



Progress on the Redditch Mission Area moving on from the Pre-Consultation Feedback

Firstly, thanks to all of you for engaging with the pre-consultation evening we had prior to Easter and the feedback you have provided subsequently.

Most of the feedback favours the first option proposed, so we will be working towards a formal consultation about implementation, once we have clarified some specific issues around one or two parishes. The Mission Area in principle can be launched this summer, prior to the formal consultation, as the Mission Area can begin to function collaboratively, whatever the final parish/team structure turns out to be.

The timetable to move forward on this is:

1. The Mission Area Core Group (Paul Lawlor, Glenn Reading, Tom Stockwell, Elaine Whitfield, Rod Street) and Nikki Groarke will meet on 29 April to review the feedback received together and determine how best we respond to DCCs/PCCs or groups of individuals.
2. The visits/conversations will be scheduled as soon as is possible after that meeting.
3. Work will continue to determine an appropriate ecclesiastical structure for the Mission Area to provide an entity able to employ people to resource the Mission Area as a whole. We hope to seek funding from the Healthier Churches Fund for some form of operational support, and to resource work with children, young people and families across the area.
4. Alongside this necessary work will be taking place to create a Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) for St Stephen's to facilitate the Renewal Project there.
5. We plan to have a celebration to launch the Mission Area on Sunday 14th July at 4pm. At this we will re-license Paul, within Redditch Holy Trinity and the Ipsley teams and commission him as Mission Area Lead. We will also celebrate the Christmas Toy Appeal and thank volunteers from the mission area, ecumenically and beyond.

In the meantime, our AGMs/APCMs etc need to continue with the structure we currently have. If you have any questions, please ask Nikki or Paul.

I pray that we can continue to enjoy the hope that this Easter season offers in the midst of all which surrounds us.

Every Blessing

Paul Lawlor

Area Dean of Redditch and Bromsgrove - 20th April 2024