

# **NORTH BELTISLOE BENEFICE GROUP OF PARISHES**

## **MINUTES OF GROUP COUNCIL MEETING: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 19.30, Boothby Pagnell VH**

### **1 Opening Prayer**

Ken Mann read the collect for St Peter's Day and the Lord's Prayer was said

### **2 Attendance**

Braceby	Rick Clegg (Treasurer)
Boothby Pagnell	Tom Blake and Percy Hunt (Secretary)
Ingoldsby	Beryl Simpson and Kate Welbourne
Lenton	Tony Clayton
Old Somerby	Len Watson
Ropsley	Sheila Kemp
Sapperton	
Humby	Colin McGarrigle (Chairman)
Ministry Team	Ken Mann

Apologies received from Jan Saunders (*Sapperton*), Fred Mann and Revd. John Spriggs (*Ministry Team*).

Before starting the agenda Colin asked for feedback from the members, "Is your parish okay?" He subsequently indicated that his motive was to assess the general situation prior to the Forum with the Bishop of Grantham on 10<sup>th</sup> September (Boothby village hall – please not a revised starting time of 9.30 am).

The general answer from Boothby and Lenton was "no". Both parishes were suffering from a shortage of parishioners getting involved in any way and the load is being carried by a decreasing few. Additionally at Boothby the Lady Chapel roof replacement had become protracted because of faulty material and the church has been closed during May and June.

Braceby was settling down after the departure from the PCC of long time stalwarts, Barbara Limb, Marion and Dave Ellis. Encouragingly there was no shortage of offers to help although nobody to date has been willing to take on one of the vacant positions.

Ropsley's situation was mixed. Numbers at services are down and so far this year only one wedding is booked and no baptisms. The service arrangements and visiting preachers have gone well and more people have stayed after the services. It was noted that the Sports Field is a hive of activity on Thursday nights and much of this is due to the "School parents". The same people were also involved in the celebrations for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday which had been very successful and well supported.

Ingoldsby has virtually been closed due to the building works and so attendance has been small. They plan to re-open the church on 17<sup>th</sup> September when the Military Wives Choir will put on a concert. The soup lunches (last Saturday of the month in the village hall) continue and are well supported (~15 diners).

Old Somerby have been very pleased with the service arrangements and visiting preachers. The two services a month – 11 am morning prayer and 9.30 am communion were "perfect". Planning is in hand for the village fete and dog show although the ability to get the grass cut is causing concern.

### **3 Minutes of meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March and matters arising from that meeting and the AGM**

The minutes were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

- a) The arrangements with banns/banns book are working satisfactorily.

- b) The feedback on the Songs of Praise was all positive and Colin thanked all those who worked on it.
- c) Barn Dance – as an evening it had been very successful and those that attended had had a good time. Whilst it is church folk who “make it work” there are not many who attend and it is mainly those who have been before and know that it is a good evening with an excellent group. This year made a loss of £120 (we clashed with the England v Russia football match and a number of regulars were away) although last year showed a profit of £130. There was a feeling that given the success we should continue but Rick stressed the need to be very clear on our reasons for doing so. Perhaps most relevant was his remark that, “organising events has enjoyment and some pain, in the case of the barn dance it has become marginal!”
- d) Each parish needs to appoint two representatives to take part in the recruitment process of the new incumbent. Ideally these should be the churchwardens, particularly the one who will participate in the formal interview at Lincoln on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day.
- e) SWOT analysis - we were complimented by the Bishop of Gratham on the thoroughness of the analysis.
- f) Messy Church – please see if you can get more volunteers to help with running these sessions.
- g) Ropsley Governor Vacancy – the interim solution will be for Rick, who is already a governor, to fulfil two roles. It is for the Rural Dean to make the nomination.

