

## STROUD DEANERY SYNOD

### MOTION

*To send to Diocesan Synod*

#### **Introduction to the Motion**

*For the past several years the Stroud Deanery has functioned with a persistent vacancy level of between a quarter and one third of its allocated clergy complement. Some parishes have experienced 'interregnum periods' of up to two years.*

*For financial planning purposes the Diocese assumes a vacancy level of less than one tenth of the total clergy complement with each vacancy lasting for no more than nine months.*

*The current process used to fill clergy vacancies has failed to satisfy the needs of the Stroud Deanery and also the planning criteria of the Diocese. For these reasons the Synod of the Stroud Deanery wishes to present a Motion for consideration by the Gloucester Diocesan Synod at its next meeting on 20th June 2018*

*The motion was proposed by Revd John Spiers and seconded by Mrs Croinne Aldis*

### MOTION

This Synod requests that Gloucester Diocese considers modernising the current process for filling Clergy vacancies in the Parishes that regularly lead to long delays, additional burdens placed on Church Wardens and taking clergy out of retirement to undertake services during the interregnum.

A new model should be considered that would encourage PCC's and ACC's to prepare a clergy profile, and drafting advertisements as soon as notice of the vacancy becomes formally known, with a view to encouraging Applications as soon as the legal framework allows. Early consideration is needed to consider what legal and other changes would expedite filling Clergy vacancies.

**Motion Carried** at the Deanery Synod meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 on a show of hands with none against and two abstentions.