

NORTH BELTISLOE GROUP OF PARISHES

MINUTES OF GROUP COUNCIL MEETING: 19th January 2015, 19.30, Boothby Pagnell VH

1 Opening Prayer

The Revd Doyle opened the meeting with a prayer.

2 Attendance

Mike Doyle, Chair	Rector	Mark Harrison	<i>Bassingthorpe</i>
Percy Hunt, <i>Secretary</i>	<i>Boothby Pagnell</i>	Mary-Claire Troughton	<i>Burton Coggles</i>
Diana Burrows	<i>Ingoldsby</i>	Tony Clayton	<i>Lenton</i>
Judy Ayto	<i>Old Somerby</i>	Kath Johnson	<i>Ropsley</i>
Jonathan Tesh	<i>Sapperton</i>	Bill King	<i>Ministry Team</i>
Fred Mann	<i>Ministry Team</i>		

Apologies received from Peter Harkett (*Bitchfield*), Barbara Limb & Dave Ellis (*Braceby*) and Ken Mann (*Ministry Team*).

3 Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 8th December meeting were approved and signed.

a) Website update An offer had been received from Ian Rutherford to act as webmaster on the Group website. The Secretary was asked to meet with Ian to make the necessary arrangements; subsequently each PCC will be contacted to provide regular copy (**Secretary**).

b) Barn Dance 13th June Rick Clegg had asked that someone else take the lead in organising the event. It was confirmed that the dance should take place and a number of members (Robin Burrows, Mark Harrison, Percy Hunt) were keen to help organise the event. Given the support Mark agreed to take the lead. It was agreed that previous supporters of the event would be contacted to mark their diaries and that publicity should go in the newsletter and on the website. It was further agreed that the PCCs would cover any shortfall, although in recent years the dance has met the aim of being a social event that breaks-even.

c) Archdeacon's response to Churchwarden's letter was received just after the last Council meeting. The main points related to Mike were,

- He has been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and will be following medical and dietary guidance
- He will take an extra week's holiday after Christmas and his full holiday entitlement
- He will get additional support through a spiritual advisor and a work consultant to assist in planning

Mike indicated that in dealing with his diabetes that he was "getting there" although there was a substantial learning curve and on occasions he felt shattered. He had met both of his advisors, which had been useful, and he would be seeing them on a monthly basis. Emotionally and spiritually he had found events draining, although the medical diagnosis came as a considerable relief. Changes would not occur overnight but he looked to make steady progress on all fronts.

The members were sympathetic to his situation and appreciated the steps that he had taken. Fred Mann said that the Diocese had not provided Mike with a mentor (promised 2 years ago at his interview) and he wished to have it recorded that they had failed both Mike and the benefice. This was agreed by the members who felt that the Rural Dean should also be a source of support.

Whilst Mike had now identified a mentor, he felt that as he was currently working with two advisors, he would wait until his work with the advisors was complete or into a maintenance phase. The developments he was planning were based on the performance concerns that had been raised. The ministry team members present welcomed these statements and re-emphasised their commitment to collaborative ministry.

4 Officer resignations / nominations for replacements

Since the last meeting Paul Gromett, lay vice-chair and Rick Clegg, treasurer, had tendered their resignations. The members were unanimous both in regretting the turn of events but they wished to record their heartfelt appreciation for the time and commitment that both Paul and Rick had given to the Council. None of the members were in a position to fill these posts although the secretary indicated he was willing to

become treasurer if a secretary could be found..

The view of the meeting was that it was more important to fill the position of treasurer and if a replacement could not be found in the near future the secretary's offer should be accepted. (A name was suggested but subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed they were unable to accept.)

The situation is unsatisfactory and it is essential that all vacant posts are filled by the AGM in May (All).

5 Mission

a) Pastoral Visiting

This is an aspect that needs to be improved. In the first instance church wardens should identify the parishioners that would benefit from a visit, It is desirable that a log be kept of requests and visits – Mike working with the Ministry Team to achieve this. Mark Harrison indicated his availability during the summer holidays and also his experience of working with children in special need.

b) Young families

A number of ideas were discussed that could broaden the appeal to children and families, i) a Sunday School combined with the Group Service, ii) service/gathering for all those families who have had children baptised in our churches, iii) prayer spaces in the schools, iv) confirmation, follow up with those recently confirmed.

c) Discipleship Programme

It was established after the meeting that the programme is completing the pilot stage (details attached).

d) Lent Courses > House Groups

We should plan to run at least 4 Lent Groups (e.g. Braceby/Sapperton/Humby, Lenton/Ingoldsby, Ropsley/Old Somerby and Bassingthorpe/Bitchfield/Boothby/Burton) at different times/days with the hope that the groups continue to meet after Lent. (Course details attached)

e) Ring of Prayer / Ring Communion

The converse of a Group service where all the Group churches have a service at the same time at key times during the year (e.g. Christmas, Easter etc) which could either be i) Morning Prayer or ii) Communion where the host has been prepared by a priest(the bread could come from a single loaf) and then distributed to all the churches.

f) Administration/Church Office

The idea of a "virtual" office will be explored with Simon Bland, Diocesan Parish Operations Manager (MD/PH).

6 Treasurer's Report

The situation is unchanged since the last meeting, although the end of year position was slightly better than estimated.

7 Any other relevant business

a) Adverse weather / Service cancellation The cancellation of the Group service on 28th December (due to ice and snow) was a problem for those who didn't receive the message. It was suggested that all church wardens should be informed by phone and that those planning to attend the service should check with their church warden or the host warden. A note to this effect should go in the monthly newsletter over the winter period. Also to go as a footnote to the table of services in our local magazines.

b) Service arrangements It was agreed that the provisional schedule for 2015 should go to all churchwardens allowing them the chance to modify the planned services for their church. (MD/PH)

c) Administration email address northbeltisloe@outlook.com the secretary will use the email address (set up to handle administration matters) in future so that church correspondence is kept separate.

d) Group/Harvest Supper 2015 Please contact Kate Welbourne (585812) to indicate your support.

8 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be **Monday 16th March 2015 at 19.30** at Boothby Pagnell Village Hall.

9 Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Distribution

All parish representatives /Church wardens (on email) / Deanery Officers / Website