

The Parish of Chandler's Ford
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 7.30 pm at St Boniface

AGENDA

Welcome (D.H)

Opening prayers and time of worship (D.H.)

1. Apologies (G.S)

2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting for the election of Churchwardens held on 30 April 2025

3. The extension of churchwarden term for Lynne Mursell (D.H)

4. The Election of Churchwardens

5. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 30 April 2025

6. Matters arising

7. Report on the Electoral Roll (G.S)

8. Election of four Deanery Synod Members

9. Election of seven Parochial Church Council members (DH/GS)

10. Reports on Ornaments and Fabric and tabling of Terriers and Inventories, and Log Books of both churches (Churchwardens). Please see pages 8 to 14 of the Annual Report 2025.

11. Report on the Deanery Synod (circulated with this agenda)- and its acceptance (A.D)

12. a. Presentation of the Annual Report and Financial Statement – and its acceptance (S.M)
(see pages 24 to 32 of the Annual Report 2025)

b. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the financial year 2026 (S.M)

13. Questions (submitted in advance to the PCC Secretary)

14. Vicar's Charge (DH)

15. The Grace (DH)

Note: All residents of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chandlers Ford, together with non-residents on the Church Electoral Roll, are welcome to vote on items 3 and 4; voting on all other items is restricted to those whose names are on the Church Electoral Roll.

The Parish of Chandler's Ford
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Wednesday 30th April 2025 at 7.30 pm at St Boniface

Present: Duncan Hollands, Lynne Mursell, Jane Keen, Gill Skates (secretary), Elizabeth Pritchard, Giles Richardson, Ann Brew, Elizabeth Seaman, Claire Robinson, Anne Davies, Barbara Dobson, Heather Blake, Pam Beecroft, Helen Smith, Hazel Bateman, Anne Addiss, Angela Bird, Brian Ridsdale, Anne Ridsdale, Liz Powell, Pete Hale, Jenny Greasley, Stuart Divall, Carole Hodgson, Susan Marsland (Treasurer), Una Barter, Jean Nolan, Linda Read, Hugh & Fiona Benham, David Lewis, Gloria Brown, Jackie Hill, Judy & Jonathan Coppen, Liz Plummer, Pete Knight, Adrian & Barbara Nance, Luke Grant, Liz & Peter Child, Annette Threlfall, Becky Hollands, Nathan Brendish, Jon & Mel Westmacott, Richard Stoll, Steph Forward.

Chair: Duncan Hollands

Duncan welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting in prayer.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ewen Greenlees, Debbie Pearce, Ken & Marion Smith, Andrew & Gwynath Williamson, Paul Anfield, Michael Cooke, Christine Clark, Sandy & Tim Groves, Julie Bourne, Stacey Brook, Mary Shepherd, Sue Frane, Lawson & Josie Smith, Jackie and Daisy Richadson.

2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting for the election of Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens held on Wednesday 24 April 2024.

Duncan asked if there were any questions on these minutes. There were not. He therefore proposed we accept the minutes of the meeting. These were accepted unanimously. Duncan signed a copy as a correct record of the meeting.

3. The Election of Churchwardens

Both Lynne and Jane advised they were happy to serve for another term. There were no other nominations. Duncan proposed from the chair (seconded by Steph Forward) that both Lynne and Jane be voted in as churchwardens. This was accepted unanimously.

4. The Election of Deputy Churchwardens and Assistant Wardens

Lynne advised that Anne Addiss and Sandy Groves had agreed to stand again as deputy wardens. It was proposed from the chair that they be voted in. This was seconded by Jane Keen. Agreed unanimously.

Jane advised that at Stuart Divall, Linda Read, Mary Shepherd, Jane Bennett, Jackie Hill and Brian Ridsdale continue to stand as assistant wardens. This proposal was seconded by Lynne Mursell. Agreed unanimously.

5. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24 April 2024

Duncan asked if there were any comments on the minutes. There were not. He therefore proposed we accept the minutes of the meeting. Lynne Mursell seconded the proposal. These were accepted unanimously. The minutes were then signed as a correct record of the meeting.

6. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

7. Report on the Electoral Roll

Gill Skates gave the report on the electoral roll, which is compiled by Suzie Pavitt, explaining that a complete revision of our electoral roll has just been completed (which is mandatory every 6 years). We now have 246 people on the electoral roll for 2025. 191 live within the parish and 55 live outside of the parish. This compares with 313 people we had on the electoral roll at the last APCM in 2024.

Additional points to note are that:

- 98 people from the 2024 Electoral roll did not complete a new form to be put on the 2025 electoral roll.
- We have 38 completely new people on the 2025 electoral roll
- Counted within the total number is one 15 year old who turns 16 in the coming year and is therefore allowed to be put on the electoral roll.

Jane also explained that since the last revision of the roll, we went through the Covid pandemic, and as a result we lost many parishioners either through age or Covid. Not everyone is baptised so cannot go on to the roll. Some ill and infirm members cannot make the decision to go back on the roll.

8. Election of one Deanery Synod member

Duncan explained the synod structure.

Gill explained that as we now have fewer people on our electoral roll, we are now only allowed 4 Deanery Synod members rather than the 5 we were allowed last year. Lynne has advised she will be standing down, as did Gloria Brown. We have had one new nomination for deanery synod, Giles Richardson. Carole Hodgson, Jean Nolan and Anne Davies are happy to stand again. Duncan proposed from the chair we accept Giles' nomination for Deanery Synod. It was accepted unanimously.

