

**MEDIA INFORMATION**

**Date Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018**

*Response to story in The Times today*

**Parishes in positive process of reconciliation.**

The Archdeacon of Wilts and the Churchwardens of the parish of All Saints' Church, Burbage, in north east Wiltshire in have said they are working towards the appointment of a new Vicar to their team of clergy.

And are involved in a positive process of reconciliation after the departure of the previous incumbent.

Speaking after a national newspaper report (Today - December 3<sup>rd</sup>) suggested that a conflict resolution team had been brought in, the Archdeacon of Wilts, the Ven Dr Sue Groom said:

“Much of the story was very much old news. We are all working together in the process that will see us appoint a new Team Vicar to the Savernake Team”.

Together the Team Rector and two Vicars serve all 11 of the parishes in the Savernake Team.

Dr Groom said:

“The resignation of the former incumbent along with the letter he wrote to parishioners back in November 2017 did leave some hurt in its wake and this needs to be reconciled before someone new arrives.

“Bridge builders is a Christian organisation that will help the parishes move on.

“The Parochial Church Council hope that this process will enable us to move forward confidently and be ready to welcome a new Team Vicar.

“And, as the churchwardens have told me, the parish is in a much better place now and I am confident the process of finding a new member to their clergy team is now underway.”

ENDS

**Further information**

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**Notes:**

- The process of finding a new incumbent for a parish or benefice in the Church of England is one of discernment by all involved. The process does not begin until the previous incumbent has left the parish and the process can be lengthy.