



The Parish of Medstead and Four Marks

February 2024

To the congregations of St. Andrew's and The Good Shepherd.

It is with joy and a little trepidation that I write to let you know that as of the 1st of April we will become one parish.

Visibly very little will change immediately. The services, and other ministries and activities, will continue as they have been for the past couple of years.

I will formally become the vicar of the new parish and behind the scenes a new governance structure will be formed to lead us forward together. It will take us time to get used to this new collaborative way of working, but I hope we will soon begin speaking of 'us', as we seek and serve God together in mission and ministry within our communities.

The new governance structure will come into being at our Special Parochial Church Meeting on the 16th of April. At this meeting we will elect Church Wardens, Deanery Synod Representatives, and PCC members. The whole committee known as the PCC (Parochial Church Council) are trustees and together with the incumbent (the vicar) are responsible for promoting the mission of God in the parish.

Please prayerfully consider, what role you could play, and/or who you could nominate for a role. We are looking for those who will represent Jesus Christ and his values and who can help, with others lead into the next stage of growth that God has for us.

Our PCC will, together with me, set the vision and direction for us, and be appointing officers, including a treasurer, a secretary, and a safeguarding officer. Further information about the PCC roles can be found on the COGS website, the link is below. Over time we will combine our finances, a new bank account will open, and we'll be asking you to transfer your standing orders or direct debits, or perhaps to begin giving, to our church's new account.

Please do ask questions, or make comments to our current PCC members or me. But most of all be praying that we would stay close to God and follow his lead through this exciting new chapter.

Yours

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

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