



ABINGDON DEANERY

Area Dean – *The Reverend Helen Kendrick*

01235 848297 or rector@damascusparish.org.uk

Called to be Christ-like
CONTEMPLATIVE • COMPASSIONATE • COURAGEOUS

2nd June 2020

To the Churchwardens and PCCs of Dry Sandford, Marcham, Shippon and Wootton

Re: Pastoral Reorganisation in the Deanery of Abingdon concerning the parishes of Dry Sandford, Marcham, Shippon and Wootton

Firstly, thank you for your patience and your prayers through this long process. We now have a formal resolution paper for each PCC to discuss and vote on, which you will find on page 2 of this document. This has been drawn up by the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee and the Assistant Archdeacon, David Tyler, with full consultation with the Bishop of Dorchester, the Archdeacon of Dorchester and the Diocesan Registry and we hope it reflects a positive future which will offer stability and the potential for growth for you all.

In order to move forward with the pastoral re-organisation we need the formal support of each PCC.

Once we have received this, we will need to pass the proposal through the Deanery Synod and then onto the Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee.

Additional Information

In order to start the recruitment process as soon as possible this is a phased re-organisation which enables appointments to be made before the formal process of re-organising the parishes is completed.

In becoming a multi-parish single benefice, the parishes all retain their own PCCs, Churchwardens and finances.

Each parish will need to commit to paying their percentage of the parish share as per the resolution. In order to facilitate this the Deanery Standing Committee are proposing a transition stage where the Deanery subsidises Dry Sandford by 50% of their 25% share for one year. This will need to be passed by the next Deanery Synod meeting (when we can meet again to formally pass resolutions).

Please can I have your responses by Tuesday 30th June 2020 to enable us to keep moving forward?

In the meantime if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With all good wishes

Helen

The Reverend Helen Kendrick

**RESOLUTION PAPER FOR PASTORAL REORGANISATION WITHIN THE DEANERY OF ABINGDON,
CONCERNING THE PARISHES OF DRY SANDFORD, MARCHAM, SHIPPON AND WOOTTON**

1. We the PCC of [] support and agree to the principle of working towards:

(1) Marcham and Garford being a single parish benefice (without Shippon) with a full-time priest-in-charge or incumbent (1.0);

(2) The present parishes of Wootton (currently the benefice of Wootton), Dry Sandford (currently the benefice of Dry Sandford) and Shippon (currently a parish within the benefice of Marcham with Garford and Shippon) being created as a multi-parish single benefice with a full-time priest-in-charge or incumbent shared 0.5 from Wootton, 0.25 from Dry Sandford and 0.25 from Shippon.

1. In order to work towards this, we request the Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Committee to create two simultaneous three-year full-time stipendiary incumbent status posts in the Abingdon Deanery in the terms set out below.

2. We agree to the Bishop suspending the presentation of an incumbent to the benefice of Marcham with Garford and Shippon, the benefice of Wootton and the benefice of Dry Sandford so that these arrangements can be explored. When suspended, the two interim posts will be advertised on the following terms:

- a. The first appointment will be as interim priest-in-charge (for a period not exceeding three years to coincide with the end date of the appointment referred to in (b) below) for the benefice of Marcham with Garford and Shippon, but with special pastoral responsibility for the parish of Marcham with Garford only.
- b. The second appointment will be as interim priest-in-charge (for **three** years) for both the benefice of Wootton and the benefice of Dry Sandford, and will be separately licensed as an interim Associate Minister (for **three** years) to the benefice of Marcham with Garford and Shippon with special pastoral responsibility for the parish of Shippon only.

2. It is the hope and intention that each of the priests appointed to these roles on the interim basis will then be appointed on a permanent basis (as incumbent) for the benefices subject to the successful completion of resolution 1 above.

3. We commit to paying the agreed percentage of our parish share in order to support the appointments set out above.

Signed.....Chair of the PCC

Date.....