

# Simplification of Governance

## RENEWAL

North Waltham and Steventon  
and Ashe and Deane

# Overview and Introduction *AGENDA*

1. What are we discussing and **why** are we discussing this – recap of the first meeting.
2. Looking at the implications, the practicalities of **what** is envisaged
3. What would be different and what would be the same?
4. What happens next? How do we move forwards?

# Simplification of Governance

**RENEWAL**



1. What are we discussing  
and why are we discussing this – recap of the first meeting.

**Simplification of governance in part/all of the Benefice**

**A single Parish**

**One PCC**

**Local Church Committees / District Church Councils**

**The implications of each of these for all of us**

***Being present as the church and remaining in each community does not have to be the same as having a separate parish for every community.***

1. What are we discussing  
and why are we discussing this – recap of the first meeting.



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The national picture – The Church of England

In 1901 the number of stipendiary clergy was **25,253**

In 1963 the number of stipendiary clergy was **15,556**

In 2016 the number of stipendiary clergy was **7,790**

1. What are we discussing  
and why are we discussing this – recap of the first meeting.

The national picture – The Church of England

**In 1960 only 17% of the Church of England's parishes were in multi parish benefices.**

**By 2011 this figure had risen to 71%.**

1. What are we discussing  
and why are we discussing this – recap of the first meeting.

Winchester Diocese



**Church buildings**

**350**

**Parishes**

**260**

**Stipendiary clergy**

**135**

1. What are we discussing  
and why are we discussing this – recap of the first meeting.

Winchester Diocese



Since 2000 we have seen a 36% reduction in stipendiary clergy posts in the diocese, a 35% reduction in attendance but only 5% reduction in the number of individual parishes and PCCs (with most of these reductions occurring in our urban centres).

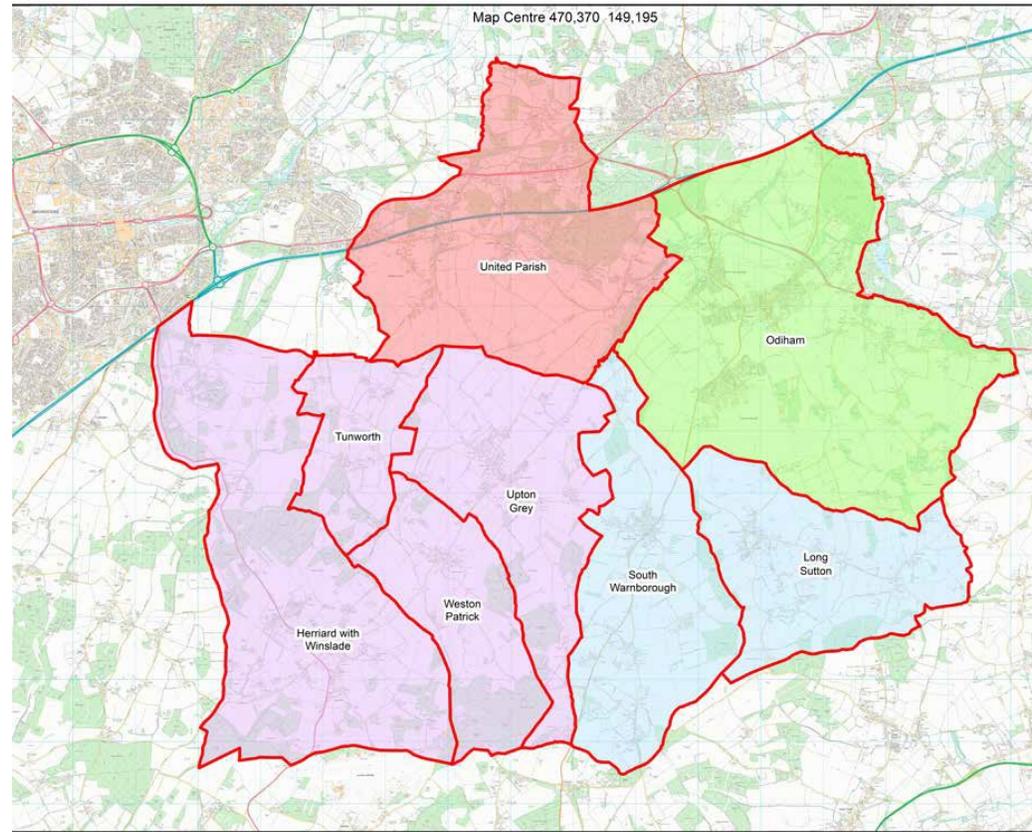
*This means that we are now investing a far greater percentage of clergy and volunteer time in governance than ever before.*

Without action this trend seems set to continue meaning we will in effect require parishes to prioritise governance over mission.

