

FROM THE AVC CHURCHWARDENS

Gary's leaving Service: Sunday 29th May at Burgate 6th Form College. The service will be at 3pm and will be followed by cream teas at approximately 4pm. This will be an occasion to share with all of the churches and the wider community whom Gary has reached in his time at the Avon Valley and to celebrate all that he has done.

The "vacancy" will begin after this, but the process for appointing a new incumbent has already begun.

The Churchwardens have already met Richard Brand, the Archdeacon of Winchester, to plan the Vacancy (more about which below), and the PCC is meeting with Bishop Debbie, Bishop of Southampton on May 17th to start the process of making a new appointment.

The first requirement is a Parish Profile, the purpose of which is to explain what sort of parish we are, what we believe God is calling us to do in the coming years, and what sort of person would we want to fulfil that vision. We have already asked the congregations to let us have their thoughts on the sort of person they feel would best fulfil the needs of our parish and have also thought about our vision for the future. Please let us know if you would like to share any further thoughts on this.

After the profile is completed, the PCC will have a formal meeting (section 11) with the Bishop or the Archdeacon to confirm the profile, the role description, the advert and any other business. The adverts will then be placed, followed by shortlisting, interviewing and (hopefully) appointment. After the appointment is agreed it is normally 3 months before the new incumbent takes up the post.

The PCC will appoint four members to take part in the appointment process; Gary, as the previous Incumbent is not allowed to be part of the appointment process for a successor.

During the Vacancy: The legal oversight of the Parish lies with the Area Dean and the Churchwardens, who, along with the Staff Team and PCC, will ensure that the life of the Parish continues and grows.

In our case, Canon Charles Stewart, Vicar of Christchurch and recently appointed Assistant Area Dean, will support the Churchwardens and the Parish in general during the Vacancy.

If you feel uncertain about how something is going to work, or at any point, feel you need to know where we are in the Vacancy Process, do please speak to one of us. We will try our best to keep everyone in the picture during this process, but please let us know if you feel unsure about anything.

And please continue to pray for us, the PCC, the Staff Team, the Church Office, and all of those who are leading the Parish during this time.

You might like to see the Diocesan "clock-face" version of the process overleaf.

Zero hour is when the former incumbent (Gary) leaves at the top of the clock face and the different way markers are set out from there on with the months in which the diocese normally expects them to have been achieved; though in our case it might be a bit quicker.

With our thanks to Gary for all he has done and our very best wishes and prayers for his future ministry.

Ian Newman, Nigel Spratt, Heather Clark, Martin Ings, Mary Melbourne, Andy Finch and Lynda Warne



The Process at a Glance Month Counter—Month -3 Onwards

