

Rector's Rambles

June 2019

Breaking News!

On Wednesday (June 5th) I was able to announce to the PCC the unexpected news that Archbishop Sentamu has decided that there should be funding for a new minister for St. Wulstan's.

In an era when clergy numbers are decreasing, many are increasingly being asked to take on more parishes and when York Deanery is overstaffed compared to the rest of the diocese, the PCC recognised the generosity of this offer and welcomed it positively.

For Archbishop Sentamu the context of this offer was the meeting he had with members of the St. Wulstan's in May 2017 and initiatives in other parishes since then. What he is proposing is for St. Wulstan's to have an opportunity to function in fellowship with, but independent of, Holy Trinity for a period of time and see what future direction evolves. Taking a boundary along Heworth Green and the Malton Road the area to the North would become a "Conventional District" with St. Wulstan's as the local church. A Conventional District is an agreement between an Incumbent and Bishop which allows part of the Parish, under their own minister, to explore the possibility of independence (with their own PCC, finances etc.) but without formally changing Parish boundaries so it can be reviewed periodically (normally every 5 years or at the change of incumbent!).

How do I feel about this? When, in a two minute conversation at a public function, Archbishop Sentamu first mentioned that he was thinking of something like this for St. Wulstan's I went through a series of emotions. First astonishment, secondly sadness - in the last year I have really enjoyed getting to know St. Wulstan's so much better, and the growing sense of the whole parish working together has been very positive - but thirdly hope: I am acutely aware that there are real limitations to one vicar looking after two churches. Not only do I have to rush from one church to the other (sometimes leaving early and arriving late!) but I can also see connections I could be making more effectively if I was based solely in one part of the parish. On reflection, it seems that the loss to me pales into insignificance compared to the advantages to St. Wulstan's and the Parish.

When and How? These are the two big questions: when will the new Minister be appointed and what is the process of that appointment? Unfortunately, with all the activity around appointing new Archdeacon and new Archbishop I haven't been able to get an answer yet. As soon as more information become available I will let you know.

With love and prayers
Michael Woodmansey