



St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain

Additional PCC meeting, by Zoom 4th February 2021

The PCC met to consider the **Draft Havant Deanery Mission Action Plan**.

Prior to this meeting there had been papers compiled in response to parishioners' written comments on the plan and an open meeting by Zoom on 3rd February.

Sonia Passingham sent her apologies for the meeting and Mark Coates was unable to attend.

After our prayers, there were 3 topics for the meeting to consider.

Agenda:

1. Whether or not there should be primarily two Large Groupings within the Deanery
2. Whether there should be 5 clusters, and if so, which of the patterns of clusters described (A or B) we would consider better for us and better for other parishes in the Deanery
3. Whether the chosen plan should be implemented led by legal structural change or committed partnerships.

Outcome: After some discussion of the papers previously circulated, the questions above were considered, and votes taken, as follows:

1. St Wilfrid's PCC senses that the cluster approach should be pursued. 2 large groupings would not be appropriate.
2. After much discussion, a vote was taken on which of the 2 proposed cluster groupings would be better and we concluded that we see advantages for ourselves and others in both suggestions. A vote showed 3 people in favour of A, 6 people in favour of B and 4 people who considered that the decision on groupings could be deferred, taking account of the preferences of other parishes.
We noted with interest that PCC members who lived closer to the northern parishes gave their vote to the suggested pattern in Cluster A.
3. A long consideration of the options eventually led to a vote, when 9 people voted for a legal structured approach, 1 person voted for committed partnerships and a further 3 people would prefer a trial period before adopting a legal framework.

Some of the **discussion points** raised at the meeting are listed here.

Changing boundaries of Dioceses – Dioceses are independent charities.

Changing boundaries of parishes – probably irrelevant.

Changes are not simply a cost-cutting exercise, however a 20% reduction in the Diocesan Budget for Stipendiary ministry is expected to be required. The timing for changes is cushioned by the Diocesan loan of £2m.

Q1. 2 large groups were considered to be unwieldy and more expensive to manage.

We noted that there is a house for duty and a base for the Archdeacon east of the A3M.

Q2. We considered some links between parishes that had existed over many decades and wondered how they might feel if there were a need to separate them. e.g. BCI, Catherington and Clanfield, Warblington and Emsworth

We noted that some people living on Hayling Island have expressed the need for closer links with other parts of the deanery.

We pondered the need for a church plant in Horndean and how we might be able to support that.

We noted the development of Berewood and heard how the Methodist and Anglican boundaries are very different in that area. The Southwick Peculiar and Purbrook Churches also relate to this area.

We are delighted that our Messy Church is liaising with Hart Plain and Waterlooville Baptist Church and know of their links with Berewood.

There is a CofE house on the Berewood estate.

We looked at the history and geography of the present and proposed structures.

We would have liked time for a data analysis and are pleased to hear that some access to the Mosaic Data is possible, though time is too short to obtain the full details of the make-up of parishes and communities.

Some concern, based on previous experiences in different parts of the country, was expressed regarding Team Ministries. Plans would ensure, as far as possible, that teams would be led expertly and appropriately.

Currently in post across the Deanery are newly appointed clergy with a wealth of experiences in other work settings.

Q3. We remembered that the Kairos project had not succeeded, probably for lack of legal commitment.

The idea of a trial period, during which plans would be put into place and evaluated, caused concern to some who felt that there might be a lack of commitment by all concerned.

We understand that in some Deaneries a covenant is reviewed annually at the archdeacon's visitation; it seems that this does not work very well.

We were assured that there would be due diligence and consultation while the legal process was pursued; it is likely to take 5 years to set up the frameworks.

Ian thanked everyone for their honesty and commitment and we prayed for God's Kingdom in this deanery.

Those present: Rev Ian Snares, Allan Brawn, Bob Wheeler, Elaine Hoey, Jan Smith, Colin Mason, Val Strutt, Sue Williams, Amanda Sim, Steve Day, David Wiseman, Jo Mead and Denise Williams.