

# St Barnabas and St. Paul's Partnership Update

## Intro:

As many of you know, the PCC has committed in principle to become a United Parish with St. Barnabas. The legal process is due to start in July 2022, once both PCCs have agreed to start that process. The two PCC's have set up an implementation team (from both PCCs) to work through the practicalities of the partnership and ensure that it will work well and enable us to all see the fruit of the gospel in many more people's lives. This brings with it many opportunities and challenges for us as a community and we want to share with you how we have been working on the partnership since the APCM.

## Vision:

We are seeking to become 'One Church, that meets in two locations with multiple connections'. But what does this look like? It looks like:

1. Harry Lamaison is now the curate at St. Barnabas which is the first clergy they have had for a couple of years. He attends St Paul's church at 6pm, so please speak with him if you have not yet connected with him.
2. More opportunities for mission:
  - Geographically, with an increased area to care for and nurture
  - In Partnership with existing charities working on the ground in their community
  - In Partnership with the members of St. Barnabas as we seek to know Christ and make him known.
  - In Partnership: In sharing with St Barnabas, we have received an invitation to lead on Epsom town centre initiatives including new fresh expressions.
3. More opportunities to step out in faith as the partnership develops. The implementation team is working on a Mission Action Plan.
4. More opportunities to serve: we are looking to see what we can help St. Barnabas set up e.g. toddlers, little church, Alpha, etc. The CAP office has already moved to St. Barnabas to be closer to clients and to work alongside the work of Love Me Love my Mind, The SunnyBank trust and other partners as well as helping to build the community of faith.

## Challenges:

In aiming not to just support the work of St. Barnabas, but rather for us to become One Church – where we don't just use the rhetoric of the church being the people, rather than the building, but the live the actual reality of that with all the opportunities and possibilities explained above, comes with the obvious challenge of melding two separate church communities, with all their history, traditions, systems and culture into one new one – the church of St. Paul's and St. Barnabas.

Here are 4 challenges that we face but are by no means an exhaustive list:

1. That we can demonstrate and show that we are working together and that the activities are fruitful at both a leadership level and on the ground

2. Both churches are willing to receive part of the culture of each other and to be changed by it (this mean we need to understand each other's culture and be willing to embrace part of it)
3. Agree the governance post legal agreement – including PCC makeup and Warden responsibilities, and Management team roles.
4. Complete 'due diligence' in both communities including developing a sustainable joint budget that we believe will be funded.

## Progress:

Since June the implementation team has met 4 times. We have been discussing:

1. Setting Harry up with an office at St Barnabas so he can be the onsite curate of the parish.
2. Writing a "Memorandum of Understanding" whose aim to define and scope and boundaries of the Partnership and a Mission Action Plan
3. Exploring appropriate Governance both now and as the united parish progresses
4. Taking time to understand the context, history and current challenges of both churches.
5. We have had input from Jens Menkel from Guildford Diocese (Fresh Expressions and Church Planting) helping us to grapple with being a church that is good news for this neighbourhood'.
6. We have had video input from John McGinley (a Church Planting expert) - he challenged us about the importance of clarifying vision, communication, resources, the need for a team.
7. We have looked at the Surrey Communities Fund (a £100,000,000 fund for projects in the community) - we are exploring whether a bid is appropriate to help St. Barnabas better serve the community around them.

There has also been a meeting explicitly to discuss the financial situation at St. Barnabas -which is in line with their budget expectations. Together, we are able monitor income and expenditure.

I would like to invite you to attend a:

## Partnership Morning 18th September : 9:30-12:30 St. Barnabas

St Barnabas C of E Church, Epsom  
Temple Road  
Epsom  
KT19 8HA

- A chance to Ask questions, visit St. Barnabas, look to the future and consider the part that you could play.
- To book a ticket (so we can plan appropriately ) please go to the link below:  
[Partnership Open Morning ticket](#) - Simply press the green button to register.

## Members of the Implementation Team

Paul Dever (Chair), Sarah Ford(St B's) Helen Dyke (St B's) John Hindmarsh (st. B's) , HelenDavid Senior, Chris White, Craig Wilson, Neil Thomas, Mark Goodman  
Please contact us or speak with us if you would like more information.