

GODALMING MINSTER UPDATE - 16TH NOVEMBER 2022

Extraordinary Parochial Church Meetings (EPCMs)

Extraordinary Parochial Church Meetings (EPCMs) took place on the 2nd October at St Peter and St Paul's Church and on the 16th October at Hambledon and Busbridge churches. The explicit purpose of these meetings was to enable the Electoral Rolls of St Peter and St Paul's Church with St Mark's Church, Busbridge and Hambledon to review and vote on the decisions taken by the respective PCCs on the 11th July to unite into a single parish.

All EPCMs voted overwhelmingly to proceed with the Godalming Minster.

Parish	For	Against	Abstain
St Peter and St Paul's with St Mark's	36	5	1
Busbridge	83	3	2
Hambledon	26	0	0

Post of First Responsibility' (PFR) at St Mark's/Ockford Ridge

Following a two-stage formal interview process with Bishop Jo Wells and also separately with Archdeacon Paul, the Reverend Sheila Samuels has accepted the post of Associate Minister at St Mark's/Ockford Ridge. Sheila was the sole candidate. The Diocese has requested that Sheila commence her new role on 1st December 2022, but she will be licensed at St Mark's Church on the 11th January 2023.

Sheila and Patrick will move to the Old Vicarage, Franklyn Road, after it becomes vacant on Wednesday 18th January 2023.

The Diocese grant of £135,000 funding over three years (2023-2025) to support the establishment of the Minster

A Diocesan Strategic Programme meeting took place in September and approved £135K funding towards the establishment of the Godalming Minster, spread over three years (2023-2025). Monies will be available from 1st January 2023.

The October BHC budgetary planning for 2023 incorporates £45K, for salary contributions towards a full-time Worship Pastor and a full-time Children's Worker.

An additional £10K is available to SPSP in 2023 for new AV equipment.

A full time Stipendiary clergy presence continuing at SPSP immediately after the retirement of Canon John Harkin

SPSP have confirmed that it has the funding to cover Canon John's stipend and housing costs in 2023 through Parish Share.

All patrons give their patronage voting rights to CPAS

CPAS are in the process of accepting the part patronage of all the other patrons (Archdeacon etc) at Busbridge and Hambledon and the signing over has begun. CPAS are in communication with Wendy Harris (Diocesan Advisory Committee).

SPSP/STM have contacted Bishop Andrew regarding relinquishing his patronage. As SPSP/STM is a 'suspended parish' the Diocesan Registry have advised that Bishop Andrew must remain responsible for the cure of souls until 1st January 2024. Therefore, his patronage handover will occur to CPAS when the new Godalming Minster parish is created.

Inclusivity

SPSP wrote to the Inclusive Church movement on the 17th October asking for it to be withdrawn from their network. This was actioned on the 9th November.

Consolidation of Charities - The process of pastoral reorganisation is accomplished with the Church Commissioners and the Diocese. Wendy Harris is the Diocesan Pastoral Secretary – she oversees the process on behalf of the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee and liaises with the Church Commissioners in London. The Pastoral Secretary has confirmed that there is no charge to the parishes for legal costs incurred in forming the Minster. PCCs may subsequently elect to seek independent legal counsel should this be deemed appropriate.

An initial meeting between our respective Treasurers and Wendy Harris will be scheduled soon.

Churches Together - Simon Taylor and John Harkin attended the Godalming 'Churches Together' Council meeting on the 20th October and informed them of the decision to unite the Parishes of Godalming, Busbridge and Hambledon and form Godalming Minster.

Minster Transition Steering Group - The first meeting took place on the 1st November. Discussion centred on the primary focus which was to identify the areas of immediate priority and establish subgroups to address.

Minster Senior Leadership Offsite - A joint SPSP/STM and BHC Senior Leadership offsite meeting will take place on the 30th November to gain alignment on Minster strategies, implementation of the Diocesan Needs Process (meeting scheduled 19th November) and near-term focus on priorities. Richard Lloyd and Jens Mankel from the Diocesan Mission Enabling Team will facilitate.

Schools - Emails have been sent to the Heads and Governors of Busbridge Junior School and St Mark and All Saints (both CoE schools) to inform them that both schools will be in the new Minster Parish from January 2024.

Contemporary Service at SPSP - An initial Contemporary Service was held at SPSP on the 6th November at 9.30am. Despite atrocious weather conditions, attendance was 240 (198 adults and 42 children). Congregational feedback hugely positive. Valuable learnings will be incorporated into the next Contemporary Service at SPSP, which is scheduled for the 26th March 2023.

SPSP Temporary Reordering - An onsite meeting is scheduled for the 24th November to lay the groundwork for an Archdeacon's License to temporarily remove front pews and install a platform, AV system, two portable monitors and a large retractable screen. Archdeacon Paul and Wendy Harris (Diocesan Advisory Committee or DAC) are invited, amongst others.

David Wilkin