

To: The Revd Carrie Thompson – Vicar – Forton  
Mrs Bev Whitton – Secretary – Forton  
The Portsmouth Diocesan Board of Patronage – Patron – Forton  
The Venerable Gavin Collins – Archdeacon of the Meon  
The Revd Karen Mitchell – Area Dean – Gosport Deanery  
The Revd Dr Paul Chamberlain – Assistant Area Dean – Gosport Deanery  
Mr Chris Smart – Deanery Synod Lay Chairman – Gosport Deanery  
Gosport Borough Planning Department  
Local Parish Council  
Councillor Clive Foster-Reed – Forton Ward  
Councillor Mrs Angela Prickett – Forton Ward

1 February 2019

**MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011  
BENEFICE AND PARISH OF ST JOHN FORTON AND AFFECTING THE  
CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, FORTON**

The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (“the Committee”) is considering making recommendations to the Bishop under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. These may affect the church building of St John the Evangelist, Forton.

The draft proposals have been informed by the informal consultation process that began with the public consultation meeting in St Faith, Lee on the Solent on Thursday 18 October 2018 and progressed through meetings with each PCC and Bishop’s and diocesan staff with subsequent meetings for each PCC with representatives from the Bishop’s Council. These discussions have resulted in two sets of draft proposals: the first proposals are focused on the union of the benefices of St John, Forton; Christ Church, Gosport; and Holy Trinity, Gosport and the establishment of a team ministry and the second proposals seek the closure for regular public worship of St John the Evangelist, Forton and its new use as a mission hub in line with the parish’s vision.

The consultation process for both sets of proposals will be run simultaneously. The interested parties for the benefice of Forton will be the sole parties consulted on the proposed closure for regular public worship and the proposed new use of St John the Evangelist, Forton. They will also be consulted on the draft proposals for the proposed union of benefices and establishment of a team ministry for St John, Forton; Christ Church, Gosport; and Holy Trinity, Gosport.

Before deciding on its recommendations to the Bishop, the Committee is required to ascertain the views of all the interested parties. The Committee will consider the views of all interested parties before coming to a final decision on what, if any, recommendations it should make to the Bishop.

An incumbent or priest in charge affected by these proposals has the right under the Measure to meet representatives of the Committee or, if (s)he requests, the full Committee to present his or her views.

Any other office holder on Common Tenure whose office might be abolished as a result of these proposals has the right under the Measure to meet representatives of the Committee to present his or her views.

A Parochial Church Council or its appointed representative may request to meet the Committee's representatives to discuss its views.

The area dean and lay chairman should note that the deanery synod is not itself an interested party but they are encouraged to keep the synod, the synod's standing committee or any ad hoc deanery pastoral committee informed about the progress of the proposals.

Notice is served on the local planning authority and parish council of the parish in which the affected church building is situated as interested parties under the Mission and Pastoral Measure. Although County and Town Councils are not defined as interested parties under this Measure, please copy this correspondence to these parties as a means of encouraging wider consultation at an early stage. Ward Councillors for the affected parish, although not defined as interested parties under this Measure, have also been sent a copy of the draft proposals. The local planning authority is also asked to advise if it is aware of any other local planning authority in the ecclesiastical area affected which has not been included on the list of interested parties.

I should be grateful if views, together with any requests for a meeting with the Committee's representatives, could be forwarded to me in writing as soon as possible and not later than by **FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2019**. The designated email for responses from interested parties is [dmpc@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:dmpc@portsmouth.anglican.org)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Hollingsworth', written in a cursive style.

Jenny Hollingsworth  
Deputy Diocesan Secretary  
Secretary to the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee