

Pastoral Committee report

The pastoral committee have responsibility for the care of churches across the Synod: helping ministers, leaders, elders, and members to work together for the care, life and mission of the local church.

Numbers of ministers

The current target for full-time equivalent ministers for the South Western Synod at the end of 2019 is 23. As things stand we will be very slightly over this target and Pastoral committee are working hard with churches in a number of areas of the Synod to talk about how to encourage churches and how the Synod can help provide leadership when there are a dwindling number of ministers of Word and Sacrament available.

Interim Ministers

We are grateful to Revd Phil Nevard and Revd Rob Weston for their work as interim ministers in the synod – helping to support churches especially in times of difficulty. Phil is currently working in the Torbay/Teignbridge area (especially with Strand URC, Dawlish) and Rob with Lavington URC, Bideford.

Closing Church

We note that the closure service for Falmouth URC will be held on October 27th. We pray for the members of the congregation and give thanks to God for the ministry of that church over many years.

Inductions

Revd Mark Woodhouse was inducted to Derriford URC in August;

Revd Heather Cadoux will be inducted to Furrough Cross URC on October 26th

The induction of Revd Phillip Jones to Boulevard, Weston-Super-Mare on October 12th was postponed due to a delay in necessary procedures.