

How can I help during the Vacancy?

You may be thinking that this information is not for you. This is, however, a time when the prayers, efforts and reflections of all the church is important.

Prayers

Please be faithful in praying for the church during the time of vacancy. Please remember the churchwardens, area dean and vacancy leadership team; those working on the parish profile and all who have additional responsibility during this time. Please also pray that God will call the right person to be your new incumbent and for wisdom in discerning this.

Efforts

There will be increasing responsibility on many during this time of vacancy. It is helpful if people continue with their duties as much as possible. If you find that you have some spare time on your hands, then it may be worth asking your churchwardens whether there is anything additional that you might be able to do to support them during this time.

Reflections

Very soon, there will be consultation about your perception of priorities going forward that will feed into the building of a person specification for the new incumbent. Please pray and reflect upon this and pass any ideas to the churchwardens.

Prayer for Vacancy

God our Father, you have welcomed each one of us in Jesus and called us to be His body in this place:
Send us your Holy Spirit at this time of uncertainty and change, to fill us with vision and energy and faithfulness in prayer that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community. Give your heavenly wisdom to those who are to choose a new incumbent for this parish, that they may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people: ready to serve us with joy; to build us up in faith and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your son, Jesus. Amen.

The Archdeacons' Office
Church House Guildford, 20 Alan Turing Way, Guildford GU2 7YF
☎ 01348 790352 ✉ archdeacon.surrey@cofeguildford.org.uk



Archdeacon's Newsletter for the Parish of Chiddingfold



May 2018

Dear Friends

I write to you ahead of the Revd Sarah Brough's resignation as Rector of Chiddingfold on 15 July 2018

Firstly, I wish to add my voice to those of many in expressing sincere thanks to Sarah for outstanding service to the parish of Chiddingfold over the past 15 years. She has been a strong leader during this time and has exercised the pastoral care of God's people with love and true dedication. I am so pleased that, together with Chris and Joseph, she will be remaining in the Diocese and I wish them as a family every blessing as they enter a new chapter - and especially on Joseph as he begins his new school!

Secondly, I'd like to take this opportunity of assuring you of my care and support as you enter a period of vacancy. To try and minimise the uncertainty that this can bring, this brief newsletter will explain how the vacancy will be managed together with the process as we begin to think about a successor to Sarah. The most important request I ask of each of you is that you be faithful in your prayers that God will call the right person to serve as the next Rector of Chiddingfold. There is a prayer for your use on the back page.

I look forward to meeting you during the forthcoming months.

*As ever,
Paul.*

The Venerable Paul Davies
Archdeacon of Surrey

Diocese of
Guildford 
TRANSFORMING CHURCH
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What happens Now?

Who is In Charge during the Vacancy?

Following the Rector's departure, the formal running of the parish is the legal responsibility of the Area Dean and Churchwardens (the Sequestrators).

How does the parish actually function without an Incumbent?

Whilst the Area Dean will provide oversight and support the churchwardens, he is a busy parish priest himself and will not be able to be present like a rector. Most of the work, therefore, will be co-ordinated by the vacancy leadership team who are accountable to the PCC. This will consist of the churchwardens, treasurer, parish administrator and others who share in ministerial and administrative support. It will meet regularly to ensure things continue as normal. For good reason, the Area Dean will ensure that no strategic decisions are taken during this time when there is no incumbent in the parish.

What if I have any questions during this period?

Please speak to the churchwardens in the first instance. They will be able to direct you to the right person.

How is our New Rector Chosen?

Who decides on our new Rector?

There are six people who will be on the formal interview panel:
The Patron (The Lord Chancellor, represented by Mrs Helen Dimmock)
The Bishop of Guildford (The Rt Revd Andrew Watson)
The Archdeacon of Surrey (The Venerable Paul Davies)
The Area Dean of Godalming (The Revd Clive Potter - Vicar of Milford)
The Churchwardens (Beverley Draper and Irving Johnson)
The Lord Chancellor (represented by Helen Dimmock), with the agreement of the Parish Representatives, present the preferred candidate to the Bishop.

Will there be consultation?

Yes. The most important work that needs to be done now is the putting together of a parish profile and person specification. This is, in effect, the document that lays out our priorities looking forward and so the gifts that we will seek in a new leader. The compilation of this document will be done by a small *Parish Profile Team* but following a process of wide consultation which will be facilitated by the diocese. There will also be an opportunity for the PCC and officers of the parish to meet shortlisted candidates and offer feedback.

What is the Timescale for all of this?

We attempt to be as efficient as possible. We do, however, need to go through a process which is laid down by the Patronage (Benefices) Measure (1986). The Archdeacon has already met with the churchwardens and started to make preparations for this process. The dates that have been set are below:

<i>Meeting of Churchwardens and Archdeacon</i> (to begin planning timescale)	24 May 2018 Archdeacon's House
<i>Archdeacon's meeting and workshop with PCC</i> (to reflect on priorities / person specification)	11 June 2018: 1930 Church Room, Chidd
<i>Final Draft of Parish Profile is completed by</i> (stage at which most of the work is complete)	11 July 2018
<i>Section 11 Meeting</i> (profile formally agreed and parish reps chosen)	16 July 2018: 2100 Church Room, Chidd
<i>Advertise Post</i> (on <i>Pathways</i> website and in <i>Church Times</i>)	20 July 2018 27 July 2018
<i>Closing date for applications</i> (final date on which applications submitted)	30 August 2018
<i>Shortlisting</i> (interview panel meets to shortlist candidates)	5 September 2018 Church House Guildford
<i>Interviews</i> (held in Chiddingfold over two consecutive days)	24 September 2018 25 September 2018

The Bottom Line...

So when can we expect to welcome a new Rector?

If all goes to plan and we appoint a suitable candidate, it is usual that there is a period of 3 months between appointment and licensing so we would hope to welcome a Rector sometime in the new year of 2019. It must, however, be stressed that the task is to appoint the right person and if this takes a little longer than we hope, we must be patient. It must also be noted that when a candidate has been chosen, the Lord Chancellor will not allow announcements until a DBS check is complete. This can add a few weeks to the timetable.