

Pastoral Secretary's Report

Diocesan Synod, November 2022

Background

In 2019, the Bishop of Winchester convened a Deployment Working Group with the remit to consider the number and location of our stipendiary clergy appointments, and to make recommendations as to how finite resources could be allocated in a way which best addressed the missional priorities which the Diocesan Synod had formulated and adopted at its 2013 and 2016 conferences.

A consultation process took place over a period of several months, and the group's final recommendations were received and adopted by the Diocesan Synod at its residential conference in November 2019. Having agreed at its July 2019 meeting a 3-year financial plan, the Diocesan Synod adopted a recommendation to continue working with roughly 140 stipendiary posts, and requested that a Deployment Development Group (DDG) formulate proposals for pastoral changes which would deliver a more coherent approach to deployment. This work involved a comprehensive review of every deanery, benefice and parish in the diocese, using electoral rolls, statistics for mission, financial information, schools' information, and Experian data on population and other social demographics.

Covid arrived in early 2020, when the financial impact of the pandemic prompted a further review which was conducted by the Diocesan Resilience Team. The Diocesan Resilience Team recommended a reduction of 22 posts.

Deanery leadership teams were fully involved in both of these reviews.

Early in 2021, informal consultations began with all parishes involved – at the time, approximately 50% of parishes across the diocese were engaged in these conversations. Given the nature of the pastoral process which is made up of three consultation stages: informal, formal and public, some of the proposals evolved during this process, some were paused, but the majority began to progress through the various stages.

For context, during the period 2018-2020, seven pastoral schemes were completed. Plus, an additional four boundary change, and four re-naming pastoral orders.

Since January 2021, thirty schemes of various complexity have begun. The following is a summary of the schemes in progress and completed from January 2021 to date.

Schemes proposed, and their current status

Bournemouth Archdeaconry

SAMPC 20/01	Dissolution of Benefice of Totton, creation of new parishes and benefices, and creation of group ministry	Scheme came into effect 1 April 2021
SAMPC 20/05	Union of parishes, Fordingbridge and Hyde and Breamore and Hale with Woodgreen	Scheme came into effect 22 June 2021
SAMPC 20/06	Union of St Mary Southampton and Southampton St Barnabas	In progress, subject to a public hearing 17 November 2022
JAMPC 21/11	Union of Bransgore and Hinton Admiral and Burley and Sopley, and the Union of Mudeford and Burton	Public consultation to begin shortly
JAMPC 21/12	Union of Thorngate and East with West Wellow and Sherfield English	In progress, objection received during public consultation
JAMPC 21/18	Union of Freemantle and Millbrook	Public consultation to begin shortly
JAMPC 21/21	Union of the Hound and Hamble le Rice	Public consultation to begin shortly
SAMPC 22/01	Union of Bournemouth Holy Epiphany and Throop	Formal consultation to begin shortly
SAMPC 22/02	Union Marchwood and Eling, and the union of Totton and Calmore	Public consultation to begin shortly
SAMPC 22/07	Union of Winton, Moordown and Charminster and Bournemouth St Francis	Formal consultation to begin shortly

Winchester Archdeaconry

JAMPC 21/03	Union of the benefice of Kempshott and Immanuel Hatch Warren & Beggarwood	Scheme came into effect 1 March 2022
JAMPC 21/04	Union of the benefice of Pastrow and Appleshaw, Kimpton, Thruxton, Fyfield and Shipton Bellinger	In progress, subject to a public hearing 17 November 2022
JAMPC 21/08	Transfer of the Parish of West Andover to Andover St Mary; union of Andover St Mary with Knight's Enham (and constituent parishes)	In progress, decision due shortly
JAMPC 21/09	Dissolution of the benefice of Lower Dever; transfer of Barton Stacey & Bullington to Hurstbourne Priors, Longparish, St Mary Bourne and Woodcott, and union with Whitchurch with Tufton with Litchfield; transfer of South Wonston to Upper Dever	Scheme came into effect 1 August 2022
JAMPC 21/15	Union of Winchester Christ Church and St Luke Stanmore	Paused

JAMPC 21/19	Union of the parish of Kingsley with Oakhanger with Bentley, Binsted and Froyle (single PCC)	In progress, delayed due to change of incumbent
JAMPC 21/20	Union of the parishes of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden and subsequent union with the benefice of the Resurrection Alton; also the union of the parish of Medstead with the benefice of Four Marks	Public consultation to begin shortly
JAMPC 22/01	Union of the benefice of Overton and Laverstoke with Freefolk and the benefice of North Waltham and Steventon and Ashe and Deane	Public consultation to begin shortly

Suspension of Presentation

In 2021, seventeen suspension of presentations were put into place; and seven were specifically lifted.

In 2022, so far, eight suspension of presentations have been put into place; and three have been specifically lifted.