1. What are we discussing  
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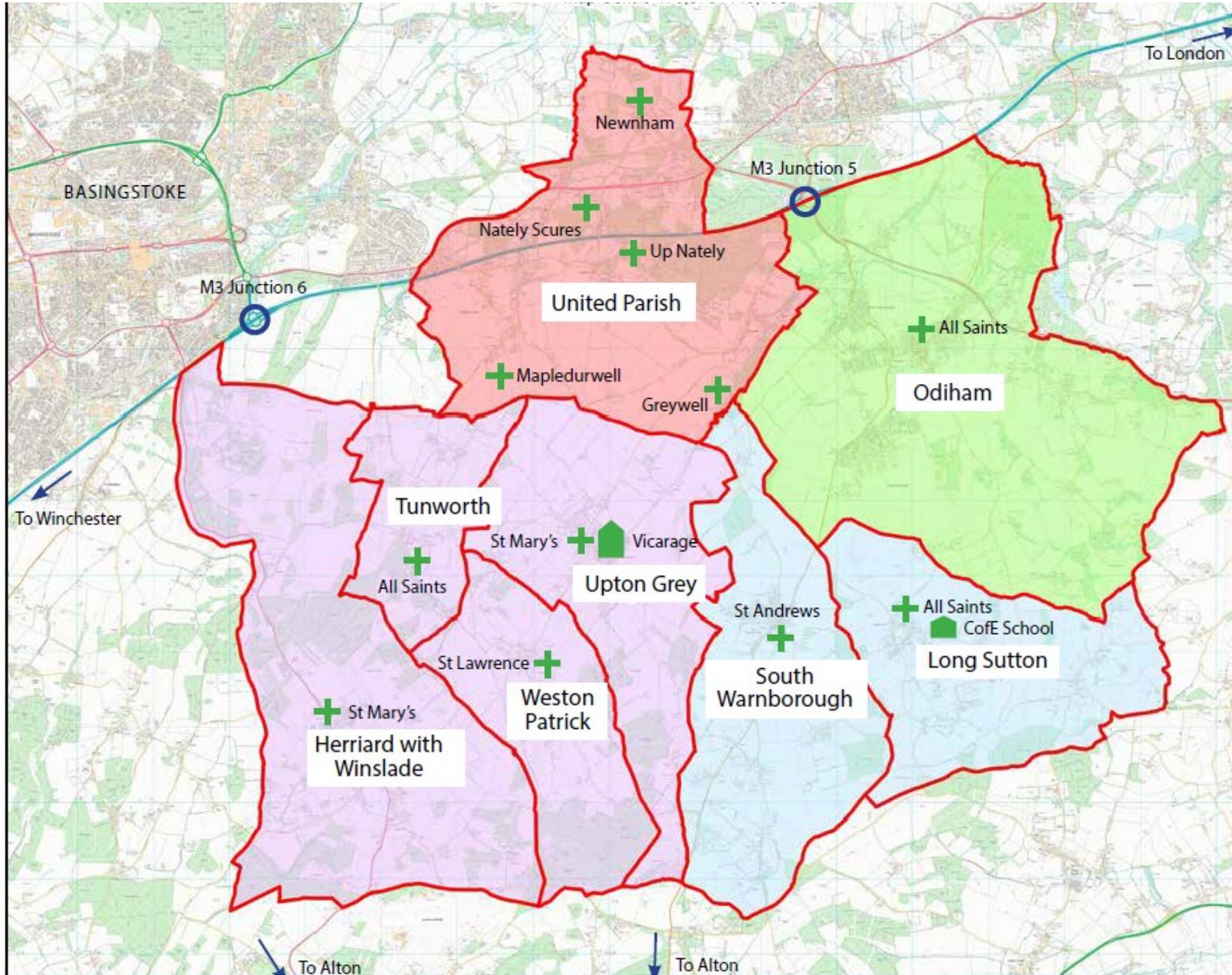


