

CHANGES TO CLUSTER SERVICE TIMES AND PATTERNS

The Diocese of York along with many other dioceses is having to review its financial commitments due to more and more responsibilities being transferred from the Church Commissioners. The main reason for this is the ever increasing costs of providing for clergy pensions and there are now more retired priests than there are in the active ministry. At the end of the current financial year it is likely there will be a considerable deficit. This means that the Diocese must reduce the number of its clergy posts and it is thought about twenty posts will go across the Diocese. This is being done largely through natural wastage by retirement and clergy moves. It is expected that the New Ainsty Deanery will lose two full time clergy posts and therefore several parishes will have to join with other clusters and groups. Final decisions are still some months away but a group of Parishes is expecting to be asked to take on at least one and probably two more parishes.

In the meantime we have agreed to assist Tockwith and Bilton during their forthcoming interregnum by providing one service on Sundays and helping with the occasional offices. This has meant that we have had to completely redesign the Cluster Service Rota and from 5th August there are major changes to many services across the Cluster. The biggest change concerns St. Mary's Congregation which has been required to move its 10.00am service to 9.30am to allow the priest to also officiate at an 11.00am service elsewhere.

We feel it is important that all Parishes can see the full picture; no one parish is making all the sacrifices. We are including both a diagrammatic explanation of all the changes and a written summary of all these changes and we shall be obliged if you will kindly help to make these known as widely as possible across our parishes.

*Fr Peter
Fr Hugh*

Proposed Sunday Service Scheme for the Cluster of Seven Parishes:

| | Tockwith & Bilton | Thorp Arch & Walton | Boston Spa | Bramham & Clifford | Sunday Evening "EXTRAS" |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1st Sunday | Holy Communion 11.00 am <i>alternating</i> | Holy Communion (BCP) Thorp Arch 9.30 am Matins Walton 9.30 am | HC - BCP 8.00 am All-age Worship 9.30 am (<i>Non-eucharistic</i>) (<i>Evening Communion</i>) | Parish Eucharist Bramham 9.30 am Parish Mass 11 am Clifford | Holy Communion Boston Spa 6 pm |
| 2nd Sunday | Holy Communion 11.00 am <i>alternating</i> | All-age Worship - HC United Service 9.30 am <i>alternating</i> | HC - BCP 8.00 am Parish Eucharist 9.30 am Choral Evensong 6.00 pm | HC Clifford 8.00 am Parish Eucharist Bramham 9.30 am (<i>Clifford HC at 6.00 pm</i>) | Parish Mass (<i>Or E'song & Bern</i>) Clifford 6.00 pm |
| 3rd Sunday | (Evening Communion - <i>alternating</i>) | Matins Thorp Arch 9.30 am Holy Communion Walton 9.30 am | H C BCP 8.00 am (<i>Extended</i>) Parish Eucharist 9.30 am Night Prayer 6.00 pm | HC BCP 8 am Bramham (<i>Bramham HC at 6.00 pm</i>) Family Mass Clifford 11.00 am | Holy Communion Bilton / Tock'th 6 pm Holy Communion Bramham 6.00 pm |
| 4th Sunday | Holy Communion 11.00 am <i>alternating</i> | Matins Thorp Arch 9.30 am Matins Walton 9.30 am | H C BCP 8.00 am Parish Eucharist 9.30 am Night Prayer 6.00 pm | Parish Eucharist Bramham 9.30 am Parish Mass Clifford 11.00 am | Holy Communion either Walton or Thorp Arch 6 pm |
| 5th Sunday | Holy Communion 11.00 am <i>alternating</i> | United Communion 9.30 am <i>alternating</i> | H C BCP 8.00 am Parish Eucharist 9.30 am (<i>Extended</i>) Night Prayer 6.00 pm | Parish Eucharist Bramham 9.30 am Matins Clifford 11.00 am | |

Proposed changes to the Sunday Rotas in the Boston Spa Group of Parishes

1. General Principles

1:1 As from August 2001 the Boston Spa Group of Parishes will go from five to seven in order to temporarily serve Tockwith and Bilton with Bickerton.

1:2 A general Deanery principle is in the process of being enunciated for the celebration of Holy Communion Services: 100+ people, one main service each Sunday; 80+ people, at least one main service on three Sundays; 50+ people two services a month; less than 50 negotiable.

1:3 In addition to these Communion Services there are two other requirements of the stipendary clergy on Sundays: Baptisms and for nine months of the year Confirmation preparation.

1:4 With our present number of priests (2 or 3) we are able to offer in the Cluster each Sunday the following number of Holy Communions (not including the 8.00ams, see 2:5 below):
TWO 9.30ams, TWO 11.00ams and ONE 6.00pm (and occasionally TWO).

2. The principles applied to the existing Cluster and additional parishes.

2:1 Tockwith and Bilton with Bickerton will share one Sunday service, alternating between the two churches. This will be at 11.00am except on the third Sunday of the month when it will be at 6.00pm.

2:2 Due to the size of the **Boston Spa** Congregation they must have a main morning service on each Sunday. This service will immediately have to move to 9.30am to enable the priest to celebrate an 11.00am service elsewhere. On fifth Sundays of the month this service will be Holy Communion by Extension.

2:3 The format for St. Mary's Sundays evenings will be as follows: on the first Sunday of the month a service of Holy Communion. Choral Evensong on 2nd Sunday and Night Prayer on the other Sundays unless there is an ecumenical service in the Cluster which always takes precedence over the evening services of the second to fifth Sundays.

2:4 There will be five Sunday evening services of Holy Communion in the course of each month. In a five Sunday month these will increase to seven.

2:5 **Thorp Arch and Walton** will have between them one alternating service of Holy Communion on three out of four Sundays and four out of five Sundays. But on 1st and third Sundays the Parish without a service of Holy Communion may have a Service of Mattins.

2:6 It is proposed that **Clifford and Bramham** give up one Sunday morning service each month each to be replaced with a 6.00pm Service of Holy Communion. It is further proposed that on the fifth Sunday the morning service at Clifford will be a service of Mattins but on this Sunday there will still be a service of Holy Communion at Bramham at 9.30am.

2:7 On the basis of the Deanery discussion to date (see 1:2 above) it has been decided that given the overall numbers attending the 8.00am service of Holy Communion there should only be ONE each Sunday for the whole Cluster. All these will be at St. Mary's except on the third Sunday when this service will be at Bramham. However on the third Sunday there will still be a Service of Holy Communion by Extension at St. Mary's.

3. Related issues.

3:1 The Clergy acting together, having consulted the Churchwardens of the Parish concerned, reserve the right to review and if necessary change or cancel any services which are not being supported. This is particularly important in relation to the new evening services of Holy Communion. It is recognised it will take some months to develop but if it is clear within three or four months or so some of these services are not being supported further changes will be made.

3:2 It is for the stipendary clergy alone to determine the rota details and who shall preside at which service, recognising however the particular 'charges' of each priest.

3:3 EACH INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATION or LINKED CONGREGATIONS WILL HAVE TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE PROPER AND EFFECTIVE TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE WHEN SERVICES ARE BEING SHARED.

The Stipendary Clergy

18th July 2001