

Vacancy update No 3 – 21st September 2016

Vacancy Update No 3: The first thing you may notice is that we have changed the title since update No 2 was issued. The Diocese is encouraging us to refer to a “Period of Vacancy” rather than an “Interregnum”, so that is the term we will use from now on.

Since the last update, we have a couple of changes and additions to the timetable for the appointments process. These don’t affect the overall timescale. The timetable now looks like this:

Tuesday 1 st November	Formal meeting of both PCCs which will, amongst other things: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• appoint the Parish Representatives who will take part in the shortlisting and interview process• agree the arrangements for drawing up the Benefice Profile In the legal language of the Church of England, this is referred to as the “Section 11” meeting.
Wednesday 14 th December	Formal meeting of both PCCs with the Bishop and others to consider the Benefice Profile, which will, by then, have been prepared. This is known as the “Section 12” meeting.
Friday 6 th January & Friday 13 th January	Advertisement appears in the Church Times.
Monday 30 th January	Closing date for applications.
Wednesday 1 st February	Interview panel meet to shortlist the applicants.
Monday 20 th February	Interviews take place.

In preparation for the PCC meeting on 1st November, a small group has started to draw up an outline for the Benefice Profile. This will help us to identify the gaps the we need to fill and to make sure that we engage the right people to help with the process.

Do please use our Vacancy Prayers throughout this process, both in our worship and in your private prayers:

*Heavenly Father, you have promised through your Son Jesus Christ, that when we meet in his name, he will be among us and hear our prayer.
We pray for our churches St. James’s, St. Mary’s and St. Nicholas during this period of vacancy.
We thank you for your Holy Word. May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths and a strength in our lives and church community.
Take us and with the power of the Holy Spirit, use us so that we may serve you and preserve and increase the faith of your people in Ruscombe, Twyford and Hurst until our new vicar is appointed.
Amen*

And a prayer for the appointment process itself:

*Heavenly Father, we pray for the process of recruitment for a new vicar for our Benefice and LEP in Ruscombe, Twyford and Hurst. May we be guided by the Holy Spirit in all our preparations for the appointment.
We pray that you will be with all who consider coming here, so that at the end of the process, we find the right person, who in their turn is happy and willing to come here. We ask this in Jesus’ name.
Amen.*