

Tisbury & Wardour Parish Pastoral Council

New Constitution

Preamble

The reason for offering this proposed new Constitution is:

- a) to respond to the diocesan guidance contained in the recent document, *Pastoral Councils Implementation Guide* (published following the *Called to be a People of Hope* guidelines) which recommends an informal Constitution, and
- b) to take account of the changing circumstances of the parish.

1. Aim

The Pastoral Council undertakes the responsibility indicated in canon law that pastoral councils investigate things which relate to pastoral activity, considering them and proposing practical conclusions about them (canon 511).

In fulfilling this responsibility, the Pastoral Council aims to encourage and facilitate collaborative ways of working in the parish. This aim recognises that "we are all ministers of God" sharing "in the royal priesthood of Christ" (Bishop Declan, Chrism Mass homily 2003) and that "people and clergy need one another" to serve the needs of the parish effectively. (cf. *Implementation Guide*, p.11)

2. Main functions

The main functions of the Pastoral Council are:

- a. to serve the community by consulting with parishioners and parish groups so as to discern, articulate and promote an agreed vision for the parish;
- b. to encourage and deepen the faith of all by fostering a welcoming Christian community in which all are aware of their active responsibility for the mission of the church.

3. Working principles

The Pastoral Council will:

- a. strive to build a relationship of trust and respect both between all parish members and with the wider local community of which the parish is part;
- b. endeavour to ensure that its work and recommendations arise from its commitment to personal and group prayer informed by the Gospel;
- c. share collective responsibility with other groups and individuals and cooperate with them as appropriate in regard to specific areas of parish life.

4. Practicalities

Membership

- a. The Council will be made up of a maximum of 12 members including, *ex officio*, the parish priest and anyone appointed by the bishop to serve the parish.
- b. Membership will seek to reflect (a) the interests of both the Tisbury and Wardour communities of the parish, and (b) representation from the parish groups listed in the Parish Directory.
- c. Members will normally serve for a maximum of two years but may be reappointed for a further two years.
- d. Eight members will normally be either drawn from one of the groups listed in the Parish Directory or elected at the parish Annual Meeting. Three members will be appointed by the parish priest in consultation with other members of the Council.
- e. The Council may invite other individuals & groups to attend its meetings where appropriate.

Chair & Secretary

The chair person and secretary will be agreed by members and chosen from the non *ex officio* members of the Council.

5. Meetings

- The Council will meet a minimum of six times a year and a maximum of nine times.
- Meetings will be regarded as quorate when at least four non *ex officio* members are present.

6. Constitution

This Constitution will be reviewed annually. Proposed amendments agreed by the Council will be voted on at an annual parish meeting.