

Dear Friends

Thank you for your continuing prayers and contributions to assist the ongoing discernment process regarding our services. Your recent feedback was most helpful and has been shared with the senior staff team and PCC. After discussion, we unanimously agreed to give more time to the discernment process, with a desire to reach a conclusion by April 2019.

I recognise that sharing the results of fourteen months of research, deliberations and prayers conducted by the PCC, senior staff team and working groups for genuine consultation is unsettling. I want to assure you that no decisions have yet been made and to solicit your continuing involvement. Thank you for continuing to pray and contacting me as you may feel prompted.

Our vision statement as the parish church is to be “a transformed community for Christ, knowing Him and making Him known.” As part of our commitment to fulfil this, we are reviewing our services.

The objective of the review of services is to enable us to continue to mature in our faith and also to connect missionally with our community in a way that is relevant, engaging and sustainable, now and for the future. Integral to the review is our distinctiveness as the Anglican church of Ashted that values a range of expression as ‘one church’.

After Christmas, to progress our review to a conclusion:

- The senior staff team, PCC and myself will devote more time to pray, listen and develop proposals. As part of this process I have asked the PCC to meet twice in January.
- During February, I will speak to each congregation on a Sunday.
- This is accompanied by the invitation to pray individually and whenever we meet together. Can I also invite you to put Saturday 2nd March, 10am - 12pm, in your diary when we will hold a prayer meeting for the whole church community (a crèche will be provided).
- In late March, the PCC will meet to consider reviewed proposals.

It is my belief that through this process, the Lord is continuing to nurture us as His church.

Thank you for your understanding, prayers, support and involvement as we journey onwards together in Him for His glory.

With my continuing prayers and in His love

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'R' and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Rev Richard Jones

Rector