

DRAFT

Framework for Collaboration between the Diocese of Exeter and St David's and St Michael's Churches

1. Introduction

This document sets out the framework for moving forward in a new way in the governance and life of the churches of St David's and St Michael and All Angels, Exeter

The need for this new way forward has been brought forward in response to many years of pastoral tension between the parish church of St David, Exeter and the chapel of ease of St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham. It is felt that this tension risks becoming detrimental to the mission and ministry of both churches.

It is proposed that this conventional district be established as a stepping stone to the creation of a discrete parish of St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham, with proposals to be developed and brought forward as soon as is considered practicable. Such proposals would be subject to full consultation under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. The people of St Michael will need to demonstrate that St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham, can be viable as a discrete parish with a parish church.

In the first instance, this document will set out the underlying agreement between the parties involved.

2. Care of the Church Building

- The proposed St Michael's Parochial Church Council (St Michael's PCC) will take full responsibility for the maintenance and repair of St Michael's and All Angels church (the Church). The Church will continue to be subject to the faculty jurisdiction and the freehold of the building will continue to be held by the incumbent of the Benefice of Saint David.
- All current documentation regarding St Michael's will be transferred across to St Michael's PCC or arrangement for new documentation will be put in place. This should include (but is not limited to):
 - Log Book
 - Latest QIR
 - Inventory
 - Current Faculty Applications
 - Current test certificate
 - Insurance documentation
- The insurance of the building will need to be maintained by St David's PCC until the creation of the Conventional District when it will become the legal responsibility of the St Michael's PCC.

3. Finance and Payment of Common Fund

- A separate bank account, accounting system and budget for the Church will be established for its specific needs, with an agreed method of approval for expenditure.
- Financial records will be maintained in accordance with charity law and accounting best practices.
- St Michael's PCC will need to make a contribute to the Diocesan Common Fund based on its established participants numbers.

4. Worship & Services

- The Church will continue to offer worship services according to the rules of the Church of England.
- Only such clergy as hold the Bishop's Licence or Permission to Officiate will conduct worship. A rota of services will be created and submitted for approval to either the Rural Dean or any appointed Curate in Charge.
- Only those services authorised or approved by canon law will be used.

5. Operational Arrangements / Bookings

- Procedures for opening and closing the church, arranging events, and managing health and safety will be established and documented.
- St Michael's PCC will be responsible for organising and managing church bookings.
- The Incumbent of St David's and any interim Incumbent will have full and unrestricted access to the Church in regards to worship, governance and matters of general oversight. The Incumbent will also have access for educational use for St David's Church of England Primary School.

6. Safeguarding

- Safeguarding policies will be followed according to the Church of England's guidelines.
- All members of the St Michael's PCC will need to undergo Safeguarding Training and have a DBS check before taking up office.
- A Safeguarding Officer for the Conventional District will need to be appointed, and approved in the first instance by the Rural Dean or the Archdeacon.

7. Governance and PCC

- St Michael's PCC will function in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.
- The Chair of St Michael's PCC will be the Curate in Charge of the Conventional District or, (if none), a formally appointed Vice Chair who has been appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules
- St Michael's PCC will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Church within the framework of this document and all the laws, rules and regulations which relate to the Church of England.

8. Electoral Roll

- An up-to-date electoral roll will be maintained for the Church in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

- Qualification to be added onto the roll will be created by habitual attendance, but all those qualifying persons who are already on the St David's roll will transfer across at the point of creation of the Conventional District.

9. Moving Forward – Conventional District and New Parish

- The Diocese and the Church will work collaboratively to establish a Conventional District encompassing St Michael's Church, following the established procedures outlined in law.
- A plan for pastoral reorganisation leading to the creation of a new parish will be developed in due course with input from the Church community.
- All parties acknowledge that the creation of a Conventional District (CD) is dependent upon the success of the new arrangements and that the CD can be brought to an end by the Bishop or by the Incumbent of the Benefice (or any interim Incumbent) if, following consultation, it is determined that the arrangements are not working as required. In those circumstances any monies held by St Michael's PCC will be transferred to St David's PCC and all contracts and obligations will be transferred back to St Davids. The St Michael's PCC would be disbanded at the point at which the CD comes to an end and the licence of the Curate in Charge would also be brought to an end.

10. Legalities

- The provisions set out in this document are subject to Church of England canon law, the Church Representation Rules, charity law, and all relevant Measures and legalities concerning the running of the Church and trustee obligations within the Church.

11. Review and Dispute Resolution

- Any disputes arising from the interpretation of this document will be addressed through a process of discussion with the Archdeacon in the first instance.

12. Signatures

This document is signed by the duly authorised representatives of the Diocese of Exeter and St David's and St Michael's Church on this [date].

[Signature]

For the Diocese of Exeter

[Signature]

St Michael's Church

[Signature]

St David's Church