

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY ON 03 APRIL 2017 AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

Attendees:

President: Father Niall Harrington Fr Niall

Chair: John Geary JG

Kathy Johnston KJ, Robin McGuinness RM, Steve Gallagher SG, Bernard Dayer BD and Pauline Spratt PS.

Father Niall opened the meeting with a prayer.

Apologies for absence

None.

Minutes of last meeting / matters arising

No comments

Calendar and dates

All as previously agreed.

Next meeting is on Monday 05 June at 8pm in Holy Trinity Church, South Woodham Ferrers.

Vacancies to fill

The position of secretary is yet to be filled.

Live Simply Campaign

A walk had been planned from Riffhams lane.

Fabric reports

JG to obtain a quote for the replacement of a corroded radiator.

It was agreed at the Fabric and Property meeting that the two vestries would be redecorated by committee members. This work would be undertaken in May.

CAFOD

It was reported that food-bank donations from English Martyrs church would be delivered to the Holy Trinity church meeting room by Jackie Wright.

Methodist report The Circuit is gearing up to only two ministers in the circuit for the coming year. One of these is our Superintendent, with 7 churches and the other is a probationer, who has been ill and unable to carry out more appointments than she already has. The vacancy will remain open until September, as there is an unlikely possibility that a minister could ask to be re-stationed before September. The possibilities being explored are:

1 Another lay worker/Supernumerary in addition to Gill Songer.

2 A Deacon, but this can't be done until 2018 as the deadline for 2017 has passed.

3 A "Pioneer" Minister- not a minister as we know it, but potentially with a focus on outreach. This is with the expansion of North Chelmsford in mind.

4 Identifying a very small number of local preachers who will be put before conference to receive dispensation to administer Holy Communion.

We continue to pray for a satisfactory outcome.

Anglican report

Present:

Revd Carol Ball, Sue Benjamin, Pauline Green, Bob Hemmings, Stella Jaconelli, Sheila Jenkins, Ashley John, Joan Lambert, Margaret & Roger Partridge, Janet Sinclair, Angela Tuff, Gill Wragg and Kathy Johnston (Catholic Observer) & Maureen Graham (Methodist Observer).

1. Revd Carol Ball opened the meeting with prayer.

2. **Apologies for Absence:** Revd Jane Richards and Janice Pearson.
3. **Key Topic - MMUs (Missionary & Ministry Units)** - At the last meeting it was decided that our MMU would be called 'Compass Churches' with the Chi Rho between the two words. It was still unknown whether Ramsden Bellhouse, Downham and West Hanningfield parishes would be joining the group. Revd Carol read out the mission statement and the shared aims for the group. Next meeting to be held on Monday 20th March at 7.30p.m. at St John's, Danbury to discuss how the group will be managed (governance). Unfortunately neither Margaret or Bob (who were our lay representatives) were able to attend as they were unaware of the meeting being arranged as they had received no papers on it or any for the previous meeting. Revd Carol said she was happy to attend it on her own and would bring up the matter of communication.
4. **Minutes of last meeting on 12th January 2017** - The minutes were agreed and signed by Revd Carol.
5. **Matters Arising:** Revd Carol raised the following matters from the minutes - (i) **Christmas review** -
 - (a) Disappointing numbers attended the Midnight Service - it was felt the advertisement in the Focus was not prominent enough compared to other churches and that would need to be looked at for this year.
 - (b) The recorded music used was unsatisfactory; difficult to sing along to - in the absence of an organist or pianist Revd Carol considered the best had been done. However Maureen said that as far as she was aware at the present time she would be available this year.
 - (c) The address given was felt to be inappropriate (using the John Lewis tv advert) - Revd Carol felt she had done her best and that she felt she had had positive feedback from people as they had left the church but she apologised and hoped that she would do better this year.
 - (d) She felt that Alan should be allowed to continue do a reading at the 9 Lessons and Carols service and that it should not be a problem if the service did not flow at around that part.
 - (e) TSM - It was hoped that things would improve during the year with the school becoming more involved in church services.
 - (f) Parish 'bouncing along on the bottom of a stream' - this was because it had been felt that we were not attracting more people into the church. Revd Carol was very supportive of the 'Messy Church' idea. She said that now she was fully back in her work and that we would be mentored by the Archdeacon and that one important part of that was that she should not be doing admin and so have more time being a town chaplain. Revd Carol said that she felt the Family Service had attracted families but hoped that the 'All Age Service' would draw in more.
 Toy Service - Revd Carol was happy about restructuring the toy service.
 Ex-parishioners known by Stella who possibly wanted to return to the church - Revd Carol asked Stella to liaise with her on this and she would go along and see them.
 The meeting between the Archdeacon, Revds Carol, Jane and Michelle had taken place.
6. **All Age Service Review** - Revd Carol said that having been at the last service she felt that the enthusiasm of the team (Roger and Stella) was good. She felt that the version of the Lord's Prayer normally used should be maintained, together with the Peace. It was thought that if the whole service was run in TSM school hall and not use the church at all meant that there would be no time constraint. The 7.45a.m. service catered for those who wished to attend a service in church. 'Church is not just a building but a body of people!'
7. **Church Plant - Pioneer Project Ministry**
 Ashley gave a presentation on his plans for his pioneering project which he wanted to set up in the Chetwood Centre.
 It would be necessary to have both the support of the incumbent and the PCC (the incumbent could however overrule the PCC's decision). After the presentation, Ashley was asked to leave the meeting and a discussion followed on whether the PCC agreed to support him. It was unanimously agreed that the PCC did not support Ashley and his project in the form presented.

