

CHRIST CHURCH EPSOM COMMON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered Charity No. 1127945

Main points of the PCC meeting held on
Sunday 5 September 2010



Here is the usual summary of the PCC's short meeting held at 12 noon on Sunday 5 September. As always, fuller details are in the displayed draft minutes.

This was the so-called "Section 11" meeting, formally authorised by the Diocese to launch the search for a new Vicar. We did not, of course, come to the meeting with a blank sheet. It was the culmination of months of work which began with the PCC meeting with the Archdeacon on 17 February 2010 and, with the benefit of input and prayerful support from across the congregations, continued in subsequent PCC meetings and smaller working groups.

In relation to each of the required elements of the agenda for such a meeting, the PCC's unanimous conclusions were as below.

- **Acceptability of a female priest:** Given Christ Church's longstanding and willing acceptance of female clergy, we had no wish to pass a resolution under either Section 3 (1) or (2) of the *Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993* which would have required the selection process to discriminate on grounds of gender.
- **Parish Profile and Statement of Needs:** Having worked hard on developing its contents over recent months, we approved this key document which describes "the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish" as the basis for the selection process. A copy of the document is on display at both Christ Church and Christ Church on the Wells.
- **Parish representatives:** We appointed our Churchwardens, Hazel Rose and Martin Shipton, as the parish's two lay representatives in the selection process – which is headed up by the Bishop of Guildford himself.
- **Advertising:** Wanting to draw on the widest feasible field, we agreed to ask the Bishop to consider advertising the vacancy in both the *Church Times* and the *Church of England Newspaper*, noting that the costs would fall to the PCC.
- **Meeting with the Bishop:** Given the extensive discussion with the Archdeacon and Diocesan Secretary at the specially convened PCC meeting on 17 February 2010, we saw no need to seek a formal "Section 12" meeting with the Bishop to exchange views.
- **Additional material:** We did not see that there were any additional Deanery or Diocesan issues needing to be mentioned in the Parish Profile and therefore agreed not to ask the Bishop for a Statement of the Needs of the Diocese and wider church, in relation to the benefice.

Next steps

The press advertisement is likely to be issued in the second half of September. The vacancy will also be advertised on the Diocesan website. Provided a suitable candidate is found in the subsequent selection process, the Bishop will make an offer of appointment. On the acceptance of that offer, the Diocese will liaise with us and the "sending" parish about a coordinated announcement of the move.

Next meeting

We return to more routine business at a meeting to be held on Monday 13 September at 8pm in the Hall.

Roger Morgan
PCC Secretary