

# BELTISLOE DEANERY – NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP PATTERNS

May 2023

To: All Church Wardens  
PCC Deanery Synod Representatives

Copies: Beltisloe Deanery Clergy  
Beltisloe Deanery Readers & ALMs

From: Stephen Buckman, Beltisloe Deanery Rural Dean

## 1. Thankyou

Firstly, thank you to all who, helpfully, have given us updated contact details. This enable us to send our messages regarding future worship patterns to the appropriate people. If you are aware of any other changes please let us know via the Deanery email address: [beltisloe@icloud.com](mailto:beltisloe@icloud.com)

## 2. The Pressing Issue

Beltisloe Deanery has 32 parish Churches. Our aim is to provide priest-led Sunday services in 23 of these every month. From August we shall have just 3 stipendiary priests to do this. Bourne, as a town with a population greater than the rest of Deanery put together, must be a priority.

Importantly, as explained in my last note, our clergy have agreed to travel more. We also have a very small number of retired or non-stipendiary priests who provide invaluable support.

## 3. Sunday Service Timings

We have studied the existing Sunday worship patterns for our churches. It is clear that we will be unable to staff the current approach. So, we shall be asking our village Churches to support modified service times.

At the parish level we understand the importance of service rhythms regarding the time of service each Sunday and its week of the month. For practical reasons, we are proposing that future Sunday Services will be at 09:00 or 11:00 or 15:00 or 18:00.

With these times in place our stipendiary clergy will be able to fit in at least two Communion each Sunday and have space to meet with churchgoers – an important part of their role. With give and take, a workable Sunday Service pattern is possible.

We have not forgotten our 9 festival churches! They will be accommodated once the basic pattern is clear. We may discuss with them holding priest-led services on days other than Sunday.

## 4. Next Steps – finalising the Service Pattern

The next step is for our three stipendiary priests (Anna Sorensen, Neil Bullen and myself) to develop a Sunday worship pattern which has a rhythm and is practical. Our intention is to share this with our lay ministry team during their next meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>. They have a key supportive role in leading our morning and evening services.

The future service pattern will need to come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> August, although there will be opportunities for further discussion when I meet with Churchwardens on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Clergy Chapter is overseeing this programme of activities.