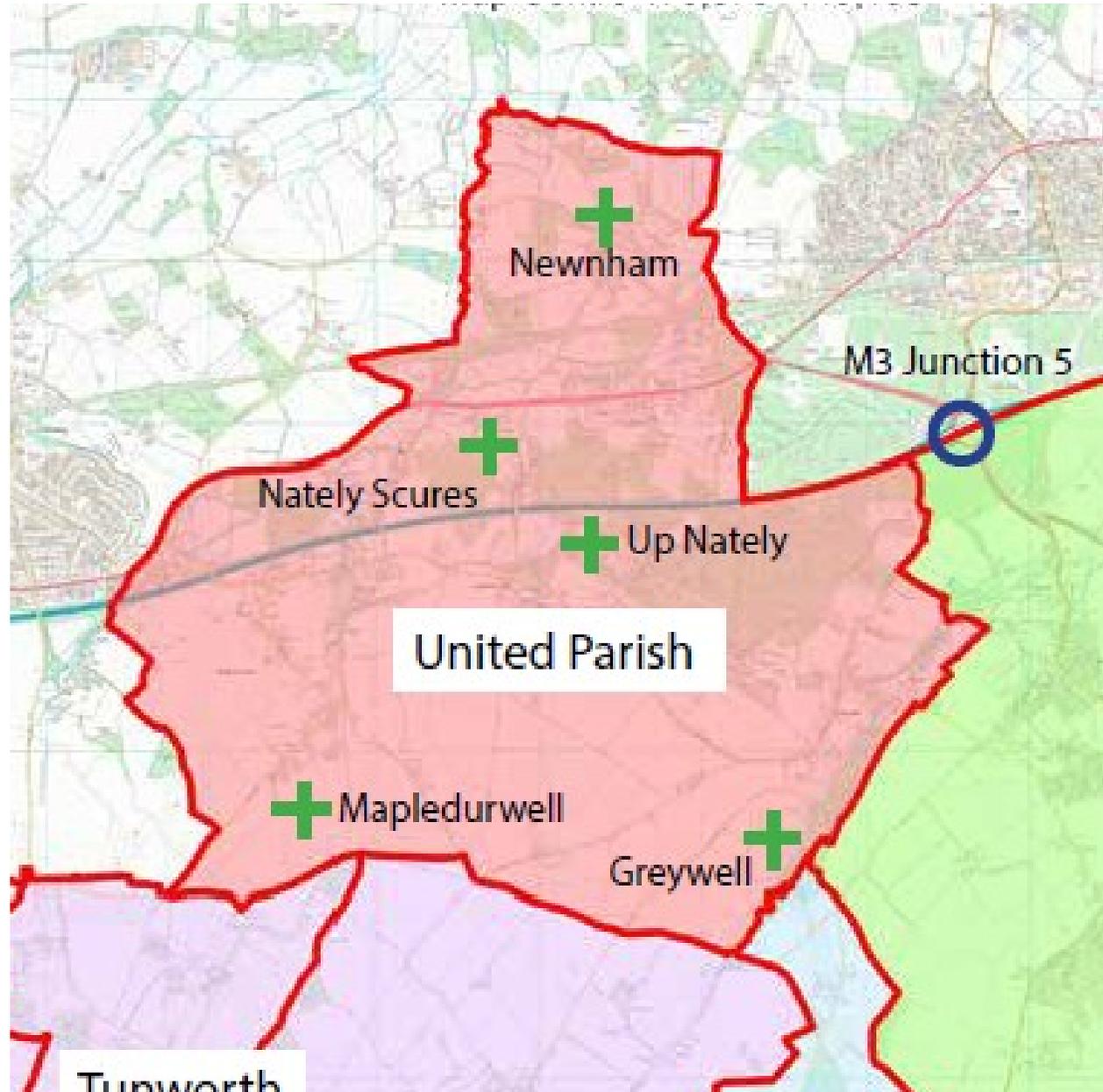
## 2. Looking at the implications, the practicalities of **what** is envisaged



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**One PARISH**

**Five CHURCHES**

**One PCC**

**Five DCCs**



*"We consider ourselves to be a truly United Parish!"*

**One PCC with One central Parish account and One Treasurer**

**Five CHURCHES each with Two Churchwardens**



**Five Village Church Committees**



*"We consider ourselves to be a truly United Parish!"*



*'This approach reduces the bureaucratic pressure on the member of clergy, and involves the laity in a way which gives the Parish a sense of purpose and an impetus for growth which is both exciting and significant.'*

What are we discussing  
and why are we discussing this.

**Simplification of governance in part/all of the Benefice**

**A single Parish**

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**Local Church Committees / District Church Councils**

*Being present as the church and remaining in each community does not have to be the same as having a separate parish for every community.*

2. Looking at the implications,  
the practicalities of **what** is envisaged

**The principal function and purpose of the PCC is the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent (rector, vicar or priest in charge) in promoting the mission of the Church in its parish**

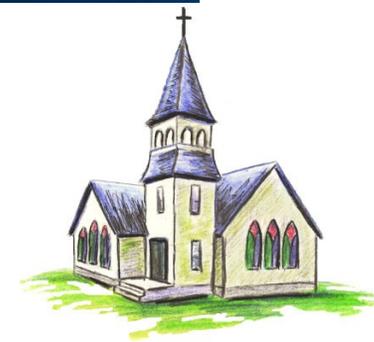
## The questions & issues you raised



- Representation and 'control'

