Team Council meeting notes
12 November 2024 at 2pm
Team Office

Present: Simon Chambers, , Liz Bayford Mary Clark, Alison Larkham, Gill Sowerby, John Hawkins, Sara Bossom, Alan Jewell, Michael Barratt, Heather Lowndes, Ruth Livesey, Jane Dunlop, Rachel Funnell (notes)

1 Welcome from Simon

2 **Opening prayers**

3 Apologies received from Sarah Atkinson, Debbie McIsaac.

4 Matters Arising
4.1 Clarendon Central File Store – Following the last meeting the Team Council members took the proposal to their PCCs and received agreement via email from all of them.
4.2 Minutes from previous meeting were agreed

5 Vacancy Update
Sadly, no applications were received. Various options were discussed with Bishop Andrew, it was agreed to remove the Rural Dean element of the role so hopefully the Vicar role alone will be more attractive. This does leave the question of who will take on Rural Dean role as there is not a large pool to draw from. Will be discussed with Archdeacon Alan and the Bishop Andrew. Our Vicar advert will go out again at the end of January, shortlist end February, interviews April, start July-Sept depending.

6 Review of Service Rota
Parishes have not offered much feedback over the vacancy service rota. Pitton seem to be fine but West Dean seems to have lost momentum. All agreed to continue the current rota as the ministry team is at full capacity. Team Council members are to listen out for feedback. If a service isn't working we can review and try and offer something different. Don't wait for the next Team Council, but feedback ASAP to Simon.

7 East Grimstead
Sadly East Grimstead is in a financial crisis situation, having been supported by West Dean to the extent of £5000 per year for some time. The PCC has had helpful meetings with Archdeacon Alan, and then Anna Hardy (diocesan giving advisor) re fundraising and Toni Bush (diocesan Church buildings community enabler) re use of buildings, all very helpful. If East Grimstead is not supported by its own community, it is not financially viable to continue.
There needs to be a public consultation as a first step to be organised as soon as possible.
Action – Public Consultation to be organised

8 Safeguarding
All parishes confirmed that their PCCs have adopted the central safeguarding policy
It is Safeguarding Sunday on 17 Nov, all pray for the process.

9 Contactless giving
Simon reported that contactless giving machines are really good, particularly at baptisms, enabling easy donations in our 'cashless' times. A grant is going to be made available through the deanery, those who would like to apply need to identify what they would like and how much it will cost.
Action – it would be great if those parishes that have contactless machines to share info with those that don't.

10 Parish Review
Each parish shared a positive thing and something they are struggling with.
Remembrance and Harvest both played very positive roles in all our parishes, drawing in families, farmers and donations.
Some parishes are struggling with pastoral back up, key members being unwell and we pray for those individuals.
Whiteparish is struggling with the practicalities of the wall being damaged by poor drainage and parking issues, there are cost and legal implications.
Safeguarding continues to be tricky getting everyone through training. Group sessions do help.

11 Financial Review
We are ¾ of the way through the financial year and many thanks to all PCCs for paying their quarterly fees.
A few areas were questioned: telephone bill has not yet been paid back to MMJ, who holds the account. Subscriptions have gone up this year due to the new Central File Store, other subscriptions have gone up over the year.

12 AOB
Simon and Jane are fully stretched during the vacancy and need as much support as possible.
We are now able to pay PTOs £40 for Sunday services and £35 for weekday services,
(Robin and Sue)
Simon asked that members consider other people who may be able to lead services and who may be interested in LWL training. He will be leading a course at the end of the month.
Sara was delighted to have met Alice, who is on placement here while being trained at Sarum College for full time ordination. Alice will be with us on Sundays and one day a week for 3 years. Alice cannot take services for us at this stage, but will be attending.

13 Closing Prayer and grace was said.

Next Meeting Thursday 16 Jan 2025 Whaddon at 2pm