9. Election of two Parochial Church Council members

Fiona Benham is standing down and new nominations for Anita Jarman and Elizabeth Seaman were received. Terms of office for Sandy Groves, Hazel Bateman and Anne Addiss have all come to an end, however these have all offered to stand again and have submitted nomination forms. There were no other nominations. This means there is one further vacancy for a PCC member. It was proposed from the chair that we accept the 5 nominations, namely Anita Jarman, Elizabeth Seaman, Hazel Bateman, Sandy Groves and Anne Addiss. Accepted unanimously.

10. Reports on Ornaments and Fabric and tabling of Terriers and Inventories, and Log Books of both churches (Churchwardens)

This section refers to pages 20 to 24 of the Annual Report. Lynne stated that if anyone would like to look at the terriers they are very welcome to. The terriers list all the land owned and all the items within the two churches. We are audited by the diocese every couple of years. The report included the last quinquennial report and work to both churches which was suggested as a result of this. It was also clarified that the report runs from April 24 until March 25 (financial year). Most of the new items added relate to AV equipment.

There was a round of applause for the wardens.

11. Report on the Deanery Synod - and its acceptance

Anne Davies welcomed Giles to the team. Deanery synod meets 3 times a year. It is very useful to see the difficulties and challenges other churches face, especially when they are in vacancy. It emphasises how fortunate we are in terms of our children and youth work, our richness and breadth of worship and the help we have from so many lay people. Duncan proposed we accept the Deanery Synod report. Elizabeth Seaman seconded this. Accepted unanimously.

12. a. Presentation of Annual Report and Financial Statement – and its acceptance

Sue Marsland advised we started last year with a deficit of £14K and ended with a small surplus of £528 in the General fund and £ 1773 in the A.V fund. We were very fortunate in that we broke even for last year.

Duncan reiterated his thanks for the money coming in in the form of donations at the end of the year.

80% of our income comes from giving, both planned and unplanned. Smaller amounts come from hire charges and additional smaller things that raise money such as Beacon café and Men's/Women's breakfasts.

Of our outgoings we spend:

- 43% on the Common Mission Fund (CMF)

- 23% on staff costs
- 14% on running expenses (printing for services, licenses for streaming etc)
- 8% on church expenses (maintenance and
- 12% on Mission giving and special donations

Overall *planned* giving was slightly up (correction to what is showing in the Annual report). Our generated funds increased by £3.5K.

Mission and special collections were down by £2K, and the CMF was down by £12K (the diocese reduced the amount they usually charge us). Collections for outgoing (Hayley & Penny) and incoming clergy is not included in these figures.

Staff costs increased by £6K (mainly due to extra hours for our children's worker).

Overall our expenditure was down by £8.5K

Missional giving (from the 10% of our income) was as follows:

- £2,500 to Basics Bank
- £7,000 to Heather Johnston, one of our Mission partners
- £4,500 to USPG
- £200 to James Jenkins -for trip to Uganda

Financial support given towards Ukrainian families within the parish comes out of restricted funds.

We have almost £130K in the bank (£95K in unrestricted, fabric and AV funds, and £34,909 in restricted funds).

We also had a £5K legacy left to us.

Our 2025 budget has a deficit forecast of £28K (not including major building works (path and windows at St Boniface) due to take place.

It is likely that planned giving will not quite keep up with inflation.

Unplanned giving is difficult to predict.

Increases in outgoings:

CMF has increased by £9031.

Registry clergy £4K (which we have to pay for now the interregnum is over).

Alpha courses

National Insurance & national staff wages increases

Heating costs

Our quinquennial inspection means we will require work totally approximately £50K for the two churches. This does not include the work to St Boniface path.

How we might overcome the deficit:

Applying for grants towards building works
Fundraising events- quiz, plant sale, auction of promises

Some of the £7.5K from restricted fund and some from the fabric fund (£28K) may go towards building works.

He also asked us consider if we could give even a small amount more if we are able to, and gift aiding it will add an additional 25% to any donation given if you pay tax.

Any deficit for 2025 will eat into our reserves. We need 50K in our reserves at all times (92x our monthly running costs).

Sue encouraged us to look again at the amount we can give, even if it is a very small increase.

Duncan advised the best way to increase our giving is to pray- that we grow in numbers and discipleship.

A challenge to consider- if we are in a position to, could we give 10% of our income to charities?

Another challenge to beat the treasurer: if everyone could give £5 a week more then we would gain £40K straight away.

The parish works hard at reducing costs. The largest cost is the CMF at £134,169.00, which we cannot control. We also can't control clergy and staff costs. Mission giving and donations were £36,425 (12% of outgoings). We are looking to allocate just 5% in 2025 rather than the 10% of our income we donated in 2024. If we have sufficient funds we can increase this at the end of the year.

Claire Robinson advised that the church she was previously attending had an income of only £12K, and explained contributions via the CMF was the only way they could continue to function.

The amount we have to pay to the CMF depends on the affluence band allocated to us (we are in band E) and also the number of worshippers. We therefore need a determined effort to raise funds.

The diocese is pushing all parishes to seek grants, particularly regarding children's work. Thanks were given to Ann Brew, Jackie Richardson and Jim Rooke who manage our church accounts voluntarily, and also to Jenny Greasley and Suzie Pavitt for looking after the invoicing for the hiring of our halls and rooms.

