

The Rectory, 20 St Peter's Hill, Caversham

2 May 2010

Dear Friends

The Parish of Caversham Thameside & Mapledurham

I am delighted to confirm that the work of merging the two parishes is almost complete, and will now definitely happen on Tuesday 1st June. No adverse representations were made during the formal consultation period, so the process of merger will now roll out over the next few weeks: in early May the Diocese of Oxford will (what is known as) "make the scheme" and the scheme itself states that the changes come into force on the first day of the month following the making of the scheme.

Thank you

- to those who have worked on the Co Ordinating Group over the past year or so
- to those who have thought, discussed and prayed over this decision
- to those who have helped create the final shape of the new parish

What changes on Tuesday 1st June

The two parishes of St Peter Caversham and St Margaret Mapledurham and of St John the Baptist Caversham cease to exist. They are replaced by the new parish of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham. As the two parishes cease to exist, so the two PCCs also disappear to be replaced by a new PCC which will need to be elected at the SPCM which will be called within weeks of 1st June. (SPCM = Special Parochial Church Meeting. This acts as the first APCM for the new parish at which we will elect members of the PCC, appoint sidesmen & sideswomen, and many of the other usual agenda items)

What stays the same from Tuesday 1st June

The Church Wardens we have just elected do not need to be re elected as the electorate for wardens is both members of the church and residents of the parish. And the treasurers of the churches and of the parish remain constant, as do the ministers within the churches.

I will write another letter very soon with more details of how we are going to manage the transition from two parishes to one as smoothly as possible, as well as laying out the proposal that will be voted on at the SPCM for the governance structure of the new parish.

But I just wanted to make sure that this hugely significant piece of news was shared as widely as possible as quickly as possible.

With my very best wishes

Dan