Vacancy News 2

This is the second newsletter in a series intended to keep everyone in the Mission Community in touch with what is happening during the Vacancy. There is still a lot to sort but some points are clarifying.

On 14 May the Mission Community Council met to consider how best to manage issues during the vacancy and the appointment of a new Rector. Action points from that meeting are on the website.

**Governance**

The Mission Community Council will oversee the management of the Vacancy. It will be chaired by Simon Hill and the Rural Dean, all churchwardens not already members, all Ministers and all leading delivery strands during the Vacancy will be constituted members as well as core members nominated by PCCs.

A draft project Plan for keeping the show on the road has been developed. It has identified a number of delivery stands which will operate either from when Nick Shutt leaves or when Gary Shirley leaves depending on the issue:

* Kathy Howard will oversee the Rectories in liaison with the Diocese, provide line management for Debbie Delaney, Coordinate Safeguarding (with Debbie), oversee the quarterly returns to the Diocese and maintain the MC database, and be the coordination contact point for occasional offices.
* Kathy and Roger Howard will oversee fees income.
* Brian Medhurst will oversee the Mission Community Budget.
* Belinda Gardiner will oversee the website with Richard Bayly coordinating the provision of regular newsletters for the website and for Churchwardens to share at Sunday worship.
* Corinne Shutt will lead the delivery of Nosh @9.30 with the Nosh team.
* Ros Knight will coordinate the delivery of Open Book in schools with that team.
* Churchwardens will be accountable to the Rural Dean for the proper keeping of records (Services/ Occasional Offices/ Monuments/ Faculties) with any formal legal approvals reserved to the Rural Dean.
* PCCs will continue to administer local issues affecting individual churches, again subject to formal approval from the Rural Dean where that would normally be needed from the Rector.
* Churchwardens will be responsible for arranging music in churches for services in consultation with organists. Pauline Hamilton Leggett will coordinate and lead plans for the Choir.
* The Richard Byrn and Mike Fairall House groups will meet as before. The Gary Shirley house group will review its arrangements.

Further consideration is needed of:

* Arrangements for pastoral work and visiting including residential homes;
* Any schools work beyond Open the Book;
* Eucumenical links.

**Service Patterns and Spiritual Leadership**

We have thanks to Gary a rota staffing the existing service structure which runs until the end of August when Gary leaves. The Ministers Group is meeting on 21 May to consider what they, individually and collectively, will be able to offer and planning for the rota from September to Christmas can then begin. We have already had offers of help taking services, for example Bishop Nick will be spending 6 October with us.

We do not yet know if the present service pattern will be sustainable. The Mission Community Council considered several points:

* Regular systematic use of Communion by extension is problematic. We need to clarify what is possible and how it will be approved;
* Some suggested that we might move to more Community wide services, especially for Communion,
* Others suggested more lay led worship.

The Mission Community Council concluded it was premature to reach views. Ministers should be able to consider their options. PCCs should be consulted on their preferences. The extent to which other clergy might be available to help needed to be assessed. This was not an issue to rush.

**Finding a New Rector**

The Mission Community Council has also developed an outline project to find a New Rector. This needs to have deep involvement from PCCs who have a legal right to nominate representatives for the process.

There will be two key stages:

* Drawing up a Mission Community Profile. This is essential an advertisement for the job with a “Person Specification”. PCCs have been asked by 9 June to:
  + Nominate people to a drafting group;
  + Give their answers to 4 questions:
    - What are the aspects of the Mission Community you most want to use to “sell” the job;
    - What are the distinctive aspects of your Parish you most want to use to “sell” the job;
    - Bishop Nick offered a set of qualities (listed below) one might seek in a New Rector. Can you prioritise them?
      * Pastor/ Enthusiast/ Strong Leader/ Community-Minded/ Contemplative/ Evangelist/ Teacher/ Reconciler/ Enabler/ Manager
    - Are there any other key points the Parish wants to stress for the process?
* The second stage, the interview, will include a visit by candidates. The Mission Community can have representatives on the interview board. The MCC considered that this should be kept to two to avoid overloading the process. How to identify these will be a subject for later discussion.

We have not yet had firm confirmation of the timetable but the interview may be on 20 November and if so the timetable will be roughly on these lines:

* Possible Timeline Target
  + PCC Reponses on issues above 9 June
  + Drafting group agreed 9 June
  + Agreement on advertising 9 June
  + First draft on Profile text for consultation end June
  + Consultation on Text, identifying photos

and design of layout end July

* + Diocesan Clearance mid-August
  + Submit to Church Times 2 September
  + In Print 6 September
  + Advertisement closes 27 September
  + Closure date for applications 11 October
  + Time for Diocesan consultation with patrons et al
  + Visits 19 November
  + Interviews 20 November

**Farewells**

If you have not yet put these dates in your diary please note:

* 15 June Evening in St Paul’s Hall: Farewell and Thank you for Nick Shutt;
* 16 August (probably Horrabridge Village Hall): Farewell and thank you to Gary and Carol Shirley.

More information will follow.

If you have any comments or queries please send them to us. If there are answers we will get them round. If not we will put them on the “to do” list.

Kathy Howard

Richard Bayly

19 May 2019