Duncan thanked Sue for all her work as treasure which is so greatly appreciated. There was a large round of applause.

Duncan proposed we accept the financial statement for 2024 as stated in pages 28 to 36 of the Annual Report. Anne Addiss seconded the proposal. It was accepted unanimously.

b.Appointment of Independent Examiner for the financial year 2025.

Sue advised that Margaret Atkinson has been our external examiner for the church accounts for a number of years and is happy to carry on for another year. Sue proposed we accept Margaret as external examiner. Jane Keen seconded the motion. Accepted unanimously.

13. Questions.

There were no questions.

14. Vicar's Charge

Duncan spoke around the passage of Colossians 1:28 – 2: 7, and continuing the good things that have gone before. He stated it was a real joy to be continuing in the work that has already been started in the church.

He spoke of the many people and groups within the church; Beacon Café, Holiday at Home, tots and Toddlers, the wardens, people on the many rotas, AV volunteers and also the generosity of the many who give financially. Families are very grateful for all the work we do in the community.

We give thanks to God in prayer for all God has given us and enabled us to do.

What does the future hold? The vision of Jesus. We have to offer: Jesus. We don't need to worry whether people accept it or not.

Please talk to Duncan if you have ideas on how we can reach out both socially and in discipleship.

Duncan thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 8.45pm.



Eastleigh Deanery Synod - 2023-2026

MINUTES

All Saints, Eastleigh

Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 7.30pm

- Present** **Clergy:** Ian Fletcher, Duncan Hollands, Tom Young, Richard Wise (**RW**), Claire Robinson, Phil Aindow, Linda Galvin (Secretary)
Laity: Carol Kidd (**CK**) (Lay Chair), David Dimmick (**DD**) (Treasurer), David Lloyds, Margaret Hoadley, Wendy Noble, Grant Hearn, Sue Fletcher, Scott Langridge, Stephen Collyer (**SC**), Mandy Dean, Brian King, Jean Nolan, Anne Davies, Carole Hodgson, David Cuthbert
- Apologies** **Clergy:** Vicky Maunder, Hayley Richens, Jono Harvey, Jill Kells, John Pawson, Clive Beard, Ben Jones, Steve Williams
Laity: Peter Rhodes, Peter Hoadley, Neil Osborne, Steve Harding, Peter Littlejohns, Ann Brown, Gloria Brown,

1. Opening prayer and worship

Ian Fletcher welcomed everyone to All Saints and handed over the Opening Prayer and Worship to members of his congregation.

2. Welcome

CK welcomed everyone, as Richard Wise had recently resigned as Area Dean, following his term of office.

3. Apologies All apologies were noted

4. Introduce Mark Teahan and Andrew Holder for Diocesan Financial Briefing

Mark Teahan had come in place of Cathy Laird who was unwell. He is the Head of Finance and would be taking notes of the consultation. Andrew Holder is a volunteer who chairs the Diocesan Finance Committee he is also the Agent for Central Southern England at Bank of England

The Diocese is reliant on a Diocesan wide consultation in the Deaneries. There is to be full transparency with a summary of the financial challenges that we face. He also wanted to clear up any misconceptions, and reports to the Bishop Council who report to Diocesan Synod.

The challenge is a shared one. The last complete CMF collection rates show that Eastleigh has paid in full, though some parishes have struggled and thanks to other who have paid over the requested figures. However, the projection is a growing deficit between income and expenditure and the latest picture is likely to be worse

If we were a company we would look for ways to cut back, but not a diocese, which is looking for growth, hoping to keep going by using up reserves to see an end of year improvement.

Income: The Diocesan PCC's raise a combined total of around £27m a year, predominately funded by giving, parochial fees, trading (hall hire etc) grants and legacies. Parishes are then asked to donate £8.6m of this total income (around 32%) to the Common Mission Fund. To which is added 400k from the diocesan share of Parochial fees (which are set nationally each year by statute); a further £1.5m from asset income (investments, rental income from vacant properties) and a further £1.1m is budgeted for from external grants, and income from restricted funds that the WDBF hold. This leads to total budgeted income of £11.6m

Expenditure: The primary call on our income is ministry support – the costs of our clergy, houses, stipends, NI, Pensions, training, curates, our ministry with schools and dedicated parish support functions in the diocesan team (such as safeguarding). That totals £9.4m a year – far more than the £8.6m requested in CMF. A further £860k is giving to the Archbishops' Council as part of our Diocesan apportionment to the National Church structures – this includes the costs of training ordinands at theological colleges, support for retired clergy housing, and some national central costs. A further £1.5m is then used to fund the remaining support costs and statutory functions of the WDBF. Total expenditure £11.76m

It is worth noting that the costs of our bishops and cathedral are funded direct by the Church Commissioners and are therefore no cost to us or our parishes

The pie chart on the slides showed our income versus our expenditure.

- **78%** of our income comes from parishes (CMF and Parochial Fees)
- **80%** of our expenditure goes back to local ministry in parishes, churches and schools.

One of the challenges received from PCCs is that the diocese spends too much of their CMF on central diocesan staff rather than parish clergy. As the charts show, the total costs of providing clergy to parishes is higher than the total amount of income received from PCCs. In recent years, the actual differential was even more pronounced as CMF and Parish fees collected came in well below budget, whilst clergy costs were slightly above budget.

