Action points from Mission Community Meeting 14 May 19

 (note as these are action points rather than minutes, the chronology of items is sometimes ignored so that items can be fully covered in one paragraph)

(Richard Bayly (RB) Kathy Howard (KH) Simon Hill (SH))

Jane Sandham led Prayer to open the meeting.

SH unanimously appointed to chair MC council during the vacancy 15 MC and others attended incl 2 lay readers.

+Nick had suggested at the vision evening that we could interview in Sep. But the earliest date is now likely to be 20 Nov and even that is in doubt---CWs to disseminate. Archdeacons office will be controlling the actual appointment process.

The legal position is that responsibility during the Vacancy rests with CWs of each parish and the rural dean. But all agreed that this should operate through the Mission Community Council with all CWs, the Rural dean and ministers attending if they wished. RB and KH had been asked to develop some initial ideas on how to run the overall appointment procedure within MC and keeping everything functioning until new appointee arrives. It was stressed that all working needed to be inclusive, listening, open to concerns and suggestions and respectful. The MC welcomed the initial plans. RB will lead on vacancy and KH on keeping show on road. A key need was communication and together they will issue updates on website and to CWs to tell congregations. Congregations must accept that while some change is possible the future is not frightening (we will only have 1.5 clergy)---CW s to disseminate

Horrabridge will be represented by not CWs but representatives and the MCC welcomed both Corinne as MC council member and Nosh lead and Ros Knight who is to lead Open the Book to the MC council in the vacancy period. There may be others co-opted.

RB advised he and KH had spoken to the Rural Dean who would be supportive and offered personal help with occasional offices but diary precludes much meeting attendance.

Importance of quarterly returns and record keeping emphasised: KH will coordinate. RB would circulate a check list for Churchwardens. CWs also need to collect keys from departing clergy.

Website is being improved by Belinda (belindajanegardiner@gmail.com): she relies on parishes to check their current parish news, delete old and inform her of anything that needs adding.

RB/KH trying to develop a simple phone and e mail contact arrangement for the Mission Community to reflect that there will be no clergy for some months---especially important for occasional offices. KH will have wedding diary and funeral directors asked to contact her

MCC supported view that we should aim to offer candidates a choice of the Horrabridge and Yelverton Rectories and KH to write to Diocese asking if we can have both rectories for advertisement.

Finance: Brian Medhurst explained the MC finances and there was money in the fund to pay for advertising (agreed we would spend the additional to have free advertising if we failed to appoint in round one)

KH will get fees templates and do fees paperwork for the future.

The clergy and lay readers were meeting 21 May to decide what they can sensibly cover regarding leading spiritual worship. RB emphasised that congregations must realise their numbers are low and there is a need for duty of care to this low resource; therefore balance of what is reasonable and practical—CWs once meeting details are arranged. Gary has offered to help with Aug-Nov roster (and rosta format could become admin task). Also had several offers from other clergy including + Nick and Jon Marlow to lead services. +Robert is however insistent on current terms for communion by extension so MC needs to think flexibly regarding services. Pinch point will be Christmas—MC immediately thought Remembrance Service could be lay lead where needed. House groups led by Richard and Mike could continue as would Mens’ breakfast—Linda to speak to Martin re possibly amalgamating Horrabridge and Burrator groups. Pastoral visiting needs review to see what may be possible and if enhancement is possible, bearing in mind safeguarding issues.

Churchwardens would be responsible for sorting arrangements for regular music provision for regular church service. Pauline H-L would continue lead on the choir and more strategic music issues

If Di Caine’s health improves she would be a most welcome bonus but we must also manage her return to work.

Ecumenical work needs more thought. Horrabridge already have Methodist service.

All churches were asked to return to RB **by 9 Jun** a list of: key pints they wanted used to “sell” the MC to applicants, key points about their parishes they wanted used in this way and a prioritising of the characteristics wanted in a new rector which +Nick had offered. Any further concerns and material for a Parish Profile should also be provided by that date. WDMC is very united but can also celebrate its differences. The MCC agreed that there was a need to emphasise the vibrancy of the MC and positive themes such as social, children, innovative services, willingness to adapt needed to be emphasised. Need to emphasise our vision for future of the MC---but we are already part way down the journey. Much of the material could be structures around themes with local and collective examples, rather than following a geographical structure focussed on each parish. But the distinctiveness of each parish needs to come through and we also have to include standard facts (which can appear boring so we should not lead on these!)

Also by 9 June nominations were needed as representatives to a drafting group.

A MC council meeting on a monthly basis was mooted, and a new meeting on 20 Jun in St Pauls church was agreed to focus on the emerging Parish Profile as well as picking up deferred regular MCC business..

MC council all felt that we know each other well and can work together

The MCC was keen to keep social activity in the MC strong during the vacancy:

* A farewell to Nick would be held on 15 Jun in St Pauls hall in the evening ---collection organised by CWs for farewell gift by 12 Jun to Brian. It will be bring and share
* A farewell to Gary and Carol would be held on 16 Aug---Horrabridge village hall—bring and share supper. Collection organised by CWs between 18 Jun-10 Aug to Brian.
* MC will also need to plan for a visit by candidates on the day before interviews an agreed it was desirable to offer a supper the night before interviews for everyone to meet candidates.

The meeting closed with all saying the Grace.