church House,  
Great Smith St., London SW1P 3AZ.

Dear Mr. Andrew,

Your ref: NB29/3/RA

**Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – Diocese of Portsmouth.**

**Benefices of Barton; Carisbrooke; St. Nicholas in the Castle, Carisbrooke; Gatcombe; Newport and Newport St. John.**

I write to you as a communicant member of the fellowship at St. Paul's, Barton, Isle of Wight regarding the proposed Pastoral Reorganisation of the four Newport Parishes of which St. Paul's is one.

I have serious misgivings regarding the plans proposed by the Diocese of Portsmouth as they affect the Parish of St. Paul's. (You should know that St. Paul's is separated from the other three Parishes by the River Medina and is by far the largest C of E fellowship in Newport).

I have already expressed my views by letter to the Rt. Revd. Christopher Foster; I have received an acknowledgment but not the courtesy of a reply. I consider that the Diocesan proposals will *seriously damage rather than facilitate the ministry, growth and outreach of St. Paul's*. I enclose a copy of that letter for your consideration as part of a representation against the proposed scheme.

Since the letter was written six months ago the Diocese has published a further document detailing its plans. No dedicated leadership is now proposed for St. Paul's. We will be at the mercy of a team ministry and will have no part in choosing a leader / 'shepherd' suited to the spirituality of the fellowship. There will likely be an end to St. Paul's as a vibrant, outward looking church serving a deprived and rapidly growing parish.

I therefore wish to make *formal representation and objection* to the pastoral reorganisation proposed by Bishop Christopher Foster and the Portsmouth Diocese.

I object on the following grounds:-

1. Firstly and most importantly - after prayer, fasting and seeking the LORD as a congregation, I do not believe this proposed scheme is the LORD's will for the St. Paul's family.
2. At our congregational meeting not a single person voted in favour of the proposed scheme. Introducing it will therefore not only be clearly against the will of the St. Paul's congregation but it will likely result in a significant number of members relocating to other fellowships in the town and being lost to the Church of England. Some parishioners for whom St. Paul's has been their spiritual home for many years will find that difficult if not impossible for a number of logistical, practical and emotional reasons.
3. As a consequence irreparable damage will be done to an active and growing Anglican Church in Newport. The Parish of Barton is already one of the largest and most deprived in the Diocese. Current proposals from the Isle of Wight County Council envisage the building of some 880 new properties within the boundaries of the Parish! This new community will present significant social and pastoral needs, requiring a dedicated local incumbent.
4. The Diocese has failed to act reasonably or fairly since the start of the informal consultation in October 2018 by not giving adequate notice of the initial formal meeting.
5. I had the impression from the Diocese that the release of funds from the Church Commissioners for mission in Newport was conditional upon this reorganisation. I now believe this may not be the case.
6. The Bishop has not made any provision under the current proposals for traditional evangelical parishes such as St. Paul's.
7. The Church of England made a promise to all of its congregations that it would engage all in '*mutual flourishing*'. The consequence of this Pastoral measure is that St. Paul's would have no opportunity to appoint an incumbent so gifted as to enable the congregation to worship, grow, and fulfil the Biblical mandate to make disciples. Instead It will become another '*bland church*'.
8. The church at St. Paul's is committed to the authority of *all of Scripture* and to the ethical and moral values of traditional Christianity.

I am sorry to say that as a consequence of the issues raised, I no longer have confidence in the Bishop's judgment and his strategy for the Newport Parishes.

Thank you for taking time to consider these objections.

I would welcome an opportunity to speak with the Commissioners should a hearing be held. I would be grateful if you would personally reply to my letter and forward to me any response from Bishop Christopher.

Yours sincerely,

*Mary E. Hargrett*  
(Ms.)

\* Enc - Letter to Bishop Christopher, 12/10/18. (copy)



copy

12th Nov., 2018.

Rt Revd Christopher Foster, Bishop of Portsmouth,  
Bishopsgrove,  
26, Osborne Rd.,  
Fareham, PO16 7DQ.

Dear Sir,

**Re:- Vacancy at St. Paul's Barton, Isle of Wight.**

I will begin this letter with my recollections of the Extraordinary Meeting of the PCC of St. Paul's Barton on the 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

Present were Archdeacon Gavin Collins and Revd. Allie Kerr.

As a communicant member of the fellowship at St. Paul's, I attended the meeting in the capacity of observer.

The meeting began on a positive note but was at times acrimonious. There appeared to be a genuine attempt to meet our need of paid leadership at St. Paul's.

Certain issues remain with me. These I bring before you for your consideration:-

1) The vocal dislike of '*your theology*' by the Archdeacon. I respectfully suggest that our theology (as explained in our Profile) is properly Biblical as evidenced by both Testaments and is therefore non-negotiable. *Replacement Theology has no place at St. Paul's*. Furthermore, as a congregation which receives and tests words from the LORD, we are required by Him to obey.

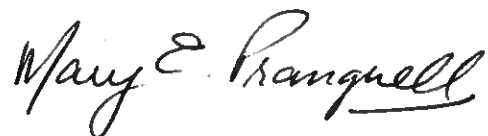
2) – the conclusion of the meeting – that we undertook to revise the wording of our Profile to put more stress on Evangelism (a matter that is close to our heart),

It is my understanding from Scripture that the pastor is to be the '*shepherd of the flock of God which is under his care*'. (1 Pe.5.2-3) This requires that under Christ, he love and care for each individual, being available to minister to each person as needed. He is to teach sound doctrine, he is to be a man of prayer, mature and worthy of respect. This is surely a '*one shepherd, one flock*' task and will certainly require a full time commitment. A '0.5' post at St. Paul's will scarcely permit that level of care! Neither will ministry shared with a team in Newport.

I quote Archdeacon Gavin! 'The Diocese thinking is that St. Paul's needs and deserves its own paid leadership!' (11th June, 2018)

Perchance the proposal I have outlined might be the leadership for St. Paul's envisaged by the Archdeacon?

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E. Prangnell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

(Mary E. Prangnell, Mrs.)