Clarendon Team Council Meeting Notes
16 January '25 at 2pm
By Zoom

Present (on zoom) Mary Clark, Alison Larkham, Heather Lowndes, Sara Bossom, John Hawkins, Sara Atkinson, Gill Sowerby, Ruth Livesey, Simon Chambers, Rachel Funnell (notes)

1 **Welcome** from Simon

2 **Opening prayer** led by Simon

3 **Apologies** received from Liz Bayford, Alan Jewell, Debbie McIsaac, Michael Barratt

4 **Matters Arising**

4.1 LWL training Congratulations to both Gill S and Sara A who have completed their LWL training. Many thanks were expressed to Simon who provided excellent training. A licencing service is planned to be held in Whiteparish in the near future.

4.2 Contactless giving – Simon reported that the grant we have been speculating about is going ahead – for around £175 and it will be possible to backdate applications. Details tbc.

5 **Vacancy Update** – Simon was pleased to announce the advert and profile are all completed and the advert is appearing in the church times on 24 and 31 January. Closing date 4 March.
Action – please all pray for applications

6 **East Grimstead** The PCC has worked really hard creating "absolutes" which will enable the church to remain open. Absolutes are running costs are £11,000 annually, regular giving raises £6,000 leaving a £5000 immediate deficit. In addition £5000 needs to be raised for annual repairs. The church therefore requires £10,000 to be raised each year to keep the church open.
Gill reported that a very positive open village meeting was held on 14th Jan, resulting in a committee of 6 very keen village individuals who will work together towards fundraising and securing the future of the church.
The process towards closure (which takes a year) will start on 5 February but this can be halted at any point.
It was noted that the committee are keen to prevent closure but not necessarily attend services, but hopefully interest in services will increase.

7 **Safeguarding** – A team safeguarding training session is being held in the team office on Monday 10 March 9.30 to 2pm including lunch, facilitated by Rachel.
It was noted that volunteer roles are now supposed to have role description, Sara Bossom and Sarah Sankey have offered to collate necessary information and bring it back to team council's next meeting
Action SB to bring information to next meeting

8 **Budget for 2025** Simon presented the budget, explaining our income is as expected for 2024, many thanks to each parish for paying their subs to the team. Our expenditure is slightly down from expected budget, mostly due to not having a team vicar in place.

Simon presented the budget for next year which was unanimously accepted by team council members. Simon was thanked for his hard work in preparing the budget particularly in the light of not having a team treasurer.

9 **Parish Review** Members were asked to share one thing that has happened in your parish that has been good or you are looking forward to, and one thing you are struggling with or has had a negative impact to life in your parish. Parishes reported mainly on the continuing effects of the vacancy. It continues to be a major struggle to drive ministry forwards with no team vicar, despite the strong lay led ministry.
West Dean reported how well the joint PCC has been working .
Alderbury reported how positive the healing services have been, driving ministry forwards
Winterslow are looking forward to their breakfast church.
Pitton are delighted to be welcoming John Challenger's fundraising concert in July
Farley were pleased to have such a positive response from younger generations being invited to read at Christmas
E Grimstead are pleased to have an electric organ now in place, the harmonium was rather a struggle to play.
Whiteparish expressed delight that their new servery is being installed and they are looking forward to their breakfast church on 9 Feb to show it off. Their leaking porch and damaged wall continue to be major issues

11 **AOB**

11.1 The parking at St Johns Schoolroom – parish office – is currently being improved. Huge thanks to Alan who has been working with Tom (a winterslow resident) to make parking spaces for maybe 10 cars!

11.2 The Organ in E Grimstead is a win win situation. Alison expressed grateful thanks from Porton for rehoming the organ, which her mother played for many years while her father was pastor there. All parties are delighted.

12 **Closing Prayer** led by Simon and the Grace was said by all.