Parish of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden (BLS) Minutes of The Meeting of the PCC Tuesday, 1830, 23 July 2024 Wingfield House, GU34 5SG, By kind invitation of Antonia Goor

1. **Present:** Rev’d Andrew Micklefield (AM) (Chairperson). PCC members Bentworth: Cathy Dumelow (CD); Mervyn Dunwoody; Liz Preece (LP) Lasham: Antonia Goor (AG); Sarah Miskella (SM) Shalden: Michael Campbell (MC); Kirsty Ennever (KE); Peter Rankin (PR)

POTR Administrator: Philippa Penfold (PP)

1. **Apologies**: none
2. **The meeting opened** with a Bible Reading, Micah 7 and prayer led by AM
3. **Service Pattern October 24-January 25**. This had previously been distributed by AM

and accepted by all. Shalden will decide on the timing of their Carol service (22 December). PP offered posters for special services and a card with details of all the Christmas services. The PCC gratefully accepted this help.

1. **BLS 4 You**, Sunday 15 September 4pm, at Bentworth Church. The format will be an informal chat over refreshments then AM will outline the services at present on offer and invite ideas on how to better engage with communities. Children’s ministry will be a focus with the school being invited to the afternoon. CD action. PP offered posters to promote this with CD providing copy. LP and Hilary Dunwoody will coordinate refreshments.
2. **Mission Statistics:** AM provided Statistics for Mission for the three churches 2014-2023. Whilst the Electoral Roll numbers have remained fairly static there is a downward trend in the attendance numbers. This is partly due to the demographic of the villages and large families moving away, but consideration needs to be given to better community engagement and the types of services on offer.

SM outlined the work of the Anna Chaplaincy with a view to advertising this locally and ensuring this is available for BLS residents.

1. **Financial Report**: MD, working with the treasurers from Lasham and Shalden is continuing to develop a BLS bank account. There appears to be a potential shortfall in the Shalden accounts which needs researching. An income/expenditure analysis for each church will support the agreement on costs to be paid by the BLS fund and those to be paid by individual churches. PP asked to have ‘read only’ access to the BLS Bank Account to ensure payments have been made.
2. **Local Church Groups**: Each church now has a group established with both worshipping and non-worshipping members.
3. **Use of POTR Website**. The website manager, Carl Saunders, is developing a Benefice system to allow usage by all seven churches. .
4. **Safeguarding Update.** No incidents have been reported. Cathy Boyes (Safeguarding Officer) sent a written report. All churches must have Safeguarding contact details in their porches. All PCC members need to undertake training and some members need a new DBS certificate.
5. **AOB:** PP will undertake the administration for all occasional offices in BLS and liaise with the BLS Treasurer regarding payments. Weddings can be in any of the seven churches for couples with a Benefice connection.

AM and CDwill organise an order of service for the 22 September opening of Bentworth Hub

1. **Future Dates**:

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| Sunday 15 September 4pm  | Bentworth Church | BLS 4 You |
| Sunday 22 September 4pm  | Bentworth Church | Community Hub Opening |
| Thursday 26 September 6pm  | Bentworth Church | PCC Meeting |
| Saturday 26 October 5pm  | Bentworth Church | Autumn Concert |
| Sunday 9 February 4pm 2025  | Bentworth Church | Evensong with Bishop Phillip |

1. **Future Agenda Items:**

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| BLS 4 You Feedback and actions  |
| Harvest Charity  |
| Financial Update: cost analysis (MD) |
| Policies update (SM, CD)  |
| LCG Report  |
| Website Usage update |
| Safeguarding and training |

1. The meeting closed with a prayer at 2010 and Antonia Goor was thanked for her hospitality.