

**Special Parochial Church Meeting
of the Parish of North Newnton
to be held at the Parish Church on Sunday 8th February at 12 noon.**

Agenda

1. Welcome & Prayer.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Proposal to establish a Joint Council for the Benefice of the Vale of Pewsey.

Background to the Proposal

The Team Council does not have body corporate status nor is it recognized as a charity in the same way that PCCs are, so officers and other signatories to the bank accounts could be personally exposed to significant financial and legal liabilities; nor can it claim Gift Aid on donations from individuals.

Since 2020 the Church Representation Rules has enabled the formation of a Joint Council which is recognised as a body corporate and brings other benefits, including clearer reporting and accountability functions, and recognition as a charity under the auspices of the Diocese, enabling it to claim gift aid on personal donations to the benefice as a whole, and potentially give it access to preferential charitable rates offered by some suppliers of goods and services.

The Diocesan Registry, Team Council and PCCs were consulted during 2025 and the attached Scheme drawn up by the Diocesan Registrar. Team Council and each of the PCCs have agreed the remit for the proposed Joint Council in line with the way the Team Council operates at present. The only change is to reduce the number of representatives of the Parish of Huish & Oare from two to one, at their request. It would replace Team Council, not add another layer of governance.

The full text of the Scheme is appended to this agenda paper for your information. Please note Schedules A & B have been omitted as they simply constitute the formal record of the voting of each PCC and the decision of the Bishop's Council.

An Annual or a Special Parochial Church Meeting of each parish in the benefice must approve the scheme by a two-thirds majority of the lay members present for the Scheme to progress. The Scheme is to be considered by Bishop's Council in early March 2026, and if approved there, would be signed into effect by the Bishop of Salisbury.

The Chair of the Meeting to move: *"That the Special Parochial Church Meeting approves the Scheme to establish a Joint Council for the Benefice of the Vale of Pewsey."*

4. Closing prayers.

**SCHEME TO ESTABLISH A JOINT COUNCIL
for the Benefice of the Vale of Pewsey
in the Diocese of Salisbury**

Preamble

1. This Scheme is made in accordance with Rules M37 to M42 of the 2020 Rules, which confer power on any two or more connected parishes to make a scheme to establish a Joint Council.
2. The parishes of
 - Alton Barnes with Alton Priors
 - Beechingstoke
 - Charlton
 - Easton Royal
 - Huish & Oare
 - Manningford Bruce & Abbots (Abbas)
 - Milton Lilbourne
 - North Newnton
 - Pewsey
 - Rushall
 - Stanton St Bernard
 - Upavon
 - Wilcot
 - Woodborough with Manningford Bohune
 - Wootton Riversare connected for the purposes of Rule M37 as they each belong to the benefice of the Vale of Pewsey.
3. This Scheme has been made in accordance with the procedural requirements in M42 of the 2020 Rules:
 - (a) The Scheme was approved by at least two-thirds of the persons present and voting at a meeting of each parish to which this Scheme applies held on the dates set out in Schedule A.
 - (b) The Scheme, once approved in accordance with (a) above, was referred to the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee. The Bishop's Council and Standing Committee duly approved the Scheme as set out in Schedule B.

Citation and commencement

4. This Scheme may be cited as: "The Benefice of the Vale of Pewsey Joint Council Scheme".
5. This Scheme comes into operation on the date it is approved by the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee, as specified in Schedule B.

Interpretation

6. "PCC" means Parochial Church Council.
7. "APCM" means Annual Parochial Church Council.
8. "the Bishop" means the bishop of the diocese of Salisbury.
9. "the Rules" means the Church Representation Rules (Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969).
10. A reference in this Scheme to a provision made by or under a Measure or Act of Parliament is to be read as a reference to that provision as for the time being amended, extended or applied by or under any other such provision.

Membership

11. The members of the Joint Council are —
 - (a) The Team Rector of the benefice;
 - (b) All members of the clergy licensed to the benefice;
 - (c) All Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and Licensed Lay Workers licensed to the benefice;
 - (d) Lay representatives of each PCC, to be elected each year at the first meeting of the PCC after the APCM in the following numbers:
 - i. Two representatives elected by the PCC of the parish of Pewsey;
 - ii. One representative elected by the PCC of each of the other parishes in the benefice.
 - (e) Such other persons as the Joint Council decides to co-opt as a member which may include persons who are not members of a PCC in the benefice
provided that the Joint Council may not co-opt a person if the number of co-opted members would equal or exceed one-fifth of the number of lay members of the Joint Council,

and provided that the Council may not elect a member of clergy if the Council would, as a consequence, have a number of clerical members that equals or exceeds the number of lay members.

12. A member of the Joint Council who ceases to be a member of the PCC that elected him shall also cease to be a member of the Joint Council. The PCC concerned may elect a replacement.
13. Elected members of the Joint Council shall remain in office until the election of their successors. Co-opted members shall remain in office until the first meeting of the Joint Council held after the APCMs of each of the parishes (and may be co-opted again).

Disqualification

14. The provisions of the Rules on disqualification from being nominated, chosen or elected as, or from serving as, a member of the PCC also apply in relation to the membership of the Joint Council.
15. A person who is disqualified by law from being a charity trustee and, accordingly, from being a member of a PCC is also disqualified from being a member of the Joint Council.

