

GODALMING MINSTER EVALUATION



ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH
WITH ST MARK'S CHURCH



GME Steering Group Update #2 – April 2022

CALL TO PRAYER for the Minster Evaluation Process: Members of BHC, St Mark's and St Peter and St Paul's are encouraged to pray together to underpin the discussions regarding the Bishop's suggestion that all four churches join together to become one united parish, forming a Minster. The first Prayer Meeting on 13th March was wonderfully led and attended. Please join the next special meeting at St Peter and St Paul's Church on 10th April from 5pm to 5.45pm. Further Prayer Meetings are being planned to enable us to pray together for God's vision for our future together.

Please note there will be two joint services in May for congregations to get to know one another better and to experience a style of worship which they may not be normally accustomed. On 8th May there will be a traditional eucharist service at St Peter and St Paul's Church at 10am and on 15th May Busbridge will host a contemporary service at 10.30am. After each of these services Simon Taylor, John Harkin and David Wilkin (Steering Group Chair) will be available to answer questions about the status of the Minster evaluation. In addition, there will also be an Easter Eve Vigil at St Peter and St Paul's Church on Saturday 16th April at 8pm.

Work continues apace on the Minster evaluation with the Steering Group and Working Groups continuing to meet regularly. Please continue to ask or send your questions or concerns to Simon, John or David or direct to a Working Group member.

Steering Group:

David Wilkin (Chair), Reverend Simon Taylor (Co-Chair), Reverend Canon John Harkin (Co-Chair), David Brockman, Will Bryans, Matthew Greenfield, Helen Goatley, Sue Hardy, Reverend Richard Lloyd (Diocese), Reverend Sheila Samuels, Reverend Simon Willetts.

- Discussions addressed patronage types, historical background, limitations of various forms of patronage and the patronage structure now existing at each parish. Patronage becomes significant when choices of future clergy incumbents are presented. All agreed that a stable, sustainable, long term patronage model was preferred. Richard Lloyd (Diocesan Head of Mission Enabler Team) liaised with CPAS about sole/shared patronage models.
- SPSP/STM are holding additional PCC meetings to provide more opportunity for discussion regarding Patronage and Inclusive Church (the parish has been a member of the Inclusive Church network since 2008). Simon Taylor attended their PCC meeting on 4th April to share the BHC perspective.
- Sustained prayer across all three parishes is essential in order to hear God's will. A single point contact in BHC and SPSP/STM is co-ordinating a Focus Prayer Group, potential for SPSP/STM participation in the BHC Wed am Zoom Prayer meeting, a joint evening prayer service in March (see above) homegroup prayers etc.
- Discussions addressed Theology and Worship Styles, considering 4 areas, Approaches to Worship, Anglican Theology, Liberal, Evangelical and Catholic Theologies, and Church Models. It was agreed that our four churches have much more in common theologically than initially believed.

- Further discussions addressed Church Structural Models which could potentially be applicable to a Church Minster outcome. Six C of E models were considered and it was unanimously agreed that a Single Parish of multiple churches was preferable as it overwhelmingly demonstrates visible and theological unity, trust in one another, satisfies the Bishop's invitation and best enables mission implementation by having a single integrated strategy.
- Historical Electoral Roll and Attendance Statistics provide an overview of electoral roll and average weekly attendance from 2016 to present for both SPSP/STM and BHC. Trends observed constrain any future growth and therefore giving assumptions. Whilst only a cursory analysis has been completed, the conclusions readily point to the challenges ahead.
- The promotion of each other's parish services and times on a regular weekly basis was discussed. It was acknowledged that the logistics of accurately doing this could be time consuming and complex. It was therefore recommended that each parish should just refer to the others website, in terms of finding out about service information.

Finance Group:

Martin Lambert (Chair), Mark Brain (Co-Chair), Andrew Bolton, Andrew Dunn, Souheil Haddad, Colin Stokes, Michael Stubbs.