Suspension of presentation also falls away once a scheme comes into effect and does not need to be 'lifted' hence the higher number being put into place; many of which will end on the making of a pastoral scheme. Those that are specifically lifted are benefices where no pastoral re-organisation will be taking place and therefore the suspension is no longer required. In these instances, priests-in-charge are re-licenced as vicar/rector using the shortened vacancy procedure.

Common Tenure Interim Posts

Common Tenure Interim Posts are a way to licence clergy to a post for a limited period of time with a specific purpose agreed for that period, for instance after a particularly long incumbency where an adjustment to change needs to be managed, or where pastoral breakdown may have occurred, or simply to test sustainability of the parish, etc.

Three Common Tenure Interim Posts have been agreed to date in 2022. They include: Sherbornes with Pamber; Winchester Holy Trinity; Southampton St Denys. Suspension of presentation is required when a CTIP is proposed.

Removing the legal effects of consecration

Removing the legal effects of consecration and transferring part of the churchyard to the PCC for their parochial purposes often occurs when the PCC wish to use that land for their hall, or other rental purposes as this becomes easier to manage once the land sits outside the faculty jurisdiction.

SAMPC 20/04	Transfer of part of churchyard for use by the PCC of St John's Hedge End	Scheme came into effect on 22 June 2021
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JAMPC 21/14	Transfer of part of churchyard for use by the PCC of Winchester All Saints with St Andrew, Chilcomb with St Peter, Chesil	Scheme came into effect on 1 September 2022
SAMPC 22/	Transfer of part of the churchyard of All Saints, North Baddesley to the WDBF for PCC purposes	Formal consultation to begin shortly

Church closures and re-use

Church closures are both rare and extremely lengthy processes. Closure is usually sought by the parish, not by the diocese. The DMPC has a policy in place which seeks to find alternative use for the building at the same time as closure.

NAMPC 19/09	St Luke Stanmore, closure and demolition of church for development of site for social housing plus a new church building	Scheme made, waiting for coming into effect date
SAMPC 20/02	Exbury St Katherine, PCC sought DMPC agreement to redundancy	Alternative solutions being explored
SAMPC 21/06	Maybush St Jude, Southampton, closure and re-use as a children's day nursery	In progress, subject to a public hearing 17 November 2022
SAMPC 22/08	Holy Trinity Millbrook, closure and re-use	Alternative uses being explored

Dissolution of Group Ministries

Group ministries were 'in fashion' several years ago and were a way to formalise joint working across benefice boundaries, perhaps prior to a possible union, or simply to encourage collegiate working. Unfortunately, we have found that these groups tend to fall into disuse with the passing of time with the result that the legal structure still exists without the actual relationship on the ground. Therefore, where we find they have been forgotten, we prefer to dismantle the legal structure in favour of more organic joint working.

DMPC 21/02	Dissolution of the Group Ministry between Arle Valley & Itchen Valley	Dissolved 14 June 2021
JAMPC 21/13	Dissolution of the Group Ministry between St Mary Southampton and St Michael the Archangel Southampton	Dissolved 27 October 2021
SAMPC 22/03	Termination of the Group Ministry between Fordingbridge and Hyde and Breamore and Hale with Woodgreen and Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge and St Leonard's and St Ives	Formal consultation in progress
SAMPC 22/04	Termination of the Group Ministry between Hordle and Milford on Sea	Formal consultation to begin shortly
SAMPC 22/05	Termination of the Group Ministry between Brockenhurst, Boldre and South Baddesley and Sway,	Formal consultation to begin shortly

Dissolution of District Church Councils

The creation and dissolution of District Church Councils, and Benefice Councils, must be ratified by the DMPC.

The dissolution of District Church Councils in Basingstoke parish was accepted by the DMPC in September 2022.

Glossary

DMPC	Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee
SAMPC	Southern Archdeaconry Mission & Pastoral Committee
NAMPC	Northern Archdeaconry Mission & Pastoral Committee
JAMPC	Joint Archdeaconry Mission & Pastoral Committee
DDG	Deployment Development Group
DRT	Diocesan Resilience Team
CTIP	Common Tenure Interim Post

Informal Consultation: Local conversation between parishes, deanery, archdeacon, etc, leads to proposals which need to be recommended by NAMPC/SAMPC to the DMPC.	Formal Consultation: DMPC approved draft proposals are sent to all statutory interested parties by the Pastoral Secretary for comment/approval. Responses go back to DMPC for review before they can progress/be revised, etc.	Public Consultation: After DMPC agreement, a draft scheme is prepared which goes on display in every affected parish, giving everyone (not just the PCC or the congregation) the right to comment or object to the scheme.
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Jayne Tarry
Parish Support Manager
& Pastoral Secretary

October 2022