

GODALMING MINSTER UPDATE - JULY 2023

Consolidation of Parishes and Charities

The draft of the revised 'Pastoral Scheme' was sent to the Church Commissioners by Wendy Harris, the Diocesan Advisory Committee and Pastoral Secretary. This was returned to her on schedule, with minimal additional text and, after some clarifying discussions with Wendy, the document is essentially identical to what was previously approved, albeit certain sections have been slightly rearranged.

In accordance with the Mission and Pastoral Measure of 2011 this final draft document has since been made widely available to the public from 8th June. Anyone may make representations for or against the draft 'Pastoral Scheme'. The deadline to do this is now 24th July and only direct to the Church Commissioners. Notice to this effect has been posted at church entrances, the document itself is available at the back of each of the four churches, and accessible on respective websites. Reference to it is made at all services.

All PCCs are required to vote on the final 'Pastoral Scheme' draft.

Minster PCC

A final draft of the process and timing for the 'Proposed Scheme for Establishment of a PCC' 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 shared with Churchwardens and feedback incorporated wherever possible.

Once the 'PCC Scheme' is approved by the PCCs it will then be put before the Bishop's Council in the Autumn for adoption. The proposed 'PCC Scheme' calls for a Special Meeting earliest January 2024 to allow the combined Electoral Roll of the Minster to elect its PCC members and officers.

Minster Senior Leadership Team (SLT) - The SLT continues to meet approximately every two weeks. Terms of Reference (TOR) have been broadly agreed and will be shared with the PCCs when finalised. Current discussion is focussed on convolving work on Minster branding with a new vision statement and memorable strapline. This will then move towards the development of a broad implementation plan and communication strategy by September.

The Parish Needs Plan has been developed with concrete objectives and action plans for three primary strategies to enable the delivery of Christian mission into greater Godalming: Intentional Discipleship, Growing Younger, and Mission and Evangelism through community engagement.

Minster Steering Group - continues to meet approximately monthly with an increasing focus on branding/communication/IT and processes to merge staffing, their job descriptions and contracts (TUPE). Once the Church Commissioners have finalised the Revised Parish Scheme (expected in September), work to commence in earnest on merging the charities under the new name of 'Godalming Minster'.

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 re-ordering 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 required cost is in the order of £90K and SPSP PCC approval is in place to proceed.

A DAC meeting took place at SPSP on 2nd May and has subsequently approved the project. Long lead A/V items will be ordered once the statutory 28-day notice period has been completed later this month. The A/V system will require a faculty which has been applied for and is being processed. The re-ordering can be done under an Archdeacon's Licence which is also currently being processed. The aim is to commence works in September with completion before end 2023.

David Wilkin, Reverend Simon Willetts and Canon John Harkin

July 2023