Clarendon Team Council Meeting Notes
Wednesday 13 May 2025 at 7.30pm
In St Mary's Whaddon:

Present: Simon Chambers, Mary Clark, Sara Atkinson, Jane Dunlop, Liz Bayford, Alice Page, Gill Sowerby, Sara Bossom , Ruth Livesey, Debbie McIsaac, Sharon Grant; John Hawkins; Alan Jewell, Rachel Funnell (notes)

1 **Welcome** from Simon, especially to Alice Page, ordinand with us

2 **Opening prayer** led by Simon

3 **Apologies** received from Heather Lowndes, Michael Barratt, Aliso Larkham and Liz Parsons

4 **Matters Arising** from Notes of meeting 12 March

4.1 East Grimstead update – Gill reported the Save our Church committee is going full steam ahead. Lots of fundraising planned with projections of raising £12,000 pa. The situation has brought the community together and increased interest in the church, generating a new member joining the PCC, several baptisms, increased regular donations and an awakened sense of community. Very good news.

4.2Central File Store update, not much activity at present, **ACTION – SC to chase**

4.3 Easter feedback – The Holy week services at E Grimstead were meaningful but only attended by 3 in person. The online availability was greatly appreciated to those further afield. Suggest better advertising of physical services. Maudy Thursday meal was a success and donations covered the costs. Some felt it tricky to switch between service and meal – may be better to separate. Plan to hold similar biannually. Messy church on Good Friday very successful at Alderbury, 16 children and 11 families. Easter day services in general very successful

5 **Vacancy update** – Simon shared the new timetable for recruiting, reassuring all that there is nothing wrong with the post or the team – just a lack of clergy. 25% of posts in the country are vacant at the moment with several retirements imminent.

Advert out	26 Sept and 3 Oct
Closing date	5 Nov
Shortlist	12 Nov
Interviews	2/3 Dec

6 **Service Plan** - The ministry team are stretched to capacity but can manage. Please use emergency service sheet 100 in case of illness. Simon presented an idea for August, where each "cluster" would hold a joint eucharist, encouraging supporting our cluster churches and coming together more. It will require a bit of a mind set change and it will be important to offer and arrange lifts to encourage travel between churches. Unanimous agreement in principle
ACTION: please take plan back to each PCC for discussion/agreement

7 Pilgrimage Route Robert Eggar produced a brilliant route linking all the churches, with What3Words , notes and directions in a clockwise direction from Alderbury. It has not been actioned for some time due to lack of capacity. We need consider a purpose for the pilgrimage,

to create a layout for our handout sheets and 8 refections in time for Ride and Stride in September.
ACTION – Alice wonderfully offered to take this on as an action. THANK YOU Alice 😊

8 Worshipping Counts – Simon presented a breakdown of the team counts. These are important as they dictate the budget and subs breakdown. The Farley number is definitely wrong and will be corrected this week **Action RF and SC to ammend**

9 Parish Review
Whiteparish shared their very positive response to their "Whiteparish has Talent" evening, which drew many people into the church for a fun and relaxed evening. Made £600 as well as seeing people comfortable in the church building. The churchyard wall damage remains a struggle – dealing with multiple agencies
West Dean held a successful drinks and canapes event in the church and also are having the first drinks of their safari supper in the church, again making people feel comfortable in the building
West Grimstead have increased their congregation, but governance is a struggle
Alderbury were delighted with the Good Friday messy church, looking forward to their last Rogation service at Witherington Farm, which they are sad to say has been sold.
Farley – the work on the organ may be finished in time for the music festival, attendance and governance remains a problem
Pitton – Sara created a list of all the jobs she does and put it on display. As a result someone has offered to take on mission figures and PCC secretary sending out diocesan emails 😊
Winterslow – Eco Church is very positive – reaching across the community. They are working towards Gold now – excellent. Sara Sankey is involved and it is creating great community links. Parking at church and the lack of young people remain an issue.

10 AOB
Members were asked to display a poster for the concert in Whiteparish Of All The Birds
Jane shared her intention to retire in 2 years – May 2027 but will continue to support the team with Permission to Officiate.
Ascension Day – The ministry team will consider an outdoor event, maybe at a high point – Winterslow or pepperbox were mentioned.

11 Closing prayer – said by Simon, followed by the grace.

Next meeting Thur 10th July 7:30pm - Team Office

Future Meeting in 2025/6
Wed 10th September 7:30pm - Whaddon
Tue 11th November 2:00pm - Team Office
Thur 15th January 2026 2:00pm - Whaddon