The total cost of a stipendiary clergy in post is £75k p.a. (see slide for breakdown of costs). Many parishes and benefices will never be able to afford £75k a year which is why the Common Mission Fund is vital to ensure we can provide ministry where it is needed, not just where it can be afforded. The diocese is therefore deeply grateful to all those parishes and benefices that contribute more to the CMF than the direct value of the clergy they 'get back'.

Questions and Comments were then taken from the floor.

With the increase in National Insurance payments, what effect will that have on the budget? *Changes will be taken into account from April 2025.*

There needs to be a reduction in expenditure. *Both parishes and diocese will need to help with this. Walking the Wessex Way is part of the Bishop's plan to help as well.*

£75k is an average and doesn't apply to all clergy.

The Church needs to help at a national level. *Nationally, all dioceses are struggling. The National Church has made gestures that they will help and on the 11th - 12th March the Diocesan Secretary will look at the plans.*

With regard to the cost of housing, could there be more rentals of empty properties. *This is not as easy as it sounds but could be a possibility.*

Many of our parishes have aging congregations, older churches which require repair and need to decide what their priorities are. We are all hoping and praying for growth on in the church.

Parishes are working their socks off to provide all of the things needed for growth, but there is only so much that people can do, and many are worn out. Parishes need a boost with extra people/positions being provided by the diocese.

Some church buildings are closed to worship or hired by others. Can the diocese let these buildings go so that we can provide more priests/LLMs/ Curates, etc? *Churches can be hard to sell for many reasons, and it can take up to 10 years.*

It's hard to justify making the parish accounts go into the red to pay CMF. With reduced membership, high energy costs, how can we sell the church. At present its image is not so good and needs to be radically different.

The expenditure on Faculties can be quite high. *Good to have this expertise within the church.*

5. **To agree Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 15th October 2024**

The previous Minutes were approved as a true record. All in agreement.

6. **Matters arising from previous Minutes**

SC has been elected to Diocesan Synod and Ann Davies has been appointed to Eastleigh Deanery Synod Standing Committee. There are still two Lay positions open, one for Diocesan Synod and one for Standing Committee.

7. **Financial matters**

DD reported as follows:

- a) As mentioned earlier, a big thank you to all of the parishes who have paid 100.1% of CMF requests.
- b) He asked that any parishes paying their £30 contributions to the Deanery fund are named, as it is hard to identify which parishes have paid if no references are given.

8. **Diocesan Synod Updates**

Diocesan Synod had also had a financial presentation, as well as a presentation about Racial Justice. It would be good to know at what level local parishes are working on the latter. Racial Justice Sunday was marked at St James, West End. A video of Bishop David was shown with his reflections, and this video and strategies are also on the Diocesan website.

9. **Companion and Ecumenical Links**

The links with Bukedi and the Democratic Republic of Congo are now very much down to individual churches. St James has links with Growing Nations in Tanzania, and other groups, including the Church Mission Society, in respect of employment and women and children. St John's has a link with Bukedi through the Mothers' Union and Overseas Mission to Seafarers. Hats and neck warmers are knitted, as well as teddy bears as a gift for children to take home.

As part of ecumenical links, Valley Park have been in vacancy over the last quarter and are close to producing their parish profile, taking ideas from the congregations. As they are an LEP, interviews will take place with the Methodists, their ecumenical partners and there will be a joint council.

Each parish was then asked to share some positives and challenges in their churches:

Chandlers Ford: Are delighted that Claire Robinson is continuing her curacy placement with them. Their challenge is that there has been a lot of sickness in the congregation.

Fair Oak: Several interesting people have come to church and faith and child numbers have doubled. However, worship is light in the church building.

Hamble & Hound: The churches are attracting a greater range of people. There are still two PCC's and Hayley is trying not to rush too many changes through, but things are going well and she is trying to get the best out of people

St Lukes: They are starting to build up a good number and the ethos feels good. However, their challenge is the issues they are having with their roof

Bishopstoke: Fellowship within the church family is growing discipleship. The challenge is trying to find £200k for exterior work at St Mary's and raising money from grants.

All Saints: Things are going well, but the challenge is the National Church at the moment.

St James: Seeing lots of new people and families on different journeys, creating a welcoming space with Confirmations taking place. The challenge is the need to provide for youth work and more volunteers to support those who already volunteer in multiple different capacities.

St John: They are hopeful that they will soon have a children and youth worker for 28 hours a week, whilst they study for their Masters Degree. At present they only have a few young people, from 3 families and 4-5 grandchildren.

Boyatt Wood: They ran an Alpha course in January for church members and four people signed up from their Stay and Play group. Their challenge is that Jill, their Priest in Charge has only one more year to go and there are question marks hanging over her status which is unsettling.

Valley Park: As mentioned earlier, their planning group have been trying to discern what to put in their parish profile and many people have stepped up to help with worship which has been a blessing. The church school's SIAMS inspection produced a glowing report with connections between the two.

10. Time of Open Prayer

There was a brief time of open prayer

11. AOB

Our meeting on the 4th June will include a visit from Bishop Rhiannon.

RW was thanked for his time as Area Dean and all the work he put into the role. He was presented with a card and a gift.

CK also mentioned that she had met with Archdeacon Jean to discuss the replacement for Richard. Archdeacon Jean is reading submissions, and having conversations with and sounding out various people and we will hopefully hear by the end of the month.

12. Closing Prayer

The meeting finished with the grace.

