

St Mary the Virgin Church, Bletchingley

St Peter and Pauls Nutfield

**Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held on 14th January 2026
In Church House, Bletchingley**

Present Bletchingley:

Fr. Paul Fitzpatrick
Geoff Dumbreck (Archdeacon)
Vicki Gillespie (Churchwarden)
Trevor Dawson (Churchwarden)
Leanna Quevedo (PCC Secretary)
Geoff Stone (Treasurer)
Jennifer Hyde (Deanery Synod Rep)
Richard Fowler (Deanery Synod Rep)
April Alexander (Diocesan Synod Rep)
Cyril Mighall (Verger)
Chrissie Markham
Ian McMillan
Robin Idle
Kate Doody
Clemmie Selick
Gill Black
Vallerie Muller
John buck
Kerry Tucker
Rob Tucker
Liz Windridge

Present Nutfield:

Maureen Prestidge (Churchwarden)
Charmaine Lyus
Brian Lyus
Serena Fowler
Lyn Hargreaves
Kristy Armer
Liz Townsend
John Scott

Apologies :

Anne Pressey, Penny Sherringham, Kate Troup

The meeting was opened by Fr. Paul with a welcome, the Archdeacon was introduced, congratulated on his new position and thanked for his attendance.

Fr. Paul left the meeting.

Archdeacon Geoff Dumbreck opened the meeting with welcome and Prayer, all attendees then briefly introduced themselves.

The Archdeacon explained about the post being vacant since September 2023 and that Fr Paul was now interim Priest in charge. The expectation is usually that this is for an agreed timeline before a new priest is appointed.

It was put to all meeting participants whether Fr. Paul was the right person for the job.

It was a unanimous decision by all in attendance, further emails from both congregations were read aloud and passed onto the Archdeacon to take away and present to the patrons the following day.

A timeline of items to be completed was outlined, it was suggested that by mid-October 2026 it would be concluded.

BLETCHINGLEY AND NUTFIELD BENEFICE TIMETABLE

Action	Deadline
Archdeacon meets PCCs to informally consult about: 1) if the Interim appointment has been a success; 2) if yes, to propose lifting suspension early 3) may wish to request the Bishop suggests the current PiC as a single candidate (PCCs pass a resolution as part of their response to the formal consultation to follow).	Wednesday 14 January
Archdeacon meets Patrons informally to consult about: 1) to ascertain their position on the success of the Interim appointment 2) to ascertain if they would be supportive of Fr Paul as a single candidate 3) if the above is positive, propose lifting suspension early	Thursday 15 January
If all parties are in favour, the Archdeacon consults by letter about lifting the suspension early and the success of the interim appointment.	Monday 19 January (deadline to reply Monday 16 February)

The letter is sent to: PCC Secretaries; Churchwardens; Patrons; Area Dean; Deanery Lay Chair; and Interim Priest in Charge.	
If the response to the above is favourable, the Archdeacon to propose lifting suspension and extending the Interim appointment period to Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee (AMPC).	Date TBC March 2026
If the response to the above is favourable, the Archdeacon to propose lifting suspension and extending the Interim appointment period to Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC).	<i>Deadline to send paperwork 7 May</i> Thursday 21 May
Suspension lifted	End May
Diocesan Bishop's office to issue Notice of Vacancy (Form 30)	Early June
Diocesan Registrar sends Forms to Patrons and PCC Secretary to confirm start date of vacancy	June
PCCs to begin updating their Profile	June
The Patrons return Form 15/16 (within two months)	
PCCs hold Section 11 meetings - to approve Profile, to agree to a single candidate (PCC asks Diocesan Bishop to present Fr Paul as a single candidate) and to appoint parish reps.	Late July/early August
Archdeacon's PA invites Fr Paul to apply	Early August
Deadline to receive application	Mid August
Interview Paul Fitzpatrick	Early September
If interview is successful, an informal offer is made to the candidate. If he accepts, the following process ensues: - The Patron must seek the Bishop's approval of the making of the offer by completing the first part of Form 36, then send it to the Bishop for his approval/endorsement on the second part of the Form. The Form is then returned to the Patron. - At the same time, the Patron must seek the approval by the Parish Reps by completing the first part of Form 37 and then sending it to the Parish Reps to be endorsed on the second part of the Form. The Form is then returned to the Patron. If the parish representatives do not return the Form within two weeks, their approval is deemed to have been given. - When the Patron has received both the Bishop's and parish reps' approval, the candidate is then made a formal offer - If he accepts, the Patron should complete Form 38 and send it to the Bishop, who will then make	In September

arrangements for the institution of the new incumbent.	
Notice of Appointment sent to Diocesan Registrar	Mid September
Door notices sent to PCC Secretary	Mid September
Bishop of Croydon Institutes Fr Paul as Rector	Mid October

Parish profile is to be completed, and this is to include what we want from our Priest.

Archdeacon asked for any feedback that could be put forward to the patrons.

It was felt that Fr. Paul has reestablished confidence in the community, making people feel safe, he gives enormous strength and we can now be outward focused to build the future.

We will be notified of any changes/problems that may happen along the way.

The Resolution document was signed by Vicki Gillespie, Maureen Prestidge and the Archdeacon, having one copy each.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 8.30pm.