Bishop’s Statement

St Oswald’s Lower Peover and St Lawrence Over Peover is a wonderful opportunity for an enthusiastic priest to grow and develop these congregations in a most beautiful part of Cheshire.

The parishes have done well in recent years developing and growing in imaginative ways but within a structure of traditional village Anglicanism. However, the challenges of funding full time ministry are clear and there does need to be an evangelistic effort made in order to see the ministry in the villages maintained.

There is a conversation currently taking place across the villages of mid-Cheshire, which may lead to pastoral re-organisation in about two years’ time. The most likely outcome (though nothing is currently decided) is that the benefice will be expanded to include the adjoining parish of All Saints Marthall. All Saints (pop 748 ER 54) is another delightful parish with a small but committed congregation. The person chosen to be the new Vicar of Lower and Over Peover should be aware that they would be expected to engage helpfully with the discussions taking place over the future and would not object to a proposal to add Marthall to the benefice if that becomes the preferred way forward.

It is not impossible that a different future for the benefice may emerge and if so, there is an expectation that the new Vicar would participate positively in discussions and be supportive of any final decision that is taken.