Dates of Future Meetings in 2025

EDS Standing Committee Meetings – 12 noon to 2pm

Wednesday 28th May – St James', West End

Wednesday 1st October – St Peter's Boyatt Wood

Deanery Synod Meetings - 7.30pm

Wednesday 4th June – St Paul's, Bursledon

Tuesday 14th October – St Boniface, Chandler's Ford



DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER

Eastleigh Deanery Synod - 2023-2026

MINUTES

St Paul's, Bursledon

Wednesday 4th June at 7.30pm

Present

Clergy: John Pawson, Jono Harvey, Jill Kells, Duncan Hollands (**DH**), Ben Jones, Ian Fletcher, Claire Robinson, Hayley Richens, Richard Wise, Linda Galvin (Secretary)

Laity: Peter and Margaret Hoadley, David Dimmick (Treasurer), Rob Sanders, Scott Neale, Carol Kidd (Lay Chair) (**CK**), Wendy Noble, Stephen Collyer, Anne Davies, Jean Nolan, Giles Richardson, Maureen Queen (**MQ**), Steve Harding, Gary Holcombe, Sue Fletcher, Ann Brown, Mike Thornton, Scott Langridge, Peter Rhodes,

Non Members: Sophia Yeadon, Katie Arnett, Tim Arnett, Libby Brice, David Brice, Bernadette Taylor, Peter Taylor, Mary Boulter, Richard Boulter, Kath Peet, Dot Chadwick, Geoff Chadwick, Daniel Tabrelt, Sheila Ablett, Annette de Bary, Helen Griffiths, John and Ros Plain, Keith Price, Alice Street, Rob Street, Chrissie Aindow, Linette Price, Rebecca Still, Suzanne Houston, Erica Davison, Linda Burt, Helen Pawson.

Apologies

Clergy: Vicky Maunder, Phil Aindow

Laity: Grant Hearn, Carole Hodgson, Mandy Dean, Brian King, David Lloyds

1. Opening Prayer and Worship

Carol Kidd (**CK**) welcomed everyone to St Paul's including Bishop Rhiannon (**Bishop R**), and John Pawson (**JP**) led opening worship.

2. Welcome

JP again welcomed all present, especially those who had come to hear Bishop Rhiannon speak. As John had recently been appointed as Area Dean his licencing then took place and he was officially licenced as Area Dean of Bournemouth Eastleigh. Bishop Rhiannon was then invited to speak.

3. Introduce Bishop Rhiannon

Bishop Rhiannon said she wanted to concentrate on four things – Loving, Serving, Learning and Growing – which are part of Walking the Wessex Way.

Christians are supposed to be good at loving and serving – but many don't truly believe they are loved by God. It is the same in families, at work and at church. We should be encouraged to throw around as much love as we can in our churches – a really extravagant love. She has a vision of the Holy Trinity in a dance of love of beauty, truth and justice – an eternal love that spills out like a fountain – and we can either put our brollies up or stand and be drenched and then to spread it outwards, to be open to love. She thought that PCCs should have a Love Strategy – to tell people how much they are loved, with texts, cards and emails to increase the love to the whole congregation. She then read a poem called Wonderful by Howard Baker (copy attached and link to YouTube performance). She also noted that loved people love people

Turning to Growing – all living things grow – parishes can grow and thrive. Bible Quote: 'I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase *1 Corinthians 3:6*'. At times though we coast along and plateau. It might be good to look at the 'Leading Your Church Into Growth' course. There are ways that

people can help and learn from each other. It will be different, because we are all different. If you want to stay creative, say yes to scary things.

As disciples we are learners – every single day, not in a formal way, but being open to learning. Bishop Rhiannon recalled a lady called Freda who was 106 years old and everytime she would get up to read the lesson would say, ‘Are you listening?...’ There is a lot about wisdom in Proverbs 1.

She said she had asked Chat GPT the question, ‘What shall I say to Eastleigh Deanery Synod about Loving, Serving, Learning and Growing? And was quite surprised how useful the answer was.

She finished by saying that serving is love with its sleeves rolled up.

4. Question and Answer Session

A comment was made that ‘If we want God to smile we have to say yes,’ and that this is true in all our relationships.

Awful things are happening in Gaza, should we be doing more? Surely prayer is not enough unless it results in action. The Bishop responded that prayer is always effective – if no visible action, then we are still aligning ourselves with God. However, there are other things we could do such as write a letter, give money, speak out. We can’t just be people who moan, but people who actually do something, to try and persuade people.

What can be done about the refugee situation? There are reportedly 20 million refugees around the world and 20 years is the average length for them to be settled in new countries. Again thinking about action, what about Homes for Refugees – in Southampton – do people have spare rooms?

DH spoke about Chandlers Ford having a No Moan May mandate, but also asked the Bishop about reports about the Bible Society report about ‘The Quiet Revival: Gen Z leads rise in church attendance’ [The Quiet Revival: Gen Z leads rise in church attendance](#) which states that the Church of England is lagging behind. The Bishop said this might be true – several churches have noticed more people coming off of the streets, particularly young men. All wanting to find out more about Jesus, but are we ready? If not we need to create a space to do so. Think what we have in our churches for young adults. Who could you put them in touch with or could you lead a course. Young adults are seeing people like Jo Rogan in America, who whilst rather right wing, has been very positive about faith. We have to know how to respond. What do we talk to them about? Boomer, Millennials – how can you help us? It’s about being authentic, building relationships with people, being loving and kind.