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

DCCs  
or  
LCCs



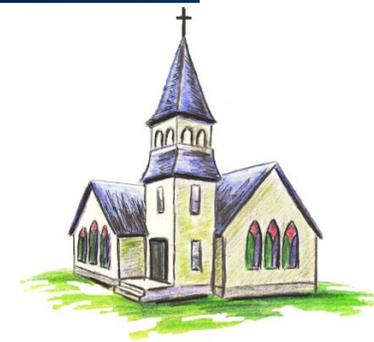
## The questions & issues you raised



- Representation and 'control'

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Church-  
wardens



# The questions & issues you raised



- Representation and 'control'

'Parish church'  
or  
'Chapel of ease'



## The questions & issues you raised



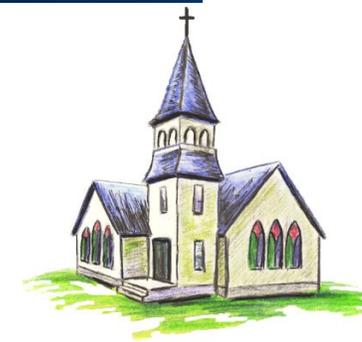
- Finances



Legal  
Trust  
body

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Some  
delegation



## The questions & issues you raised

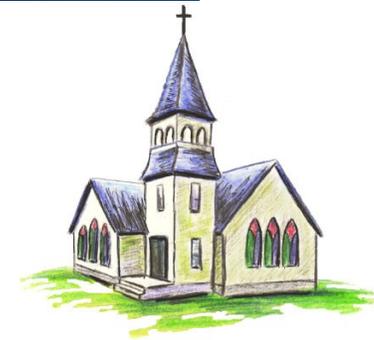


- Fabric / Buildings

Legal  
Trust  
body

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Some  
delegation



## The questions & issues you raised

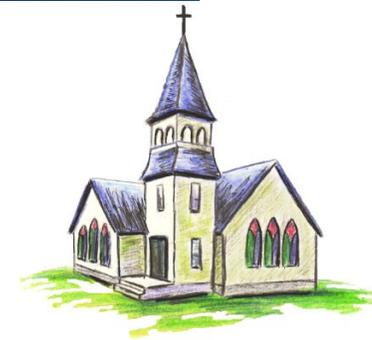


- Pattern of Services

Coordination

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Consultation



## The questions & issues you raised



Comparing the need for fewer officers  
with  
extra burdens on some...

### REQUIRED

2 Churchwardens

Lay Vice-Chair

PCC Secretary

PCC Treasurer

Electoral Roll Officer

At least one Deanery Synod representative

Safeguarding Officer

### ENCOURAGED

*Environmental Officer/Champion*

*Gift Aid Officer*

*GDPR Officer*

*Stewardship Promoter*

### 3. What would be different and what would be the same?

*Not closing churches*

*Not closing churchyards (where relevant)*

*Not removing representation (Though would be shared)*

*Not affecting...*

Fete

Harvest Supper

Remembrance

...



## The questions & issues you raised



**North Waltham and Steventon  
and Ashe and Deane**

- How do we coordinate ministry?

Ministry remains the gift of the incumbent, no change here.

- What about finances?

See slide 21

- What lessons have been learned elsewhere?

Various, depending on the model.

- What aspects would make this more attractive to clergy wanting to move here?

Good question! Generally speaking, the less governance and the fewer parishes the more attractive.

- Do people pay an administrator?

Many do. With a good appointment this can make all the difference.

- How might this affect church community?

It should strengthen a sense of being 'Church' across the benefice.  
In each local church the hope would be to focus more on worship and Christian life than governance.

- How would this affect community?

An important question. The aim would be to strengthen the church in each community for the reasons above.

- How might it affect church attendance?

There is no reason for this to affect attendance.

- Would this make PCC membership more attractive?

See slide 18

- Why doesn't the church cut out "red tape" / simplify processes?

There is a task force working on this. Historic and legal reasons make this difficult.

- Will this save laity time?

**It should save many laity time in meetings!**

- If the number of churchwardens is reduced, will this really lessen the load?

**See slide 19**

- If there is only one Treasurer / other officers, will we be able to find volunteers for these 'larger' jobs?

**See slide 21**

- What would be the role & responsibilities of local councils / committees?

**See slide 18**

- Would this make it harder to be quorate?

No reason why this should be the case. (1/3)

- What impact would simplification make?

See many of the answers above. In summary, it should free up clergy and laity time from meetings, produce more effective and focussed governance, increase the coordination of the life of the churches and therefore put them in better shape.

- Are we just adding another layer of governance?

If you set things up without clear terms of reference and run it without much trust then possibly yes. If you do the opposite then no.

## 4. What happens next? How do we move forwards?

At the third meeting we will explore how the change can happen

**DATE**

An example of what it might look like for you...

The option of a trial period...