- The team are developing two operating cost scenarios (a) minimum and (b) 'wish list' or maximum case.
- The chair/co-chairs met representatives from the Diocese on the 24th February:
 - Parish Share for a future Godalming Minster (£160k pa)
 - Each additional minister £60k including housing
 - Potential £50k over 3 years from the diocese to support parish becoming self-funding by end of the 3 year period
 - A total of £300k available for around 6 projects of £50k each
- A feasible scenario, based on key assumptions, could be 1 x Incumbent, 2 x Associate Ministers and 1 x Training Curate.
- Further discussions with the Diocese will inevitably be required once a clearer vision is developed of how the preferred Minster model should operate.

Services/Music Group:

Matthew Greenfield (Chair), Simon Taylor (Co-Chair), John Harkin (Co-Chair), Ben Ford, Clare Haddad, Karen Hart, Sheila Samuels, Frances Shaw.

- Discussion has included current worship patterns, provision of active youth and children's activities, outreach to all communities, associated impact of potential change to service patterns, how to resource children's ministry at BHC, SPSP/STM and potential leadership models.
- Consideration was given to opportunities for joint services for the congregations of all four churches to meet each other and worship together in different styles. The conclusion was to hold three joint services: the Easter Eve Vigil at SPSP on Saturday 16th April at 8pm, the 10am morning traditional eucharistic service at SPSP on Sunday 8th May and the 10.30am morning contemporary service at Busbridge on Sunday 15th May.
- Discussion centred on an initial 4 potential models considering how existing service distinctiveness can be maintained. These are:
 - Keep services patterns as they are at each church
 - All BB Sunday morning services move to SPSP ie one traditional and one contemporary
 - All traditional Sunday morning services at SPSP and all contemporary Sunday morning services at BB
 - All traditional Sunday morning services at BB and all contemporary Sunday morning services at SPSP

None of these models was thought to be wholly satisfactory, and amendments and additional models will be considered at the next meeting.

0-18 years Group:

Anto Ficatier (Chair), Sarah Higgins (Co-Chair), Fran Duffell, Juliet Gilbert, Debbie Jones, Vickie Nye, Jacky Tickner.

- We discussed and explained the current provision for children in our four churches. Sunday children's groups at SPSP and Busbridge; Hambledon Messy Church; toddler/baby groups at Busbridge, SPSP and St Mark's. Teenager groups at Busbridge.
- We would like more volunteers, provision for children and young people during services, combined holiday club, possibly combined youth group.
- We have contacted Andy Poulson at Trinity Trust who has set out what TTT provide currently for young people.
- We need to think about how to provide for 0-18 age group at the joint services (Busbridge to carry on as normal, we would need help at the SPSP service as there are only two leaders)
- We have not yet addressed likely financial cost until we have a clearer idea of the vision and ideal provision for 0-18.

Operations/Admin:

Vic Hicks (Chair), Sarah Bryans (Co-Chair), Cat Garner, Liz Gorst, Margot Spencer.

- The Working Group has met several times and have a sound understanding of how each parish communicates and functions. They are at a point where further input/direction is required from other Working Groups and the Steering Group on how the Godalming Minister would be structured and clergy staff located.
- The Old Rectory could form an optimum site for centralising and merging administration and operations.
- Existing IT infrastructure and web-based processes can be readily expanded but investment would be required at St Peter and St Paul's. Admin staffing would depend on required locations to be staffed but be expected to grow rather than diminish.

Property:

Bea Richards (Chair), Gary Sherwin (Co-Chair), Susan Lochner, Michael Stubbs, Ian Tomes, Mark Williams.

- The property Working Group continue to review the status of the housing/land portfolio across the three parishes.

Clergy:

Simon Taylor (Chair), John Harkin (Chair), David Jenkins, Patrick Samuels, Sheila Samuels, Andy Spencer, Margot Spencer, Simon Willetts.

- The clergy are discussing which roles are uniquely clerical and which can be lay led, including where individual clergy should live and work. What is the role of the Rector and what percentage of time will overall leadership require?
- Each church location has unique characteristics and thus clergy requirements. Implementing a sustainable mission strategy is central to their deliberations, including exploration of town centre chaplaincies.
- They are currently assuming 4-5 stipendiary clergy will be available to the Minster. Members of the group are meeting in smaller groups to consider specific scenarios to bring to the Steering and Working Groups as soon as possible.

David Wilkin

Chair of Steering Group