

## **Benefice planning group**

**S. Aidan's S. John's S. Paul's**

### **Bulletin 3**

**31st July 2022**

Members: Neville Fowler, Debbie Wood and Maxwell Bladon from S. John's, Lynda Cooper from S. Aidan's and John Woolley, Sue Ganley and Colin Dawson from S. Paul's, Facilitators: Richard & Charles Dean, By invitation: Fr. Michael Freeman and Fr. Robin Trotter.

Please share your thoughts about anything on our bulletins with any of them.

We hope you have found our first bulletins useful. If you haven't seen the first two, please ask your wardens for a copy.

We met again on the 18th July.

In our last bulletin we suggested that Sunday Mass times be changed so that Fr. Michael and his successor can be present at each of their churches for the principal service of the week. After receiving comments and having further discussions about the times we have concluded that S. Paul's service could move to 9.15am and S. John's to 11.00am (rather than 9.00am and 10.30am). These times will allow members of S. Paul's from outside the parish time to arrive by bus and for Fr. Michael to have some social time with his S. Paul's congregation before joining S. John's for their mass. At their recent meeting S. John's PCC agreed to the new time for S. John's. All being well the new times should start on Advent Sunday this year.

We had circulated a first draft of the "Benefice profile" which received many helpful comments and suggestions from group members which will now be incorporated in the next draft. We would like to include a range of high-quality current photographs of the town and the parishes and their activities. If there is a keen photographer who would be willing to take these photographs, we would love to hear from them.

Archdeacon Megan Smith will be attending our next meeting, so we spent most of our meeting deciding what we want to discuss with her. These include:

- A full understanding of the differences between a "benefice" and "2 parishes with 1 vicar", and the meaning of plurality and its relevance to the situation at S. John's and S. Paul's.
- Confirmation of the "style" to use to describe the benefice and the constituent parishes.
- Advice on how to approach the issue of women priests.
- Her views on our 2nd draft Benefice Profile, including how to avoid copyright issues with embedded content such as photographs and maps.
- A decision on which vicarage will be used
- A possible timetable for the advertising of the post and, therefore, of the legal processes (if any) and publication date of the Benefice Profile.

Our next meeting is on 22nd August.

*Please take this bulletin home with you*