

## PARISH OF SANDERSTEAD

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 6/10/20

#### EXPLANATORY PAPER ON STRUCTURAL CHANGES

1. The changes in the internal structure of the Parish of Sanderstead produce some issues for this APCM. This paper seeks to explain the background and the rationale for the pragmatic solutions which are proposed to deal with them. NB: this is entirely separate from the decision about the future of St Edmund's, which will be the subject of a specific process.
2. No objections were lodged to the draft Scheme to dissolve Sanderstead Team Ministry, the consultation period on which ended on 31<sup>st</sup> August. The Church Commissioners formally enacted the Scheme on 21<sup>st</sup> September and it comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October. We shall therefore be holding the APCM under the new arrangements.
3. The first issue which arose was that of the Electoral Roll. We were helped here by the fact that legally there always was only one Electoral Roll – for the Parish of Sanderstead – which was just maintained in several sections. It is also relevant that 2020 is a year in which a new House of Laity of Deanery Synod is to be elected for a three-year term. The number of representatives is dictated by the size of the Electoral Roll in the previous year (ie 2019). In my role as Deanery Secretary, I agreed with the diocese that the appropriate approach was to take the total Roll for the Parish as the basis for Synod representation, and other purposes. This gives us five Synod representatives.
4. The next issue was the size of the PCC for 2020/21 and thereafter. Once the Scheme comes into effect, Sanderstead as a “standard” parish falls under the general arrangements set out in Church Representation Rules (CRR). There is a formula in CRR which defines the number of elected PCC representatives in respect of different sizes of Electoral Roll. Using that formula, the 2019 parish Electoral Roll figure of 206 would require 15 representatives to be elected. This would give a PCC of 25 (15 elected representatives, 5 Synod representatives, 2 clergy, 2 churchwardens and 1 Diocesan Synod representative with one year left to serve and who is an ex officio member of all the relevant representative bodies below diocesan level). We feel that this would produce too large a body to be really effective and one which might be difficult to resource. Indeed, the All Saints AGM nominated 10 representatives for the “new” PCC. APCMs have power to alter the CRR formula and PCC recommends that the number be reduced from 15 to 10. This would produce a PCC of about 20, which is roughly the size of the current All Saints' DCC. (Normally this decision would take effect from the year after that in which it was taken, but we are in an abnormal situation, for which there are some special provisions.)
5. The transitional state in which we found ourselves also means that we needed a pragmatic approach which allowed for a smooth transition from the current Team situation into the new, simpler one. The approach adopted was for All Saints' AGM to elect 4 PCC and 6 DCC representatives, as under the Team structure, but on the understanding that these 10 would form the elected element of the PCC in future. This would allow both the current and future situations to be covered, without the need for further meetings and elections. (It was, of course, pointless, even if possible, to elect DCCs for St Antony's and St Edmund's.)
6. Under the Team approach which emphasised the autonomy of the individual churches, it was our practice to hold all elections (except those for churchwardens which fall under separate provisions) at church AGMs and just note them at APCM. It was felt that the pragmatic approach would be to follow that process this year, with elections to be held at All Saints' AGM (which everyone on the parish roll was entitled to attend). From 2021, of course, all business will be transacted at the APCM.

7. The final complication concerned the “rolling three-year terms” of elected PCC (and currently DCC) members. Whilst all elected PCC members serve for three-year terms, CRR requires that one third retire each year on a rolling basis. In one sense the PCC will be a new body once the Scheme is enacted. But in others, particularly that of “legal continuity”, it is unchanged. So, we felt the pragmatic approach would be to invite existing PCC members with unexpired portions of their terms, and who were willing, to continue to serve. We shall also “carry through” the existing arrangements which define which posts are due for re-election in each year.

Chris Babbs

PCC Secretary

16/9/20

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