Chair

16. Rule M19 (Chair and vice-chair) and Rule M26 (Meetings: chair) shall apply to the Joint Council as if it were a PCC.

Meetings

17. The following Rules shall apply to meetings of the Joint Council as if it were a PCC:
 - Rule M23 (Meetings: time and place)
 - Rule M24 (Meetings: attendance)
 - Rule M25 (Meetings: notice)
 - Rule M27 (Meetings: procedure)
 - Rule M28 (Meetings: minutes)
18. Members of the PCC of each of the parishes shall have access to all of the minutes of the Joint Council.

Proceedings

19. The following Rules shall apply to the proceedings of the Joint Council as if it were a PCC:
 - Rule M29 (Business by correspondence)

Rule M30 (Audit of financial statements)

Rule M32 (Other committees)

Rule M33 (Extraordinary meetings)

Functions

20. This Scheme transfers the following functions from each of the PCCs of the parishes of the benefice to the Joint Council:

- a) Managing the programme of worship throughout the churches of the benefice;
- b) Recommending candidates for training and commissioning in various ministries;
- c) Recommending policies for the pastoral and evangelical activities of the benefice, including matters of social concern and wider mission where such are of wider concern than the area of one parish, and supporting their implementation, for example –
 - i. Youth, Children and Families Work where this relates to more than one parish (e.g. holiday club, Life Exhibition);
 - ii. Safeguarding and related policies (NB each PCC still has to adopt and ensure local compliance);
 - iii. Appoint Team Safeguarding Officer(s) to provide support for all parishes in the benefice, and to cooperate with individual Parish Safeguarding Officers where appropriate;
 - iv. Involvement in the drawing up of benefice profiles and job description for clergy vacancies;
- d) The operation of a benefice office, also known as the Team Office, to provide --
 - i. support for clergy in the exercise of their duties;
 - ii. centralised purchasing of services and supplies e.g. for regular worship services and life events services including elements for communion, candles, register books, baptismal stationery and Bibles, bulk printing of orders of services etc;
 - iii. employment of administrative officer(s);
 - iv. payment of clergy and lay ministers' expenses;
 - v. administration of statutory parochial fees;

- e) The publication of a benefice (or Team) magazine;
- f) The provision and maintenance of a benefice website and other social media;
- g) The collection and financial management of such monies, as may with the agreement of each PCC be transferred to the Joint Council (commonly known as the "Team Share") to enable it to fulfil its duties;
- h) The contracting or employment of personnel that work across the parishes and on behalf of the benefice.

Property

- 21. This Scheme does not transfer any property, rights or liabilities to the Joint Council.

Functions under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986

- 22. In relation to the filling of vacancies in the benefice and the exercising of rights of patronage, the functions under Part 2 of the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 of the parochial church council of each parish belonging to the benefice are exercisable by the Joint Council as if it were a single parochial church council for each of the parishes concerned taken together; and the reference to Part 2 of that Measure does not include a reference to section 23 or Schedule 2.

Variation and Revocation

- 23. This Scheme may be varied or revoked:
 - (a) in accordance with the procedures set out in Rules M38(3), (4) and (5) of the Rules, in reliance on Rule 77; or
 - (b) by the Bishop, in accordance with Rule M40 of the Rules, if any parish in the Joint Council ceases to be "connected" to the other parishes in the Joint Council, or a parish which is in a Joint Council is dissolved by a pastoral scheme.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Parish of

_____ North Newnton _____

A Special Parochial Church Meeting will be held in _____ the Parish Church _____
on the __8th____ day of ____February____ 2026__ at _12 noon__

For the consideration of:

- (a) a proposal to form a Joint Council to replace the Team Council of the Vale of Pewsey
Benefice (see Briefing notes and Draft Scheme as attached)

In this Notice, 'parish' means an ecclesiastical parish.

Signed: _____ *Rhonda Iwale* _____

Minister of the parish

Notes

1. Every lay person whose name is entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish (and no other person) is entitled to vote at the election of parochial representatives of the laity.
2. A person is qualified to be elected a parochial representative of the laity if –
 - (a) his or her name is entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish and, unless he or is under 18, has been entered there for at least the preceding six months;
 - (b) he or she is an actual communicant (which means that he has received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England at least three times during the twelve months preceding the date of the election);
 - (c) he or she is at least 16; and
 - (d) he or she is not disqualified as referred to in paragraph 3 of these Notes.
3. (1) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a churchwarden or a member of a parochial church council, a district church council or a joint council if the person is disqualified from being a trustee of a charity (and the disqualification is not subject to a waiver which permits membership of a parochial church council, district church council or joint council).
- (2) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council, a joint council or a deanery synod if the person is included in a barred list (within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).
- (3) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council, a joint council or a deanery synod if the person has been convicted of an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (with that expression being construed in accordance with Rule 71(2) of the Church Representation Rules).
- (4) A person's disqualification under sub-paragraph (3) may be waived by the bishop of the diocese by giving the person notice in writing.
- (5) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council if the person has been disqualified from holding office under section 10(6) of the Incumbent (Vacation of Benefices) Measure 1977.
4. ⁴ A scheme is in operation in this parish which provides that any person entitled to vote in the elections of parochial representatives of the laity to the parochial church council or to the deanery synod or to both may apply on the appropriate form to the Minister of the parish (or other person signing below) for a postal vote. The completed form must be received before the commencement of the annual parochial church meeting.

⁴ This paragraph should be deleted if no scheme for postal voting is in operation in the parish.