

Rector's Rambles

February 2nd 2020

St. Wulstan's will soon have a new Priest in Charge!

I had hoped to announce today details of the new Priest in Charge at St. Wulstan's, but their name cannot be officially released until the paperwork setting up the Conventional District is signed and sealed. However, the appointment has been approved by both the diocese and the PCC and they will move into St. Wulstan's Vicarage next weekend - so watch out for an announcement within the next few weeks.

Background

I thought it would be helpful (especially for those who are new to the church or not quite sure what is happening) to recap on how we have arrived at this point. When Sister Kate Wiley retired it was my expectation (and what I had been led to believe) that she would not be replaced and that I would be running the whole parish. Even though there were logistical problems about managing services in both churches at similar times, I really valued getting to know the St. Wulstan's Church Family better, and across the Parish there was a growing sense of unity and mutual cooperation. When Archbishop Sentamu announced that he wanted to put an ordained minister back into St. Wulstan's to focus on mission in this part of the parish I shared the surprise that many felt but also recognised that this was a great opportunity for the Parish.

When I questioned whether there was any possibility of some shared ministry across the parish he was very clear that his offer was only for a minister who would have sole charge of the St. Wulstan's area, so the idea of the Conventional District was born. Agreeing to let go of being Vicar at St. Wulstan's was a hard decision, but also clearly the right one, as the advantages for both churches far outweigh my sadness at leaving the St. Wulstan's family. Following the tradition in the Church of England when a vicar leaves a church, I will step away from St. Wulstan's completely to give the new Priest in Charge space to lead the church forward in the direction they believe God is calling. I will, of course, keep you all in my prayers and look forward to hearing what God is doing in and through you. My final Sunday at St. Wulstan's will be on **February 16th (9.45 am)** when I shall preside at an extra Communion Service.

I trust that the St. Wulstan's Church family will keep me and the Holy Trinity family in their prayers as we seek what new opportunities God may be bringing to us as well.

With love and prayers
Michael Woodmansey