

Minster Update – November 16, 2022

Extraordinary Parochial Church Meetings (EPCMs)

Extraordinary Parochial Church Meetings (EPCMs) took place on Oct 16, 2022, at Hambledon and Busbridge churches. St Peter & St Paul held their EPCM on October 2. The explicit purpose of these meetings was to enable the electoral rolls of Busbridge, Hambledon and St Peter & St Paul to review and vote on the decisions taken by the respective PCCs on July 11 to unite into a single parish.

All EPCMs voted overwhelmingly to proceed with the Godalming Minster.

Parish	For	Against	Abstain
Busbridge	83	3	2
Hambledon	26	0	0
St Peter & St Paul	36	5	1

See separate BHC meeting minutes for details.

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

Following a two-stage formal interview process with Bishop Jo Wells and also separately with Archdeacon Paul, the Rev Sheila Samuels has accepted the post of Associate Minister at St. Mark's/Ockford Ridge. Sheila was the sole candidate. The Diocese have requested that Sheila commence her new role on December 1st, 2022, but she will be licensed at St. Mark's on January 11.

Sheila and Patrick will move to the Old Vicarage, Franklyn Road after it becomes vacant on Wednesday January 18, 2023.

The Diocese grant of £135,000 funding over three years (2023-2025) to support the establishment of the Minster

A Diocesan Strategic Programme meeting took place in September and approved £135K funding towards the establishment of the Godalming Minster, spread over three years (2023-2025). Monies will be available from Jan 1, 2023.

The October BHC budgetary planning for 2023 incorporates £45K, for salary contributions towards a full-time worship pastor and a for a full-time children's worker.

An additional £10K is available to SPSP in 2023 for new AV equipment.

A full time Stipendiary clergy presence continuing at Hambledon and SPSP immediately after the retirement of Canon John Harkin

SPSP have confirmed that it has the funding to cover Canon John's stipend and housing costs in 2023 through parish share.

All patrons give their patronage voting rights to CPAS

CPAS are in the process of accepting the part patronage of all the other patrons (Archdeacon etc) at Busbridge and Hambledon and the signing over has begun. CPAS are in communication with Wendy Harris (Diocesan Advisory Committee).

SPSP/STM have contacted Bishop Andrew regarding relinquishing his patronage. As SPSP/STM is a 'suspended parish', the Diocesan Registry have advised that Bishop Andrew must remain responsible for the cure of souls until January 1, 2024. Therefore, his patronage handover will occur to CPAS when the new Godalming Minster parish is created.

Inclusivity

SPSP wrote to the Inclusive Church movement October 17, asking for it to be withdrawn from their network. This was actioned on November 9.

Consolidation of Charities - The process of pastoral reorganisation is accomplished with the Church Commissioners and the Diocese. Wendy Harris is the Diocesan Pastoral Secretary – she oversees the process on behalf of the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee and liaises with the Church Commissioners in London. The Pastoral Secretary has confirmed that there is no charge to the parishes for legal costs incurred in forming the Minster. PCCs may subsequently elect to seek independent legal counsel should this be deemed appropriate.

An initial meeting between our respective Treasurers and Wendy Harris will be scheduled soon.

Churches Together - Simon Taylor and John Harkin attended the Godalming 'Churches Together' Council meeting on October 20 and informed them of the decision to unite the Parishes of Busbridge, Hambledon and Godalming and form the Godalming Minster.

Minster Transition Steering Group - The first meeting took place on November 1. Discussion centred on the primary focus which was to identify the areas of immediate priority and establish subgroups to address.

Minster Senior Leadership Offsite - A joint BHC and SPSP/STM Senior Leadership offsite will take place November 30 to gain alignment on Minster strategies, implementation of the Diocesan Needs Process (meeting scheduled November 19) and near-term focus on priorities. Richard Lloyd and Jens Mankel from the Diocesan Mission Enabling Team will facilitate.

Schools – Emails have been sent to the Heads and Governors of Busbridge Junior School and St Mark and All Saints (both CoE schools) to inform them that both schools will be in the new Minster Parish from January 2024.

Contemporary Service at SPSP – An initial contemporary service was held at SPSP on Nov 6 at 09:30am. Despite atrocious weather conditions, attendance was 240 (198 adults and 42 children). Congregational feedback hugely positive. Valuable learnings will be incorporated into next contemporary service at SPSP, which is scheduled for March 26, 2023.

SPSP Temporary Reordering – An onsite meeting is scheduled November 24 to lay the groundwork for an Archdeacon's License to temporarily remove front pews and install a platform, AV system, two portable monitors and a large retractable screen. Archdeacon Paul and Wendy Harris (Diocesan Advisory Committee or DAC) are invited, amongst others.

David Wilkin