

Bishop's statement for St Margaret and St Mark Dunham Massey

The parishes of Dunham Massey offer a significant opportunity and challenge. There is a strong belief that these parishes should be able to thrive and grow in an area that is aspirational. They offer good support from congregations, excellent locations and stunning buildings. There is a core of lay people who are dedicated and hard-working, yet over the last few years they have lost their way financially; meaning they have amassed huge parish share arrears and therefore the Bishop has insisted that a five year development plan is introduced. The PCC have agreed this plan.

1. The Patron's right of Presentation is suspended and a Priest in Charge will be appointed for a period of five years. We will seek to appoint early 2021.
2. From the date of appointment, we give three years to the parish to show progress both on parish share and mission. The parishes agree to pay parish share through 2021, 2022 and 2023 up to three years from the date of the appointment of the Priest in Charge, even if this means funding the shortfall out of reserves.
3. There will be a full review by an independent group from the Deanery chaired by the Rural Dean, towards the end of the third year to assess the progress. They will report back to the Archdeacon of Macclesfield and comment that one of the following outcomes has been observed:-
 1. There has been significant progress, parish share is now being paid from revenue and they recommend that the post be made permanent.
 2. There has been good progress, the parish share is still not quite covered out of revenue but it's getting there, and the parishes should be allowed to continue towards target at five years where a further review takes place to decide whether to renew the suspension and give a further target or let the suspension lapse.
 3. There has been progress, but it is slow and there should be a further review at five years with a decision to seek pastoral re-organisation, resuspend or lapse.
 4. There hasn't been progress and so in the following two years of the five-year programme there should be discussions about pastoral re-organisation to take place at or before the five year deadline.

At five years there should be a commitment from the PCC's to make a contribution to their arrears.

With good leadership and a renewed commitment to mission that looks outward to the community, there is confidence that this financial position can be turned around and both St Margaret and St Mark's can thrive and grow.



Ven Ian Bishop