Donald Trump, etc. reckon they are Christians. What do you think? The mark of a Christian is following Christ and becoming more Christlike....

Coming back to the subject of prayer, these is an immediacy of response which could be seen as ineffective, as some battle take a lot longer, take for example the abolition of slavery – the seeking of the immediate sometimes needs long term learning. The rest is politics. Even so prayer is important. The Bishop said she was passionate about prayer, mission and evangelism and social justice. Prayer changes things and no time is wasted when we come before God. She is desperate to see people know God’s love and saving Grace – again we need to tell one other person. Together we can make a difference – difference as a Diocese – and hopefully every PCC is thinking through these things.

Bishop Rhiannon was thanked for her talk and answering our questions. At this point, non-members who wished to, left the meeting.

5. Apologies

Apologies were then noted as above

6. To agree Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 26th February 2025

The previous Minutes were approved as a true record. Proposed by Richard Wise and seconded by Anne Davies . All in agreement.

7. Matters arising from previous Minutes

Item 9. At Chandlers Ford, Claire Robinson's curacy has now been confirmed as substantive from the end of July.

A query was made by **MQ** about the meaning of 'There are still two PCC's and Hayley is trying not to rush too many changes through.' It was confirmed that this was a comment from a representative of Hamble and Hound, and that there was no suggestion that it was the intention to amalgamate the two individual PCCs.

8. Appointment of Members to Standing Committee

The question was asked about what the Standing Committee did. It was explained that they set the Agendas, had a pastoral role in parishes, considered and reported on finances, as well as thinking and praying about the Deanery. There are currently two places available, one clergy and one lay. People were asked to think about putting themselves forward, and will need a proposer and seconder.

A Lay representative is also required on Diocesan Synod. If people are interested they should contact the Secretary first.

9. Financial matters

David Dimmick reported as follows:

- a) At this time 10 parishes have paid their contributions to Deanery Synod of £30, there are two parishes outstanding.
- b) CMF contributions for the Deanery as a whole, are as expected for this point in the financial year. However, two parishes are late in making their payments. The reason the total is up to date is because one parish pays over 10 months rather than 12.
- c) A reminder that each parish's Annual Financial Returns must be put in asap. Five have already been received but there are seven outstanding.

JP said that any parishes who are struggling to pay or have other financial problems they should chat with him or **CK**

10. Diocesan Synod Update – including the LLF Spring 2025 Overview video message

Carol Kidd (Lay Chair) reminded people that the documents and links that had been sent out earlier about Walking the Wessex Way and the Diocese wanting to hear individual and parish thoughts about bids needed to be completed soon.

The National Church was requesting and gathering feedback on the Living in Love and Faith prayers (PLF). This was happening nationwide and Diocesan Synod would be holding round table talks to discuss but not vote on what people thought. This information would then be passed on to General Synod. The LLF Spring Overview video was then shown.

Parishes can also become channels and bridges to the Diocese, with each PCC being able to pass on feedback. Have parishes done the course and passed resolutions?

11. Companion, Ecumenical Links and Opportunities for Mission

Over a year ago, the Diocese took the decision to end the official link with Bukedi. Eastleigh deanery continues to await new directions regarding an overseas companion link. Bishop David led on this area of mission opportunities and has now moved on so there is no further update at this time.

However, several Ecumenical links are flourishing. HEWEB Churches Together group are putting on a Gospel Concert on the 28th June (poster attached) at St James' Church, West End. This is raising money for Mountbatten Hampshire and the Basics Bank at Kings Community Church.

It was also good to hear that St John's and St Lukes held an Ascension Prayer Service and earlier these two churches, plus St Paul's and St James' had joined in the Son Rise service at Hamble River Pontoon.

12. Joys and Challenges Around The Parishes

Chandlers Ford – Joys were that a number of new people, including young male adults had joined in with the Alpha course they had run. The Challenges were celebrating the differences that two churches and several congregations brought.

Boyatt Wood – Joys were that the Alpha Course run in January had brought about its own quiet revival and their Challenge was the faculty for two new boilers.

Bishopstoke – Joys that giving was up by 8% and there was a real sense of growth with different people coming through the doors. The Challenge was raising funds for urgent repairs to St Mary's church and applying for grants.

Eastleigh – Joys were a football match that had been played as Churches Together with 9 different nations represented on the pitch. Their Challenge was everything you can think of.

Bursledon – Joys were the course they had run, 'Transforming Lives for Good' and the difference it was making, working with schools and volunteers, with new people coming in. The Challenges were caring for the building and trying to fill roles that are vacant.

Valley Park – Joys were the exciting opportunities the new minister would bring (not know who yet). The Challenge was a financial one of running the Breakfast and After School Club in their building for the local school and struggling to get hold of the £14k hole in the budget. They are meeting to plan a focus on income generating schemes.

Hedge End, St Lukes – Joys included their work with Young People and hosting the Hedge End's Got Talent which involved two local Secondary schools and being able to offer for parents and children a Youth Café which leads to Youth Alpha and the Youth Group. Holding a new service that is led by the Young people. Their challenge is how to help young adults of 20/30/40 years to come on a regular basis. The over 50's come every week, but younger adults only come once or twice a month. It would be good to encourage them to attend more consistently.

West End – Joys are that it's been a busy time in church, with two main services and conversations about taking new steps. The Challenge is to get more people onto the PCC, and more young people in church.

