



Consultation on Rationalisation
Summary Report of Dover Deanery
April 2015

Although discussion was, at times, quite wide-ranging, in the interests of conciseness the following represents the more concrete proposals in no particular order. This is not to disregard any concerns that were raised but they will be for discussion at the appropriate time.

1. Given their proximity, the view that the 2 Folkestone parishes, the 2 Dover parishes and Deal and Mongeham could amalgamate was raised.
(What is meant by 'amalgamate' and what challenges there could be in any such coming together, while valid enough questions, were not the purpose of the meeting. The point was that in principle such amalgamation must be considered. Achieving this would, of course, need careful thought and planning if it were to happen).
2. Sandwich to come under Aylesham
3. Cheriton to come under Hythe
4. The viability of the Mass at Wingham (Aylesham Mass centre)
5. 3 Mass centres on the Marsh (Hythe parish) came up. At least one is needed, possibly 2, but 3?
6. Aylesham to come under Canterbury. (Although this would cross a deanery boundary it is not impossible)
7. Creation of a new Ashford deanery which would echo local building plans in the area and extend into the Marsh
8. Hythe could reduce the number of Masses in the parish church freeing them up to maintain the 3 Mass centres on the Marsh
9. Invite religious orders to take on some of the deanery parishes
10. The clustering of parishes served by fewer priests. This has worked well in other dioceses
11. Seeking out examples of successful rationalisation from other areas would be a good starting point
12. Greater lay involvement in the parish sharing the vision and the work with the clergy

13. Shared sacramental programmes
14. Coordination of Mass times to avoid duplication and provide most opportunity
cf. Mongeham/Sandwich and Deal both have 9.00am and 11.00am Masses
15. Be mindful of new housing developments and migrant populations
16. Merge Wingham and Sandwich
17. Reduce the 2 Sunday Masses in Dover to 1 at 10am
18. At some future point to use the presbytery in Cheriton as a retirement home
for priests who could celebrate Sunday Mass
19. St Mary's Convent Chapel. If the Sisters find a priest from outside the Diocese
that Southwark Diocese can appoint he could serve Cheriton also
20. Folkestone priests could serve other deanery churches if the need arose

This report will be given to the Archbishop's Council and there will be ongoing communication with Dover Deanery Pastoral Council channel at every stage.

Fr Paul