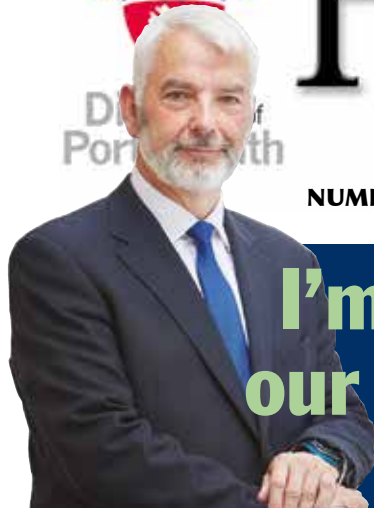




# Pompey Churches

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Parish news from north of Petersfield to the Isle of Wight

APRIL 2017



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## New church launched for 10,000 people in town redevelopment

**THESE are the people who hope to launch a brand new church on the edge of our diocese.**

Christians from several local churches aim to create a new worshipping community in the heart of Bordon to serve an influx of 10,000 people.

The town is set to almost double in size over the next 15 years, as part of a regeneration of former army barracks. It will include 3,500 new homes, two new schools, a new town centre, green space and a new bypass.

And right in the heart of that regeneration will be these churchgoers who have already started meeting and praying regularly for their new neighbours.

They have called themselves 'Beacon' and aim to be ready to offer help as the first new families move in from this summer. They'll be offering to host social events and family activities so the new residents can get to know each other.

And our diocese has seconded the Rev Dom Clarke, vicar of Blackmoor, Whitehill and Greatham, to work for a day a week to lead this fledgling group of worshippers.

"The area is largely wasteland at the moment, but by 2019-20, the first phase of housing and the town centre will be finished," he said. "We wanted to be ready for that moment, and so a group of us are meeting fortnightly, worshipping and working out how best to serve this new community."

"We really fortunate to be meeting in Mustang's, which is the old army club. It's right next to what will be the new town centre, and the building is being redeveloped, so we can be ready for whatever is built around it."

"We are calling ourselves 'Beacon' because we want to be a beacon at the centre of the new town, offering light to the local community."

# WE'LL BE HERE TO SERVE



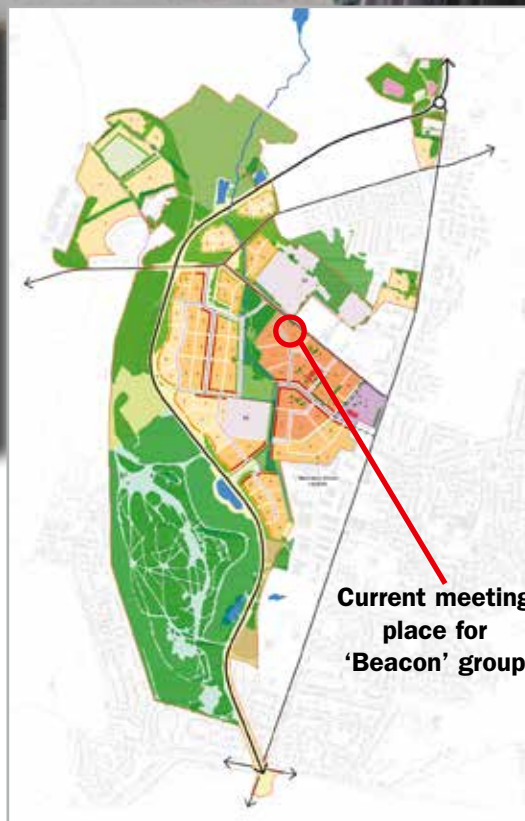
**Above: Members of the embryonic church; top: the Rev Dom Clarke at Mustang's, the former army social club, where they are currently meeting fortnightly; right: the masterplan for the regeneration of Bordon and Whitehill**

"We want it to be something different from the churches that are already in Bordon, serving those who'll be working in the new town centre or going to the new schools and youth hub which will be across the road from us. So a café-style ministry seems like one likely avenue."

"We suspect that the new families are likely to be younger, on average, than the existing population, so we want to appeal to that age group. It's a dream for

a vicar to be able to create a brand new church in a new community, and I know I'm going to enjoy it!"

Bordon had been a garrison town since the 1920s, with three sets of barracks in and around the town. The army started to move out several years ago, and the barracks have been empty since 2015.



**Current meeting place for 'Beacon' group**

will transform the town. As well as the new homes, there will be 80 new shops with underground parking, a cinema, a health centre, and primary and secondary schools.

The town is in the parish of St Mark's Church, Bordon, in Guildford diocese. Because Dom Clarke was already studying for a Masters in pioneer ministry, it made sense for him to take the lead in pioneering new ways to offer mission and ministry. It has meant a pioneering approach to co-operation between dioceses.

Dom is leading a church planting group of around 15, which includes worshippers from Anglican churches in Liphook, Bordon and Blackmoor, Methodists, Presbyterians, and some from the nearby Acorn Christian Healing Centre.

For more details, see [www.facebook.com/beaconbordon](http://www.facebook.com/beaconbordon) or follow @beaconbordon on Twitter.

The Whitehill and Bordon Regeneration Company was appointed to develop all three sites, using three different building companies. They are now two years into a 15-year project which