 Ashley was given feedback on the PCC's decision by Revd Carol:-
 How did this ministry help our church - it was felt to be separate from us and if we had a Pioneer Ministry we would want the people to come into our church.
 What can be done in Chetwood Centre that cannot be done in TSM school hall at no cost.
 Splintering the church was a very big concern as a similar thing had occurred in the parish before and had had repercussions .
 Funding also an issue - although Church of England would be providing funding for his ministry and also by himself - this could be seen as the 'church of Ashley'!
 Although lonely people are an important issue within the church, we are a broad church and therefore should not focus on one issue.

Unfortunately the presentation was not sold to the PCC - ideas were very good but the PCC did not share Ashley's vision and as already discussed earlier in the meeting, there is a lot that needs to be done in our own church and therefore did not feel we could engage with this ministry as it had been presented as it did not fit in with the vision of either the PCC or Revd Carol. It was suggested that if and when the new housing development north of the Burnham Road comes about then this might be an area that might be focused on.

Revd Carol said that Ashley should go back to the St Cedds Centre team and see if he could come back with something that we could consider again after taking on board the PCCs concerns.

Ashley thanked the PCC for the agenda time and would be going back to discuss the outcome with Charlie Kosla, the Evangelism and Mission Adviser, at the centre.

8. **APCM Report** - to be prepared for meeting on 23rd April. Gill indicated places that would become vacant - Churchwarden (Sue standing down); Deanery Synod reps - Margaret and Roger come to the end of their tenure (3 places available this year); PCC - Ashley, Joan, Angela and Gill all come to the end of their tenures - members to let Gill know if they wish to be considered for renewal. Ashley indicated he would be. Safeguarding Rep - Margaret standing down - Pauline to takeover but with the help of Margaret during first year. 3 charities - 3 years are up - it was agreed that it be put to the APCM that Kenya become the international charity, Childrens' Society to remain as national and the new youth bus as the local one but TSM to be considered as well.

Reports to be included in the report were discussed as to whom would be asked to write them.

9. **Officers' Reports:**
- (i) **Secretary** – Letter from Bishop Stephen about 'Refresh' asking for a contribution towards extra costs to help the possible travel costs etc of partner dioceses to attend. The PCC declined to do so. Letter asking for contributions for Terry Gray's (Diocese Finance Dept) retirement. Agreed to give £25.
 - (ii) **Treasurer** – Report as circulated. Will be paying £3000 this month towards the quota and not £2000 as indicated in report. £6000 will have been paid for the first 3 months of the year. The accounts for 2016 had been audited and had been circulated to the PCC. They were approved and adopted by the PCC.
 - (iii) **Electoral Roll** - Notices have been displayed indicating it was now open to new members. **Family List** - copies of the new list had now been delivered to all those on it by Gill in early February.
 - (iv) **Safeguarding** - no report.

7. **Reports from Committees/Groups:**

(i) **Anglican Groups**

Schools' Link – Revd Carol said that she was now back in school and had done assemblies and was also resuming her governor duties. Margaret said that the Headteacher had been on long term sickness and was resigning at the end of the term. The deputy head was acting head and Margaret was doing 2 days a week giving strategic support. Ofsted had been in the school the previous week but the report was not publicly available at present. Church schools inspection to be undertaken in June and Margaret had been preparing for it and felt that they were ready. Revd Carol said they were all grateful for Margaret's contribution to the school. Roger had been in doing assemblies and was in with Year 6 on a weekly basis as was Maureen who spent 2 mornings a week in the school.