Fair Oak – Joys are a Church Weekend that is coming up. The Challenge in caring for the Church.

Hedge End, St Johns – Joys are running a new course, 'Grandparenting for Faith'. The Challenge is running new outdoor services

Hamble & Hound – Joys in the new benefice is that they have run courses that have contained people from each parish, there were 12 disciples at each course and will also shortly take ten candidates forward for confirmation. Individually the Joys in Hamble is that they have had 10 new younger people joining them and recently held a Vision Day using an outside facilitator and the PCC have demanded that they put things into action. The challenge is looking outwards from the church. In Hound the challenge is caring for the church building with its leaking roof and how to raise the money. They also need new younger apprentices to learn from the older congregation and take the church forward.

13. Time of Open Prayer

As time was pressing the meeting moved on to the final item

14. Closing Prayer

Bishop Rhiannon prayed for God's blessing on each of the parishes and all their ministries, and closed the meeting with the grace.

Dates of Future Meetings in 2025

EDS Standing Committee Meetings – 12 noon to 2pm

Wednesday 1st October – St Peter's Boyatt Wood

Deanery Synod Meetings - 7.30pm

Tuesday 14th October – St Boniface, Chandler's Ford



DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER

Eastleigh Deanery Synod - 2023-2026

MINUTES

St Boniface, Chandler's Ford

Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 7.30pm

Present

Clergy: John Pawson (Area Dean) (**JP**), Jono Harvey, Duncan Hollands, Claire Robinson, Hayley Richens, Richard Wise, Phil Aindow, Liz Williams, Linda Galvin (Secretary) (**LG**)

Laity: Margaret Hoadley, David Dimmick (Treasurer) (**DD**), Rob Sanders, Carol Kidd (Lay Chair) (**CK**), Wendy Noble, Stephen Collyer (**SK**), Anne Davies, Jean Nolan, Giles Richardson, Sue Fletcher, Ann Brown, Scott Langridge, Mandy Dean, Brian King, David Lloyds, Grant Hearn, Peter Littlejohns

Non Members: Chrissie Aindow, Stacey Brook, Iain Gardiner

Apologies

Clergy: Vicky Maunder, Jill Kells, Ben Jones, Ian Fletcher, Tom Young

Laity: Neil Osborne, Peter Hoadley, Mike Thornton, Carole Hodgson

1. Opening Prayer and Worship

JP welcomed everyone to St Boniface including Reverend Georgi Thompson Leask (**GTL**) and Duncan Holland (**DH**) led opening worship.

2. Welcome

JP again welcomed all present, and introduced **GTL** as the Diocesan Faith and Generosity Adviser.

3. Presentation on 'Faith & Generosity': Georgi Thompson Leask

GTL spoke briefly about her background and that she was originally a Stewardship Advisor. She wished to thank the deanery for its generosity in paying its Parish Share, and that faith and generosity was already obvious in the deanery. This was about financial giving, and Colin Harbridge was also grateful to the deanery, however she was not here to talk about money.

This teaching was more about generosity in its widest sense. The Winchester Diocese is planning a Faith & Generosity Week for June 2026, which will be a nine-day event to celebrate and reflect on generosity in faith, borne out of all our faith. This event will use themes from 'Walking the Wessex Way', in particular Learning and Loving. It is hoped that it will deepen discipleship and deepen people's understanding of generosity in its broadest sense, the fact that it is vital to our life as Christians.

The lectionary is rich with passages about living generously – with a sense of unity and purpose. Next June we will all come together to share this vision of generosity. Covering two Sundays, the first Sunday will focus on Learning and the second Sunday on Loving. Some parishes interpret it in different ways, but we can come together to learn together.

Resources will be available, and they can be used at any time over the year. Although the focus will be on the two weeks in June it is something that could be done the rest of the year. We are invited to pray, preach and teach – including showing the prepared videos on those Sundays. We are also invited to share any good news stories with the Diocese.

Booklets were handed out (*an electronic copy was subsequently forwarded and issued with these Minutes. The typeface is 'very' small, but some words can be read if you magnify the PDF*) to provide a

taster of what is happening. There is also a lot more information and link to resources on the website - [Faith and Generosity - Diocese of Winchester](#)

She finished by talking about the mustard seed parable, that God works on the very small things with mighty powers, so that much can come from small shoots. All of our small acts done through love for our Generous God will add a contribution. We were left with Teresa of Avila's quote, 'Christ has no body now on earth but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.'

4. Question and Answer Session

There were no specific questions, so **JP** thanked Georgi for her talk and prayed for the initiative and the deanery's involvement and for Georgi's work.

He then also mentioned that since the last meeting, **LG** had been appointed as Assistant Area Dean and we had welcomed Reverends PJ Brombley, Liz Williams and Claire Robinson into the deanery.

5. Apologies

Apologies were then noted as above

6. To agree Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 4th June 2025

The previous Minutes were approved as a true record. All in agreement.

7. Matters arising from previous Minutes

There were no matters arising.

8. Financial matters

DD reported as follows:

- a) CMF contributions for the Deanery as a whole, are as expected for this point in the financial year (75%). However, two parishes behind in meeting their share, but hope by the end of the year to make up their payments.
- b) At this time 10 parishes have paid their contributions to Deanery Synod of £30, there are two outstanding. Please could everyone check that their parishes have made a payment. You can also check with David.

