Parish of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden (BLS) Minutes of The Meeting of the PCC Thursday, 30 January, 2025, 1700 St Mary’s Church, Bentworth, GU34 5RE

1. **Present:** Revd Andrew Micklefield (AM) Chairperson; Peter Rankin (PR) Vice Chair; PCC members Bentworth: Cathy Dumelow (CD); Mervyn Dunwoody (MD); Liz Preece (LP); Lasham: Antonia Goor (AG); Sarah Miskella (SM) Shalden: Michael Campbell (MC) *left at 1800*; Kirsty Ennever (KE);

Cathy Boyes (CB) BLS Safeguarding Officer *left at 1720*; Philippa Penfold (PN) Parish Administrator; Ellie Elder (EE) Assistant Parish Administrator.

1. **Apologies**: none
2. **The meeting opened** with a Bible reading, Mark 4. 21-25, led by AM
3. **Safeguarding and Training Update:** CB stated that no incidents had been reported. One PCC DBS check has still to be updated. There are two Safeguarding Modules which the PCC needs to undertake, Basic and Foundation and CB requested that all members complete these as soon as possible. CB was thanked for her efficient work.
4. **Interregnum arrangements:** The Church wardens are invited to a Teams meeting with the Archdeacon to clarify plans for the Interregnum and appointment of a new vicar and will report the outcomes to the PCC. Revd David Chattell will be the designated church leader during the interregnum. Sunday 9 March will be AM’s last service in Alton and he invited all the PCC and parishioners to his Installation in Winchester Cathedral for Evensong, Saturday 5 April at 1530. MC felt the whole reappointment process was overly long.
5. **BLS Evensong:** This will be led by AM and the Bishop of Winchester, with an opportunity to hear +Philip’s vision for rural ministry, followed by Q and A.
6. **BLS 4 You:** This is now postponed until the new incumbent takes up position.
7. **Service Schedule 2025**: A service schedule has been formulated and distributed which runs to the end of 2025.
8. **Website Update**. BLS have now been included in this. Each BLS church will send EE a short introductory paragraph and details of any news and events to be uploaded. Any photographs of children need parental permission before publishing. All BLS parishioners can now be included in the POTR weekly mailing but need to complete a GDPR form first. EE will draft these.
9. **Financial Update:** All three churches have now paid their CMF which accounted for 67.2% of the requested amount. Bentworth and Shalden’s incomes are down but Lasham’s is stable. By the end of 2025 all three churches will have transitioned to a Central Fund. AM thanked MD for his clear data and PR asked if a short overview could be written for general communication to encourage greater giving. MC suggested we have a strategy for approaching newcomers to the villages and AM recommended we use a modified form of the Parish Giving Scheme. EE will produce this.
10. **Lasham Re-ordering Update:** SM has made much progress here with the Faculty now on the Diocesan system, nearly half of the money raised (£30, 000 with costings of £59, 000 and £5,000 contingency). The works are to provide a toilet/ kitchenette pod, removal of half the pews and improvements to the flooring.
11. **Bentworth Burial Faculties:** The PCC agreed unanimously to the request from Mr Peter and Mrs Warr for a double burial plot in Bentworth Churchyard and from Mr Clive Warr for an ashes burial plot in the specified Ashes Burial Site in Bentworth Churchyard, and from Mrs Madeline Cheminade for an ashes burial plot in the specified Ashes Burial Site in Bentworth Churchyard.
12. **Equality Policy:** KE will re-write this and distribute for agreement.
13. **Preparation of the Electoral Roll (ER):** KE has emailed a schedule and will forward to each church the necessary forms.
14. **New Service Booklets:** The booklet format has been completed and will be sent to the PCC for approval prior to printing.
15. **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and Parish report**: The APCM and presentation of the Annual Report will take place in Shalden Village Hall on 1 May, 1700. Notification of this and nomination forms for the election of Churchwardens and PCC members must be displayed on 17 April. Prior to the meeting the Annual Report needs to be endorsed by the PCC.

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1. **Future Dates**:

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| Future Dates | | |
| Sunday 9 March, 1030 | St Lawrence Church | Andrew’s final POTR service. |
| Sunday 9 March, 12 noon | Alton Community Centre | Andrew’s leaving lunch |
| Thursday 13 March, 1700 | Shalden Village Hall | PCC Meeting. |
| Saturday 5 April, 1530 | Winchester Cathedral | Andrew’s Installation  Evensong |
| Thursday 17 April | All Churches | Display notice of APCM |
| Thursday 1 May, 1700 | Shalden Village Hall | APCM |
| Thursday 10 July, 1700 | Lasham Church (tbc) | PCC Meeting |

1. **Future Agenda Items:**

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| Safeguarding and training |
| APCM planning |
| Appointment of Independent Auditor |
| Incumbent vacancy information |
| LCG Reports |
| Financial update |

1. The meeting closed with a prayer at 1831 when thanks were given for the life of the late Colin Baxter.