#### **4 Brief review of ongoing activities**

There had already been positive feedback on the current service pattern and the provision of priests for the communion services was working well. Ingoldsby will not be able to host the Group Service on 4<sup>th</sup> September and it will be switched to Ropsley. Instead they will host the Group Service on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The Rural Dean will be invited to lead the communion service and there will be discussion with him (**Colin/Kate**) on using a more modern inclusive liturgy.

Humby plan to have a “Pets Service” and there was interest in having a prayer service. This is an interest of the Revd. Bill King and he should be back with us in the autumn. It was noted that Ropsley have a prayer service (for the sick) on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am.

The next Ministry Team is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> August and it was suggested they consider some of the proposals that had been made (also see other points below).

It is important for churchwardens to be alert to parishioners who would welcome a visit or communion at home and feed this information to Colin/Jan if matters can’t be handled by PCC members or the local congregation.

#### **5 Recruitment of the next incumbent**

No comments had been received concerning Colin’s note of the discussions that took place between The Bishop of Grantham, the Archdeacon of Boston and Colin and Rick, thus it is assumed that all are currently content. Colin believes that the Bishop strongly supports our efforts as underlined by his offer to lead a Forum with us on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Rick recently put round a request for service data for each church – will those who haven’t responded do so as soon as possible. He also mentioned that there is a comprehensive profile available for each parish and this could be helpful in identifying need. His target is to have a formal Statement of Need completed by the end of August and to this end a working draft will be circulated by the end of July. A copy of an email written by Dan Welbourne concerning our requirements of a new incumbent was distributed to each member – it had the benefit of being short, clear and concise.

The September Forum is open to anyone with an interest in how we proceed. Hopefully most PCC members from each parish will be there but also encourage as many others as possible. Colin stressed the need for a good turnout which can only help our cause. He will consult with Bishop Nicolas and the Rural

Dean concerning an agenda. It would also be good if a “pilot scheme for rural mission” could be included in our offering to a new incumbent.

There are currently no volunteers to take on the Group Secretary position, however, it was agreed that other members of the Ministry Team should take on the tasks that Percy does as a member of the Team. These are,

- a) Service Schedule – acts as a coordinator supplying service details to churchwardens and the Newnews, The Legend and the Group website/webmaster.
- b) The monthly newsletter
- c) Through the webmaster to keep the website up to date. There is scope to expand this activity and person does not need to be a Ministry Team member.

Also it was suggested that the Ministry Team might meet each month to generate greater momentum which would all help improve our offering.

## **6 Deanery Report**

The main item was the Bishop’s Order letter which had been discussed at our previous Group Council meeting. The view then being that the initiative that had been proposed by the Stamford Benefice should be left until we had a new incumbent.

## **7 Treasurer’s Report**

Rick plans to have a meeting with the Treasurers before the end of July to discuss paying the charge. In order to do this he wanted some guidance from the meeting. Given that a large part of the expenditure concerns the Rector’s expenses (£2000 – 2500) he considered there were two main options,

- a) “Sit on the splice” a minimal levy taking advantage of no priestly expenses
- b) Charge the levy as normal which would build up the fund, that would cover the cost of the Church Times advert and embrace the possibility of paying for secretarial help?

The conclusion of a substantial discussion was that b) was the better option. However, it was clear that most parishes would appreciate a break from the levy as their finances are quite precarious. Colin did make an offer to “beat the bushes” by approaching a number of a people he was sure would help. He was thanked for his proposal but the view was that his initiative might compromise the serious fund raising effort needed in most/all parishes when a new incumbent is appointed.

Rick suggested that if we made progress on a pilot scheme, which is likely to require some funding, we could apply to the Bishop’s Transformation Fund.

## **8 AOB**

There was none.

## **9 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be the **Forum meeting with Bishop Nicolas on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September** starting at **9.30 am** at Boothby Pagnell Village Hall. (Colin will organise some refreshments and there was a request that the meeting should be kept short – no more than 2 hours?)

## **10 Closing Prayer**

The meeting closed with the Grace.