



## Godalming Minster Evaluation Update #1

Late last year Bishop Andrew visited the Busbridge, Hambledon and St. Peter & St. Paul PCCs (including St. Mark's church) and described a vision for Godalming where there would be a renewed and united focus on 'proclaiming afresh the Gospel of Christ'. He proposed the creation of a single parish rather than the three parishes we have today. The PCCs agreed to evaluate this challenge and so the concept of a possible Godalming Minster was born. Godalming was once one of the original, ancient Christian Minster churches which predate the formation of the United Kingdom. It used to be a Minster town with a significant Minster ministry of love, care, proclamation, teaching, worship, and presence.

A Minster Evaluation Steering Group has been formed with a view to proposing a recommendation to the PCCs in July. This group is chaired by David Wilkin and co-chaired by Canon John Harkin and Reverend Simon Taylor. Reporting to the Steering Group are six Working Groups which will address key issues and undertake analyses to determine whether the Minster concept is viable at this time. The membership of each group has been posted in each of the four churches. The six groups are:

**Finance** - examining likely costs involved to expand mission – does it make financial sense?

**Property** – looking at how existing properties could be best utilised/leveraged to further ministry needs.

**Services/Worship** – identifying the best pattern of services across four churches whilst still preserving individual congregational identity and worship style.

**Clergy** – focusing on mission and how we can reach out in love to all in Godalming Town; enhance clergy well-being, pastoral care and overall resourcing.

**0-18 Year** – looking at how a Minster would impact youth and children's ministries across Godalming.

**Administration/Operations** – addressing how a Minster would be run efficiently and effectively.

All teams have had a least one meeting to date and begun to identify key issues and possible solutions. The Steering Group has discussed Patronage in detail as Busbridge, Hambledon and St. Peter & St. Paul/St. Mark's have significantly different patronage structures.

We are pleased to have Reverend Richard Lloyd as a member of the Steering Group. Richard is the head of the Diocesan Mission Enabler Team and thus brings considerable experience to the discussion of expanding mission in Godalming.

If you have not read Bishop Andrew's vision for Godalming (below and our respective Parish websites), then you are encouraged to do so. There are many questions and concerns at this stage. This is good and it will take time to answer these. Please to speak to Reverend Simon Taylor, Canon John Harkin, David Wilkin, or indeed any member of a team if you have concerns or questions at this stage.

David Wilkin, Chair of the Minster Evaluation Steering Group