9. Diocesan Synod Updates

CK spoke about SMMIB (Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Bid). The detailed work costing the plans continues. A significant bid (for an award amounting to millions of pounds) will be required to achieve the proposed programme within the suggested timescale. The bid is likely to go in in the New Year.

The discussions around LLF (Living in Love and Faith) and PLF (Prayers of Love and Faith) did not happen at the last Diocesan Synod due to a point of order. Bishop Philip will speak on this, plus share details regarding the current discussions nationally at the next Diocesan Synod. There has been some recent discussion in the House of Bishops (report from Church Times <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2025/17-october/news/uk/further-synodical-approval-is-needed-for-same-sex-blessings-house-of-bishops-says>)

Winchester Diocese was recently affected by a major data breach by Access Personal Checking Services (APCS) Ltd, the provider that our diocese, along with many other dioceses, and most parishes currently use to process online Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. This only affected DBS checks made online, not paper based ones. Advice was received from APCS and Colin Harbidge and all PSOs were

required to inform all who were affected by the breach and submit a report to the ICO (Information Commissioner's Office).

The National Church are offered 12 months of free credit and web monitoring services, provided by Experian, to individuals within the Church of England affected by the breach. The Experian Identify Plus account helps detect possible misuse of personal data and provides people with identity monitoring support, focused on the identification and resolution of identity theft.

PSOs were asked to inform PCCs that they had three options open to them with regard to performing new DBS checks (see attached information sheet). Members should check with their PCC's that a decision has been taken for their parishes.

In a separate incident, the law firm that was dealing with contacting victims and survivors of spiritual abuse inadvertently sent a message and cc'd people rather than them being bcc'd. This obviously breached their confidentiality. Please be aware if this has affected anyone in your parish.

Interviews will be taking place for the new Dean of the Cathedral this week.

Bishop Kelly of Basingstoke was to be consecrated on the 15th October, and there will also be a service in Andover on the 15th November. The date for her installation in Winchester Cathedral is still to be confirmed. The good thing is that we now have our full complement of bishops.

10. Companion, Ecumenical Links and Opportunities for Mission

There are still no official links but if your parishes want to advice of any parish level links it would be useful to let the Deanery Secretary know.

SC spoke of a missional opportunity by inviting Sound Worship to your parishes. They are a diocesan orchestra of 30+ brass, string, woodwind and percussion players. They have played in Sholing and Boyatt Wood at special services. More details can be found on their website [Sound Worship: Welcome](#)

Local New Wine celebrations were happening on Sunday 19th November at 6.30pm – all welcome to join in.

If items to share are sent before any meeting, we may be able to include a rolling notice board of events for any PowerPoints.

11. Joys and Challenges Around The Parishes

Members were invited to form small groups and share news from their parishes and to pray for each other. Each parish then reported back to the whole Synod.

Boyatt Wood – Looking forward to the Sound Worship concert. Also their Stay and Play sessions were becoming oversubscribed and whether there was a need to start a second group.

Hedge End, St Johns – A couple of long-standing members, who had been away from the church had recently rejoined and were becoming reinvolved. Chrissie Aindow was now working as in her new chaplaincy role.

Hedge End, St Lukes – The after school café for young people was going well, and more your children and young people were learning about faith. Their challenge was the search for a new Youth Worker.

Bishopstoke – New people were coming via social events for fundraising, and the challenge was that they needed to raise funds.

Fair Oak – The Start! Course was bringing in new faces. They are also looking to replace a door in the church.

Chandlers Ford – They will soon be replacing the pathway leading into the church to make it fully safe. Their Children and Families worker is stepping down and they are advertising for a replacement.

Eastleigh – They are grateful that a new Churchwarden has started, but they are still in need of a Treasurer and Administrator.

Hamble & Hound – Their challenge is encouraging families. Also, the roof of Netley church needs repairing. However, there are some children's groups coming along to take part in events.

West End – Recent problems with the roof needed £25,000 to be raised. The good news is that this was raised through the congregation and the community together.

Valley Park – Their joy was the arrival of their new minister, PJ Brombley, and it will need great discernment as to where to lead the church.

Bursledon – The joys are spotting people who they don't know in the congregation, and helping to make them feel welcome. So much is happening, but one more Churchwarden and a PCC Secretary is still needed.

12. Time of Open Prayer

See above

13. Closing Prayer

JP gave thanks for the joys and opportunities in parishes. Where we could see the hand of God upon them and blessing them, for children and families and those who are struggling. Pray that the right people are put in the right place, and to recognise and value them. For PCC's to have conversations about looking after their clergy and supporting them. To chat about this with the Churchwardens.

LG asked if the churches who were being put forward to hold meetings in 2026 could confirm the dates were okay or to discuss change if necessary. *[This has since been done, and the dates at the bottom of these Minutes are correct]*

Thank you to Chandlers Ford, Duncan and Becky for hosting and refreshments.

Dates of Future Meetings in 2026

Weds 11th February 2026	EDS Standing Committee at St Paul's Bursledon
Tues 3rd March 2026	Deanery Synod meeting at St Peter's Boyatt Wood
Weds 13th May 2026	EDS Standing Committee at St Martin's Chandlers Ford
Thurs 11th June 2026	Deanery Synod meeting at St Thomas' Fair Oak
Weds 30th September 2026	EDS Standing Committee at St John's Hedge End
Weds 13th October 2026	Deanery Synod meeting at St Mary's, Bishopstoke