

St Oswald's Bidston: Additional Note

St Oswald's has an excellent record in meeting its parish share, over many years. However, in the last few months, it has run into financial difficulties, which are resulting in a parish share shortfall. These difficulties have come to light in particular during the vacancy.

In such circumstances, the Bishop's Staff Team needs to consider whether a full-time minister can be deployed, or whether some alternative pattern of ministry needs to be considered. In the light of the needs of a populous urban parish, and in the light of St Oswald's previous financial stability, the decision has been taken to press ahead with the appointment of a full-time minister in the parish.

As we advertise this post, we are in the process of consulting to suspend the patron's right of presentation to the benefice of Bidston. This has already been agreed by the PCC, the deanery and the Archidiaconal Mission and Pastoral Committee. The formal consultation period has yet to expire, but in anticipation that the presentation will be suspended, we are advertising for the recruitment of a priest-in-charge rather than an incumbent, leaving open the possibility of pastoral re-organization in due course should that be necessary. However, the plan is that the parish and diocese will work together over the next five years to restore financial stability to the parish and to enable the meeting of a full parish share.

Applicants are welcome to discuss this further with the Archdeacon of Chester should they wish.

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