

THE BENEFICE OF SOBERTON, NEWTOWN AND HAMBLEDON



**Parochial Church Council
MINUTES
of the meeting held on Thursday, 15th January 2026**

		Actions
Opening Prayer	Led by Ginny Palmer	
1. Apologies:	Rev Liz Quinn, Janet Harrison, Stuart Mackie	
Present:	Toby Finch, Natasha Beckley, Paul Foster, Helen Finch, Rachel Houlberg, Ginny Palmer, Graham Parr, Alisdair MacKenzie, Paul Quinn,	
Chaired by:	Paul Quinn	
2. Approve minutes of last meeting	The minutes of 3rd November 2025, which had been circulated to all prior to the meeting, were reviewed. The minutes were agreed by all and duly signed.	
3. Matters Arising	<p>15/01/25 10f. Website to be reviewed by AM. Use of A Church Near You https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16835/ has worked well, particularly the calendar feature. Website traffic has increased. Site is paid for and maintained by The Church of England. AM proposed that everything is moved onto this site. Agreed by all.</p> <p>03/07/25 7b. Chris Parker to attend a service to discuss Parish Giving. Meetings to be held on 25th and 28th January 2026.</p> <p>05/11/25 5b. Secretary to respond to letter from C Roberts</p> <p>05/11/25 6a. Recruitment of Safeguarding Officer. Meeting to discuss has been held and potential candidates to be approached.</p> <p>05/11/25 11a. Increase social media presence to promote events.</p> <p>05/11/25 11c. Faculty for platform has been split. Vents to be put into the raised floor and approval to be received for disposal of pews. Then faculty to be raised for the lighter alter table.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Closed</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

<p>4. Pastoral Issues</p>	<p>a. Forthcoming Events Events include: Repair Cafe - 17th January God & Creation by Rev David Fergusson -17th January Brian Lewis funeral - 21st January Taze - 25th January Ash Wednesday Communion - 18th February Mothering Sunday -15th March Palm Sunday - 29th March APCM - 26th April Harvest Tea - 26th September Harvest Festival - 27th September</p> <p>b. Fees Proposed increases to fees were circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed by all as follows: Publication of Banns - £39 Marriage Service - £566 Verger - £40 Organist (weddings) - £170 Organist (funerals) - £150 Bells - £180 post service; £250 for before and after service Choir £140</p> <p>Additionally, organist fees for services and choir practices to be increased from £50 to £55.</p> <p>Parochial fees and payments to officiating ministers, from Diocese of Portsmouth, were also noted.</p> <p>Toby Finch arrived at 8:05 pm</p>	
<p>5. Finance</p>	<p>a. Finance Report The Finance Report had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. No questions had been received. The deficit of approx £6k was noted. SM was thanked for preparing the end of year accounts.</p> <p>RH offered to bank cash in Fareham on the treasurer’s behalf if needed.</p> <p>b. Budget for 2026 Budget had been prepared by SM and discussed at the Standing Committee. It was noted that there is expected to be a deficit but it is hoped that actuals will be less than budgeted.</p>	

	A vote was taken on accepting the budget. 1 abstained, 1 against and 7 in favour. Approved	
6. Safeguarding	<p>a. Recruitment of Safeguarding Officer Discussed under matters arising.</p> <p>b. Review of Inclusivity Diversity document RH & TF to meet to discuss. To be reviewed at next meeting.</p> <p>c. Progress on Training All encouraged to log on and complete any outstanding training. Licenced Lay Ministers have completed leadership course.</p>	
7. Fundraising	<p>a. Forthcoming Events Planning in progress for Save the Children/Roberts Centre musical event. Date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Jubilee 150 events to be discussed at next meeting. Patronal festival to be incorporated with this and will comprise of village bbq and bar in churchyard. Barn Church to loan bouncy castle.</p> <p>Time Capsule to be created and installed at Harvest Tea.</p>	
8. Meon Valley Parish	<p>a. Pilot Cairn £50k fund allocated for mission purposes. A proposal will be put together for admin support, including terms of reference. The administrator will cover the Meon Valley Parishes. It is anticipated that this will help with Rev Liz's workload. Presently, a lack of officers and PCC in Soberton and Newtown has resulted in a significantly increased workload.</p>	
9. Deanery	<p>There is a vacancy for a Deanery Representative, with elections held this year. 3 meetings are held each year. Paul asked for volunteers.</p> <p>The Deanery will be recruiting Family and Youth Workers and Rev Jill Phipps is to become Deanery trainer for Young People Worship and Anna Chaplaincy.</p>	
10. Diocesan Synod	Nothing to report	
11. Reports	<p>a. Children and Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greenshoots was held last Sunday. Numbers are low but all that attended enjoyed it. ● Good turnout for all children's services over Christmas. ● Coffee and cake - additional volunteers required. ● Further soup makers are required for soup lunches. <p>b. EcoChurch Greening Festival plans for 9th May well advanced.</p>	

	<p>c. Fabric</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Modifications to the floor will be completed shortly. ● Heating system controls not working correctly. New control to be purchased at a cost of approx £500. ● Issues with card reader as WiFi signal drops out. Machine may be faulty. PF to investigate. ● Guttering has been purchased. PF/TF to install. ● New light has been fitted at church door. <p>d. Churchyard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AM researching a physic garden, based upon an apothecary book which contains Hambledon names. <p>e. Church Wardens Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RH being trained as a Licenced Lay Minister. ● Remembrance Sunday - TF thanked for Scouts participation. ● LQ has attended Youthscape Training. ● 9 Lessons and Carols - attendance was good. ● Carols in High Street - flowed well. TF was thanked for printing new carol sheets. ● Goodnight Service - RH & HF thanked. ● Epiphany SFS - JH thanked. ● 5 Lay Worship Readers commissioned (Liz, Helen, Louise, Richard and Paul). ● PQ to complete Statistics for mission,finance return and energy return to be done before June ● Deanery Synod to meet on 23rd February. ● Diocesan Synod to meet on 7th March ● PCC agreed to annually review the time capsule and that it can be placed in the church, probably sealed during the Harvest Tea and placed later. 	
AOB:		
Items for next agenda:	Jubilee 150 events	
Closing Prayer:	The meeting closed at 9:05 pm with The Grace.	
Date of next mtg:	Wednesday, 4th March 2026 at 19:30, Bolters Croft, Green Lane	

Signed by:

Date: