



St Mary's Church - Sampford Spiney

Sampford Spiney Parochial Church Council
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SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019

Things never stand still and change is the natural state of things so please read on!

A Time of Change

A lot has happened since I last wrote to you – from the top:

- As many of you know our Rector, Rev Nick Shutt, has been standing in as Archdeacon of Plymouth for some time; what most of you may not know is that he has now been appointed to the role on a permanent basis and will be leaving us in mid-June. Clearly, we are delighted for Nick, but that is tinged with concern as he will be leaving the Mission Community (MC).

There will be a bring and share supper at St Paul's Yelverton Church Hall starting at 7pm on 15 June to say goodbye to Nick. If you plan on attending please tell me. We are also seeking donations towards a leaving present – any contributions to me please.

- To compound the situation, Rev Gary Shirley has decided to take retirement and will be leaving us effective the end of August – again we are supportive of his decision and thankful for the 7 years he has spent with us.

There will also be a leaving party for Gary and Carol Shirley at Horrabridge Village Hall in 18 August at 7pm – details to follow. Again, we are seeking donations towards a leaving present – any contributions to me please.

- Our part time priest is Rev Di Caine has not been well but is hoping to be back in harness soon. We are all praying for her speedy recovery.

The implications of this are:

- We will be looking for a new Rector to take Nick's place, but will not be able to restore the current level of clergy effort as Nick is self-funding and in the future we will only have the financial cover to support one fulltime and one parttime priest.
- Our service patterns will change, both during the vacancy and after, despite the sterling support of our retired clergy, lay readers and laity willing to take services.

So how is the situation being managed? We have two challenges:

- **Keeping the Mission Community running until we have a new Rector.** While strictly the responsibility of the Rural Dean and our Church Wardens, we are in the lucky position that we have a functioning Mission Community Council (MCC). So, the intent is for the MCC to run things by means of individuals taking on responsibility for the various tasks rather than re-inventing the wheel. People have proved remarkably willing to take on responsibility for the issues identified in a very helpful "bus list" provided by Nick Shutt. The lead is being taken by Richard Bayley (Sheepstor) and Kathy Howard (Yelverton) and I have been voted in as Chair for meetings.

We have already had two meetings – one with Bishop Nick McKinnell and another to start the ball rolling within the MCC.

The service schedule is planned up to the end of August and the clergy group met on 21 May to consider the rota from September to Christmas. The MCC seemed to be more than comfortable with:

- Communion by extension where possible

- More MC wide services especially in respect of communion
- More lay led worship
- Offers of help from other clergy

In reality, much of the above will have to become more the norm even after a new Rector is appointed.

- **Recruiting a new Rector.** While this is very much the bailiwick of the diocese, we are integral to the process in that:
 - Parochial Church Councils (PCC) have a legal right to nominate representatives but everyone is clear that this could be unmanageable so, in due course, a smaller group will participate.
 - All PCC have been asked to contribute to the Mission Community Profile (Job Description/Specification) – we have already done this.
 - Interview of and visit by candidates. The MC will have two representatives on the panel.
 - Timings: The plan currently/subject to change etc is as follows:
 - Mission Community Profile cleared by Diocese – Mid August
 - Advert in Church Times – 6 September
 - Applications Close – 11 October
 - Visits – 19 November
 - Interviews – 20 November

So we are looking at a new Rector by the end of February 2010 at best.

Other Matters

Some Dates:

- **Flower Festival – 14/15/16/ June** - Mary Badge and her team have planned this event which will take place between 10.30am and 4.30pm daily and close with Evensong at 3pm on 16 June. Do come along – coffee, tea and cakes will be available as well as a plant stall.
- **Sheep Dog Trials – 24 August at Plaster Down** – just a reminder; we will be running the catering and bar again this year.
- **Wine Tasting** – I am sorry to say that the incapacity of both the organiser (me – new knee) and the host (Charles Steevenson – broken hip) meant that this did not happen in April; I will be re-arranging it for November.

Other Issues:

- **Car Park** – together with the Parish Council we will be applying to the National Park to create a car park on the Sampford Manor side of the church for 6 to 10 cars adjacent to the side gate. We will be sharing costs with the Parish Council. I fear this will be a long drawn out process as we will also have to seek the permission of the Secretary of State (DEFRA) for a change of use for the land.
- **New Organ** – Helen Sims has done some sterling research into how we might replace the current rather eccentric instrument. This is a big project and will require a dedicated fundraising effort all of its own.
- **Hearing Loop/Sound System** – we are looking into the cost of a sound system for the church.
- **Fence on Approach Path** – many of the posts on the approach path are rotting through. We are looking to do some remedial work on this.
- **Finances** – we remain in good shape – our thanks for your continuing support.

Conclusion

Clearly, we are in for a bumpy period, but the issues are being well managed so far and your PCC will keep you informed as things move forward.

Regards

Simon Hill