Fundraising and Social Activities – Report previously circulated and thanks to Janice in her absence. In addition to the report Angela reported that £60.55 had been raised at the coffee morning in January and £76.15 in February for the cooked breakfast.

Pioneer Project Ministry - The course continues one day a month and he was part of a small cell group who meet to exchange things and support each other. There was an extra course to be run in Oxford on 'Jesus' Deck'.

(ii) **Other Ecumenical Groups**

Catholic PCC – Nothing to report. Kathy thanked those who had sent their condolences at the time of her mother's death.

Methodist PCC – Report as circulated. Revd Carol said she was only too happy to help at any of their Sunday services and that they were not to hesitate to ask.

JCC – Report as circulated. Revd Carol said that she would be taking over the chair and that Steve Gallagher from the Catholics to be vice chair. A donation of £2000 had been given by the Methodists in order to help with the Anglican and Catholic share. However the Catholics had said that they would not accept the offer but the Anglicans were and were very much appreciative of it.

Worship and Outreach – Report as circulated. It was noted that after the Walk of Witness, a Service of Reflection will be held at 12noon in Holy Trinity.

JCC Fabric Committee – Report as circulated.

Christian Church Council – No report.

(iii) **Wider Anglican Groups**

Deanery Synod – Report as circulated. Margaret said that she had given a full report on the presentation given at the last meeting by Mark Tiddy, the youth adviser for the Bradwell area, on engaging with young people and getting them more involved in the life of the church. It was suggested that perhaps Nicole Hardy be asked to come onto the PCC.

Diocesan Synod - Youth strategy was the main topic together with a talk from the Childrens' Society.

9. **Vicar's Remarks:** Revd Carol said that she had interjected during the whole meeting and that she had no specific report to give but she reiterated that she was fully back at work now and that no-one was to hesitate in contacting her. However she was learning to say the word 'no'! She thanked those members who had given her support during the past months whilst she was not at work.
9. **Churchwardens' Remarks:** Bob said how good it was that Revd Carol was back at work again.
10. **Any Other Business** – None
11. **Date of next meeting** – To be advised.

The meeting was closed at 9.40p.m. with The Grace.

Liturgy report

Nothing to report.

St Joseph's School report

Alison reported that two residential trips had been booked, the ski trip had been successful and there had been a Lenten prayer reflection.

Social Committee

Following the success of the quiz night it was agreed that JG would approach Jim Tidmarsh about a second event this year.

Treasurer's report

I am glad to report that after my last update in February - when our overdraft was £18,500 - we have had a bit of a financial turnaround. Today our overdraft has dropped to £14,200. This has been due to several significant income items in February and March:

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|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Our Lady of Ransom Donation | £1,900 |
| 2. Quiz Night | £912 |
| 3. 100 Club | £720 |

Thus we will close the financial year with an overdraft only £3,000 worse than the start of the year.

Quick Review of 2016/17 Financial year

If we compare our financial performance to the previous year, overall our General Income was up £4,050, with the following standout items:

1. Ordinary Offertories up £2,373 to £59,698
2. Gift Aid up £1,323 to £12,425
3. Fund raising up £533 to £2,817

During the year, we have taken on 8 new Standing Orders, adding another £280 per month. Ordinary Offertories are now made up of £25,041 in Standing Orders (average £482 per week) and £34,657 (average £666 per week) via the plate. However, our General Expenditure rose £6,832 in comparison to £84,103, with a mixed bag of ups and downs:

1. Housekeeping down £3,624 to £3,195
2. Heat and Light down £1,349 to £5,675

3. Routine Maintenance up £1,645 to £4,881
4. Office Admin up £1,952 to £7,079
5. Diocesan Quota up £2,468 to £15,617
6. And £8,690 on Presbytery garden repairs, carpets, external cladding, new boiler and heating system

So, although our overdraft has gone up, our income is showing an upward curve and if we consider the presbytery expenses to being a one-off, the overall performance for the year is healthy.

100 Club

There are currently two numbers available.

Steward of the Gospel

Pauline reported that she had been on a course for her role as Steward of the Gospel.

Any other business

None.

Father Niall closed the meeting with a prayer.