

GODALMING MINSTER UPDATE - MAY 2023

Consolidation of Parishes and Charities

The proposed final draft of the 'Parish Scheme - Final Draft for Godalming Minster', put before the March PCC, was approved conditional on strengthening the wording in clause 9 (referencing clergy use of the Godalming Rectory) and providing additional clarity on the representation of members of the laity on the future Minster PCC, such that it will be represent all four churches and be valid for the first 2 terms (6 years).

Subsequent discussions have taken place with the Diocese and the above conditions satisfied by modifying the text. SPSP PCC has also approved the revised wording. The final document was approved by the Bishop's Council on 27th March and signed by Bishop Andrew. See separate document.

The Diocese Church Commissioners have now commenced work to produce the necessary detailed legal documentation. This is expected to be returned to Wendy Harris by the end of May, thereby allowing us the opportunity for further internal review prior to the July PCC.

Minster PCC

A final draft of the process and timing to form the Minster PCC (known as the 'Scheme') has been developed by Simon Taylor, John Harkin and Frances Shaw in conjunction with guidance from the Diocese on Church Representation Rule interpretation. This draft has been reviewed by Churchwardens and their feedback is currently being incorporated. Once complete, the Scheme will be presented to the PCC at our July meeting.

Minster Senior Leadership Team (SLT) - The SLT continues to meet approximately every two weeks. Terms of Reference (TOR) have been agreed and will be shared with the PCC in July.

The SLT also interacts regularly with Richard Lloyd and Jens Mankel from the Diocesan Mission Enabling Team. With their guidance, a Parish Needs Plan has been developed with concrete objectives and action plans for three focus areas: Intentional Discipleship, Growing Younger, and Mission and Evangelism through community engagement. When final and approved by the PCC, these Minster plans will be reported to the Diocese at a high level in July and August as the mandated Parish Action Plan.

Contemporary Services at SPSP - Following the trial contemporary service at SPSP on 6th November 2022 (and two Christmas Eve services), a further contemporary service was held on 26th March 2023. The learning opportunity this time was primarily to determine how Moss Lane School (3 mins walk from SPSP) would function as a sustainable Sunday morning site for children's ministry. This proved to be overwhelmingly the case with high attendance. 26th March was also an opportunity to test the practicality of running two services on a Sunday morning, as the regular SPSP choral eucharist service followed the 10am contemporary service at 11.15am.

Learnings continue to be captured regarding timings and contemporary setup/take down. The attendance at the contemporary service exceeded expectations at over 100 adults and 40 children.

SPSP Temporary Reordering and A/V - Numerous meetings have taken place to establish what is specifically required to bring the current SPSP audio/visual system up to modern church standards yet minimise the impact on the existing church fabric.

Some reordering of the church interior is also required, including the temporary removal of some of pews at the front and some at the back, in addition to re-positioning some of the front side pews. The A/V system will require a faculty. The re-ordering can be done under an Archdeacon's Licence. The required scope and cost is £87K with the A/V quotation costing £72K and the reordering £15K. Following a PCC meeting on 13th March a fundraising team has been established. A DAC meeting will take place at SPSP on 2nd May, with the objective to complete key works 4Q 2023.

David Wilkin, Reverend Simon Willetts and Canon John Harkin