



St Mary's Church - Sampford Spiney

Sampford Spiney Parochial Church Council
c/o Rose Villa, Bedford Road, Horrabridge, Nr Yelverton, Devon PL20 7QW
Tel: 01822 859098 Mob: 07770 938287 E Mail: pompi@btinternet.com

September 2016

AUTUMN 2016 NEWSLETTER

We held our autumn Parochial Church Council Meeting on 5 September so I thought that another update was in order.

New Mission Community Structure

The legal process is complete – seeking out best practice to progress things at an operational level is proving to be a bit of a challenge, as we appear to be at the front of the pack by some distance.....

Clergy

Nick Shutt and Gary Shirley are in the process of selecting someone to replace Patrick Parkes – after a false start, they have had a number of applicants respond to a second advert after some judicious tweaking of the terms and conditions of the job specification. It looks as if we will be in a position to select from a high quality group, so watch this space.

As Gary is off on sabbatical next year, Nick has initiated the process of training up one of our Readers (Martin Jury) so he can be authorised to take Services of Communion by Extension. I think that we all need to appreciate just how lucky we are to have the number of clergy (both active and retired) that we have in the Mission Community supported by Readers and lay led services (Worship Teams). Even then things can

hang by a thread from time to time, despite Nick's best efforts to balance resources to meet the demand.

We have recently received a letter from the Bishop of Exeter asking us to shake the trees for anyone who might be considering becoming ordained; we are not aware of anyone within our community but, should there someone out there, may I suggest they get in touch with Nick Shutt in the first instance.

Safeguarding

Helen Sims, Peter Badge and I will be attending safeguarding training in Plymouth on 15 October; this will meet the requirements of the diocesan safeguarding policy.

Recent Church Events

From 19 to 21 June, the Tavistock Deanery was visited by the Bishop of Exeter as part of the Bishops in Mission initiative; while we were not directly involved, those who attended Evensong at St Eustachius on the Sunday much enjoyed it.

On 19 June, we had our quinquennial inspection by the Rural Dean (Revd Nick Laws) – suffice to say we passed with flying colours!

In the middle of July, the Mission Community hosted visitors from the diocese of Thika, our mirror diocese in Kenya. Despite huge difficulties over visas, the visit went ahead very late in the day but was still a great success.

Finally, we hosted the Mission Community Animal Service on 18 July. We welcomed dogs, cats and Pippin the pony to a special service at St Mary's taken by Nick Shutt and supported by the Mission Community Choir. It was a great event!

Future Church Events

Do come and join us for all or any of the following:

- **Harvest Festival @ 3pm on 2 October;** our harvest giving this year will be split between 5 Talents (a Church of England run charity providing microfinance to projects in Kenya) and the Stoke Damerel Church project (to support refugees coming to the Plymouth area). Last year the MCC contribution to the latter was, by all accounts, transformational.
- **Harvest Supper & Auction @ 7pm on 7 October;** Mike Doidge and his team will be assembling lots of produce to auction, but more lots are always welcome. Entrance is free, so bring along some friends - the bar will open at 6.30pm if you want to get into the mood, and remember to bring along a plate of food!

- **Blessing of the Hounds @ Downe House @ 11am on 29 October**
- **Remembrance Sunday Service in Horrabridge @ 1045 on 13 November**; this is our traditional act of remembrance at our joint war memorial in Horrabridge.
- **Christmas Extravaganza @ 7pm on 21 December**; this is a Sampford Spiney institution so do make an effort to be there; tickets from members of the congregation are £5 with children attending free.
- **Christmas Service @ 11am on 25 December**
- And finally, our **Lay Led Carol Service on 1 January @ 3pm**

Fabric

There is quite a lot going on:

- We have the builders in re-pointing the North Face of the tower and re-painting the down pipe from the tower roof – this will cost around £10000 net of VAT.
- We are putting up a larger noticeboard in the church porch to replace the tatty selection currently in place.
- We are in the process of replacing two of the path lights which have proved unable to withstand being used as sheep scratching posts!
- We are fitting draft excluders to the main door in lieu of a proposal to put up a curtain which the diocese wasn't keen on!.
- We are hoping to give the grass a final strim before winter sets in. Our thanks to the Reed and Cole families for their efforts so far in this regard.
- We are having a tree survey to see what work needs to be done in order to meet our due diligence requirement in respect of our insurance.

Finances

We are solvent, despite the cost of the current building work – after we have paid for the work we will still have 18 months running costs in reserve.

The Barbecue and Jazz at Stonycroft in June seems to have been enjoyed by all and we made £2578 profit for our Fabric Fund – our thanks are due to Holly and Gerard Leahy for hosting the event again and to the team of helpers who put it all together and tidied up afterwards.

We played a larger part in the running of the Bank Holiday Sheep Dog Trials this year – it was a great success and thanks again to those who helped in the bar and on the brick and mortar stall. As you know, we share in the profits thanks to the generosity of the organising committee and any money they donate goes towards our running costs. I will, as usual, thank the Chairman on your behalf for any donation which comes our way.

Fundraising in 2017

A small committee of taste (!) met last week to consider what to do in respect of fundraising in 2017. We plan to do the parish raffle linked to another event, certainly a wine tasting, and maybe a treasure hunt and/or a concert.

Another thought was to repeat the Open Gardens event at Sampford Spiney which was last done in celebration of (I think) HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee. We would support this with a cream tea on the green between the church and the manor. **I undertook to canvas you for those who wouldn't mind opening their garden – so would anyone willing like to get in touch and say what time of year would be best for them.**

In Conclusion

I hope this is helpful. I am now fully back in harness with my new knee functioning satisfactorily but probably not yet ready for a week in Courcheval in February – I can only live in hope!

Regards

Simon Hill