

Dear Friends – the PCCs and Congregations of the Avon Valley Churches,  
and anyone else who chooses to be part of these conversations,

## **SIMPLIFICATION – SHOULD THE AVC HAVE FOUR PCCs OR ONE?**

Late last year the four Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) of the Avon Valley Churches (*listed at the top of the page*) began having conversations about the legal and missional organisation of our seven Churches and their communities.

Last November, a Simplification Working Group was set up to look at the proposal to have just one PCC, and that Group has met once or twice a month since January, looking at possibilities and proposals in some detail.

The Working Group comprises two members from each current Parish (regardless of the relative sizes of the Parishes), some of the Staff Team, and one or two others. Here is the list:

Jon Whale, Facilitator (Jon is the ‘Benefice of the Future Project Officer’ for the Diocese of Winchester, and was brought in as an independent Chair (only sometimes a referee!). We are very grateful for all of the time and effort he has given us during this process.

Canon Gary Philbrick, Rector  
Revd Nicky Davies, Associate Priest  
Revd Mike Trotman, Curate  
Mark Ward, Licensed Lay Minister

Breamore: Malcolm Turner & Richard Williams  
(sometimes joined by Andy Finch, Treasurer)  
Fordingbridge: John Dowsett & Ian Newman  
(sometimes joined by Martin Calver, Treasurer)

Hale & Woodgreen: Amanda Clarke and Lynn  
Dudman (sometimes with advice from Brenda  
Templeton, Treasurer)  
Hyde: Andrew Briggs & Carrie Darke  
(sometimes joined by Heather Clarke,  
Churchwarden, and representing the Treasurer)  
Martin Calver, on behalf of the Treasurers  
Judith Dowsett, Secretary

After some introductory reflections on the process from myself and Mark Ward, there are seven papers on different aspects of the way a single PCC could work, whilst encouraging lots of local autonomy and creativity, which have come from the Working Group’s work.

We would like to have responses and questions and ideas about these papers, ready for an **OPEN MEETING** of the Four PCCs, to which anyone is welcome, on **Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**, at 7.00p.m. (The Meeting will be on Zoom, by internet or phone, and also live on Facebook – details to follow nearer the time). The aim of the Meeting is to hear what people think is good in the Papers, what is missing, and what needs changing. Please consider them prayerfully, carefully and openly.

We’ll log all questions and thoughts, and the Working Group and the Four PCCs will consider the responses, and plan how to move forward, if that is the wish of the Congregations and PCCs.

Any responses, thoughts and questions you have before June 11<sup>th</sup> can be e-mailed to the Church Office or come by phone or post (details below).

With Best Wishes,



Canon Gary Philbrick  
Rector