

MINSTER UPDATE - MARCH 2023

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

Following the licensing of Reverend Sheila Samuels at St Mark's Church on 11th January by Archdeacon Paul Davies, the Samuels family moved to The Vicarage, Franklyn Road on the 18th January.

The presence of a re-activated vicarage proximal to St Mark's All Saints School is already being felt in the immediate Ockford Ridge community.

2023 Minster Budget

As we move towards establishing the Minster at the end of this year, the Minster Steering Group met on 20th February and identified a 2023 budgetary requirement of £17K (incl. c. 20% contingency). The Busbridge PCC (which receives the Diocesan grant) unanimously approved this expenditure on 13th March. The monies will be sourced from the Diocesan three-year Minster missional grant and thus there is no impact on existing parish budgets.

The budget comprises two expenditure categories:

Comms/Media:

£7K - Minster Branding and Identity/New Website Frame (external consultant)

£5K - Additional BHC time writing (more hours)

New Contemporary Music Equipment at SPSP

£5K - Keyboard/Drums/Mics etc (essentially equipment that currently exists at BB)

Consolidation of Parishes and Charities

The process of parish reorganisation is accomplished through the Church Commissioners and the Diocese at no cost to the parishes. A new Parish Scheme document is drawn up to record changes required to create the Godalming Minster (clergy, housing etc.) and this document becomes a legally binding document approved by Bishop Andrew.

An informal consultation process commenced with an initial meeting in January with Wendy Harris (the Diocesan Advisory Committee and Pastoral Secretary) and a subgroup of the Steering Group. Following subsequent review and feedback, a final draft of the new Parish Scheme document was put to all three PCCs on 13th March. This was approved by SPSP/STM and BHC PCCs, the latter with two modifications to further clarify the usage of the Godalming parsonage for ongoing ministry usage, and to insert language pertaining to the future composition of the Minster PCC, consistent with that in the July 2022 Minster Evaluation Document. Wendy Harris graciously attended each PCC meeting on 13th March to walk everyone through the Parish Scheme process and answered questions.

The next steps are to finalise the draft Parish Scheme and end the informal consultation process. The Pastoral Secretary forwards the document to Bishop Andrew for approval and then the Diocese and Church Commissioners produce the necessary legal documentation based on the draft scheme. Ideally this will then be then put to PCCs in July for final approval. Thereafter, assuming no significant public or stakeholder objections are raised (not expected), the Church Commissioners will finalise the scheme in August by obtaining Bishop Andrew's signature. BHC and SPSP will then proceed to work with the Charity Commission and banks etc to effectively merge the existing three charities into one (to be named Godalming Minster) by 1st January 2024.

Minster Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

SLT commenced meeting 6th February and is now up and running with meetings scheduled approximately every two weeks. It is defining its purpose and is addressing 'sacred' activities to ensure mission and worship plans across the Minster are put in place. This includes timing and location of all services, associated children's and youth work, worship, pastoral care and other mission focussed ministries.

The SLT also interacts regularly with Richard Lloyd and Jens Mankel from the Diocesan Mission Enabling Team. Together we are seeking to further develop actionable plans for the three missional priorities identified in November 2022, namely Discipleship, Younger Generations and Community. On 27th February the SLT further developed these plans and also separately identified Discipleship, Evangelism and Leadership as BHC areas of focus currently (with SPSP/STM to follow in due course) when utilising the Diocesan church health 'checklist'. When final, 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 on from the initial trial contemporary service SPSP on 6th November and two Christmas children's services, planning is underway for a second contemporary service on 26th March. Prior learnings are being incorporated. Congregational response so far has been overwhelmingly positive despite the huge effort it took to set up 'one off' services. The focus in March is primarily to establish if sustainable children's ministry is possible. To this end Moss Lane School (3 mins walk from SPSP) has been secured, with the option of renting on Sunday mornings for a nominal fee.

A final schedule of Minster wide services has been developed and is now agreed by all three PCCs. The schedule accommodates the needs of most congregations and provides for stability and growth. Inevitably compromise is required by the Sunday morning Choral and Contemporary congregations and this is genuinely appreciated. The pattern of services is as shown below. The focus so far has been on establishing the timing of specific services. Holy Communion services for the Contemporary service at 10.30am will be added shortly. The service pattern will begin in January 2024 for a trial period of 12 months, dependant on completion of the SPSP church re-ordering. It is anticipated there will be one off contemporary services held in SPSP during the 4Q 2023.

Time	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
8am		BCP HC at SPSP			
9am	Choral HC at SPSP		Choral HC (1 hour) at SPSP		Choral HC at SPSP
TBC	Muddy				
10am	Classic (inc HC) at BB	Classic at BB	Classic at BB	Classic at BB	Classic at BB
10am	All Age at STM	Holy Communion at STM	Service of the Word at STM	Holy Communion at STM	Café Church at STM
10am	Morning Worship at HAM	Holy Communion at HAM	Morning Worship at HAM	Morning Worship at HAM	Holy Communion at HAM
10.30am		Contemporary at SPSP	Contemporary at SPSP	Contemporary at SPSP	Contemporary at SPSP
4pm			Messy Church at HAM		
5pm				Choral Evensong at SPSP	
6pm	Youth Service at BB	Evening Worship at BB		Holy Communion at BB	

A Minster celebration service will be officiated by Bishop Andrew and Archdeacon Paul on Sunday 14th January 2024 at SPSP.

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 three rows 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 SPSP Finance

Committee have met to review the required scope and cost with the A/V quotation costing £72K and the reordering £15K, so a total of £87K.

On 13th March the SPSP/STM PCC voted in favour of the AV plan and partial pew removal. It also voted to immediately begin fundraising for £87K, with the objective to completing key works 4Q 2023.

Minster PCC

Following on from the Minster PCC framework set out in the July Minster document, a Steering Group is establishing a small group to work with the Diocese to develop the practical detail of how this new PCC will be formed in the autumn. We are advised that the framework model is based on Electoral Rolls, Usual Sunday Attendance and Finance, and equates to 15 laity and 2 churchwardens (the maximum allowable under the Church Representation Rules).

Patronage

BHC patronage has now moved to become 100% CPAS, thus facilitating the subsequent transfer of SPSP/STM from the current patronage held by the Bishop to CPAS. SPSP/STM is currently in 'suspension' which means that there is a temporary restriction on the patrons right to present a priest to a benefice. The Bishop will remove the suspension when the new parish is formed and CPAS will become the new patrons of the parish, legally taking effect on 1st January 2024.

Please email or contact any of the undersigned if you have any questions or concerns.

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