

## SUMMARY OF MAIN PROVISIONS OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

*These draft proposals provide for:*

- *the church of St John the Evangelist, Forton to be declared closed for regular public worship and appropriated to use for Christian worship, services and other religious activities in accordance with the rites and customs of the Church of England*
- *the proposed union of benefices and the constituent parishes of St John, Forton; Christ Church, Gosport and Holy Trinity, Gosport and the creation of a team ministry is being dealt with by a separate set of proposals*

### **Declaration of closure for regular public worship**

1. The church of St John the Evangelist, being the parish church of the parish of Forton, shall be declared closed for regular public worship.

### **Appropriation and gift/disposal**

2. The building and the land annexed or belonging thereto (“the property”) shall be appropriated to use for Christian worship, services and other religious activities in accordance with the rites and customs of the Church of England and/or any other Christian body designated by the Bishop for the time being of Portsmouth and for ecclesiastical, social and community purposes ancillary thereto.
3. The Portsmouth Diocesan Board of Finance is hereby empowered to lease or licence the property for such use.
4. The legal effects of consecration will continue to apply to the property.

### **Coming into effect of these proposals**

5. These proposals shall take effect upon such date or dates as the Church Commissioners, after consultation with the Bishop, shall determine following the date of the making of a pastoral scheme prepared in pursuance of these proposals.

## **NOTES:**

### **Union of benefices and parishes; parish churches**

1. The union of benefices and the union of parishes is necessary to free up people and finances as well as decrease the administrative burden and buildings from maintaining a declining/static church and to support cohesive working across the whole area of Forton, Christ Church, Gosport and Holy Trinity, Gosport.
2. The informal consultation meetings with all of the possibly affected PCCs of Bridemary, Elson, Forton, Christ Church, Gosport, Holy Trinity, Gosport and Rowner informed these draft proposals for the formal consultation.

Significant points made that these draft proposals attempt to take into account include:

- (a) All of the above PCCs agreed that Elson should be included in the proposed union with Bridgemary and Rowner and so not included in these draft proposals;
- (b) Forton wish to become a mission hub and in order to achieve this wish to be outside of the traditional parish structure and with a remit to work across the whole area of Gosport, therefore, the draft proposals seek to close the church of St John the Evangelist, Forton for regular public worship and remove it from the parish structure and also have a Bishop's Mission Order put over the geographical area of the Deanery of Gosport to enable it to work as a mission hub for the whole area. A Bishop's Mission Order is a separate instrument and would be prepared separately to a pastoral scheme (a skeleton BMO can be seen here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/parish-reorganisation-and-closed-church-buildings/bishops-mission-orders>). A separate charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) would be established to run the mission hub. This is based on the RDP (rapid parish development) work Forton undertook earlier in 2018 with CSR. The Bishop would issue a licence to enable worship to continue to be taken at St John's.
- (c) Forton do not wish to have representation on the PCC for the new parish;
- (d) Christ Church, Gosport and Holy Trinity, Gosport are happy to work more closely together but would like to have separate District Church Councils for managing the separate parish churches;
- (e) Christ Church, Gosport and Holy Trinity, Gosport are supportive of St John the Evangelist church becoming a mission hub outside of the parochial structure and therefore not having the liability of maintaining the church building in the new parish. The option of keeping St John's as a chapel of ease within the parochial system and then leasing it under faculty was examined. However, that would have involved continued parish involvement as landlord, part of the building would have to have been kept out of the lease and the building would have reverted to the parish at the end of the lease. Therefore, the closure route seemed most straight forward and in keeping with what all the parishes had

requested. As there is to be a BMO and CIO to run the mission hub, the CIO would be the party to “hold” the building under the new lease.

3. This set of draft proposals focuses on the proposed closure for regular worship of St John the Evangelist, Forton and its alternative use as a mission hub (as outlined above in note 2(b)). Only the interested parties for the benefice of St John, Forton are consulted on the proposed closure and alternative use of the its parish church.
4. Simultaneously, the interested parties of the benefices of St John, Forton; Christ Church, Gosport and Holy Trinity, Gosport are being consulted on draft proposals for the proposed union of the benefices of St John Forton; Christ Church, Gosport and Holy Trinity, Gosport and the creation of a team ministry. The aim is to create a mission unit consisting of a single benefice, with united leadership, ministry team, finance, governance, and administration with some local decision making delegated to a congregational level (via a Bishop’s instrument to be worked on by the local parishes with their team) These draft proposals are also enclosed.