

Rector's Rambles

August 2019

New Minister for St. Wulstan's—Update!

In June I announced that the Archbishop was keen to fund a new minister based at St. Wulstan's and promised to keep you updated. Archbishop Sentamu came to address the PCC on July 23rd. He explained his understanding that a full time ordained clergy post based in St. Wulstan's would be essential for growth in the North of the parish and it was possible because we have an available house and the funding that had been used for Sister Kate Wiley was still in place.

As I mentioned in the June "Ramble" his plan is for a Conventional District to be set up within the parish encompassing the Northern part of the parish with a line running down the centre of Heworth Green and the Malton Road as the divider. He explained that a Conventional District functions like an individual parish with its own PCC, finances and minister. Whilst the formal agreement is between the Incumbent of the Parish (me) and the Bishop (Sentamu) he wanted to be clear about the feelings of the PCC before proceeding. The Parish, as a legal entity, will still exist so people from anywhere in the Parish have the same rights for marriages baptisms and funerals.

The PCC voted unanimously to proceed with the establishment of a new Conventional District with its own Priest in Charge. On Friday 2nd of August the Archbishop gave the go ahead for the necessary legal documents to be drawn up. A Conventional district is reviewed every five years and the likely outcome of that review would be one of three options: 1. Continue with the Conventional District; 2. Close the Conventional District and return to a single parish; 3. Establish a new Parish of North Heworth.

The search for a new minister would begin as soon as the District is established. In the meantime it would be helpful to start discussions amongst yourselves about what you hope the new minister will do! When the post is advertised you will not be able to specify gender, age or marital status – but you will be able to describe the things that make St. Wulstan's special, where you see future mission happening etc. The Archbishop was hoping to have someone in post before Christmas. Until the new Priest in Charge is appointed I will continue to minister as Vicar across the whole parish.

It is my hope that we will be able to appoint the new PCC for Heworth North prior to the United Service on Sept 29th and include a commissioning of the new structures within the celebrations of all that has happened in the 150 years of Holy Trinity and the Parish of Heworth.

With love and prayers
Michael Woodmansey