

Meeting of the PCC of St Denys Church Ravensthorpe
Monday 8th July 2019, 7.30pm, at 21 Church Gardens, Ravensthorpe

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Action agreed</u>
1	Opening prayer	
2	Attendance & apologies	
	In attendance: Rev Chris Peck (chair) 'CP', Alice Cooper 'AC', John Mott 'JMo', Meg Benn 'MB', Chris Freeman 'CF', John Matts 'JMa', and Gill Douglas 'GD' Kieren Cooper 'KC' joined the meeting for item 12.	
	Apologies for the meeting were received from Steve King 'SK'.	
3a	Minutes of the previous meeting	
	A couple of minor typos were noted, and then a concern was raised by JMo regarding section 6 of the minutes, and whether it reflected his view. AC agreed to draft an additional sentence to insert here to reflect JMo's view, and circulate it for approval before the meeting minutes were formally approved and posted for public viewing.	AC
3b	Actions from previous PCC meeting minutes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dementia health check – CP proposed we defer until the September meeting given the full agenda tonight. • AC had not yet circulated the link to the safeguarding training. She will now do this. • JMa has identified a suitable hose for the pressure washing of the South path to the church. AC agreed to let him know when would be suitable to borrow it to carry this out. 	AC AC AC
3c	Matters arising from previous PCC meeting minutes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JMo asked if AC could order a recycling bin for the church. AC agreed to do this. • KJC is to write to all electoral roll members, plus other givers, to thank them for giving, and to encourage transfer onto the new Diocese administered regular giving scheme. 	AC KC
4	Benefice matters: Update from Leadership Meeting	
	CP updated on the main outcomes from the recent benefice leadership team meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesley Tomalin and George Frost have recently been accepted for ordination training, which is wonderful news! • At the recent meeting, Rev Allison Twigg had fed back the collated feedback from all the PCCs on the questions discussed at the May meeting (or what we want for and from our churches for the future). Whilst inevitably there were some differences and some contradictions, overall there were some key themes and significant areas of agreement. However, one of these issues, that of sustainability (both people and finances), had recently become a much more live and urgent issue in certain parishes (the smaller 4 of the benefice), and as a result CP 	

had drafted, and shared with the leadership meeting a positioning paper on the potential routes forward for the benefice to address this. This was now shared with the PCC for consideration.

The paper set out the problem in each of the smaller 4 parishes, and then the 7 main options seen by the clergy team as available to address these issues. After a short discussion, there was agreement that the final option was the most palatable. CP noted that this echoed the view of the leadership meeting as well.

This option suggests that the benefice move, once CP retires from the benefice, to 1 full time priest and one 'house for duty' priest (a priest given no stipend, but a vicarage in which to live, and expected to work for Sundays plus 2 days a week – charged at significant less than the cost of a full time priest) and that the benefice be looked at as in two parts from a service provision and pastoral point of view, so that the full time priest look after the larger four parishes (Spratton, Ravensthorpe, Guilsborough and Creton), and the 'house for duty' priest look after the smaller four parishes (Hollowell, Thornby, Cold Ashby and Cottesbrooke). This would also allow the payment of parish share to be allocated on this basis as well, and this would significantly reduce the parish share cost for the four smaller parishes, and slightly reduce it for the other parishes.

Comments from PCC members, including AC & GD who had attended the leadership meeting, included that there was a sadness not to be able to proceed to recruiting 2 full time priests at present, but that this should remain a long-term ambition if the smaller parishes were able to be brought back to a more stable position, and all parishes saw growth. It was also noted by JMa that it would send a better message should the larger parishes be asked to continue their current level of parish share contributions, and that this pool could then be held centrally to relieve any parishes struggling to make their contributions. JMo and AC noted that they agreed with the spirit of this suggestion. AC also noted that she had suggested at the leadership meeting that perhaps there was an 'add-on' to this option to give the full time priest some extra resource to supplement their time for the four larger parishes, as many/all of them had agreed to the proposal of in fact increasing their parish share to fund 2 full time priests, and that this, or at least part of it, could be used to fund additional support or, in the short term, maybe benefice growth/mission/new equipment projects that needed central support.

Other members stated that they agreed with the conclusions of the meeting on this challenge.

5a Fabric & Churchyard: Reordering project update and decisions.

- *Meeting with Jeremy Meager* – a subgroup of the PCC had met with him this week, following his departure from Viscount organs, and his move to set up an independent company, Cotswold Organs. It had been confirmed that he will still be supplying Viscount organs, and that he has appropriate insurance backed guarantees in place for purchasers. The meeting felt that it was desirable to make any order through him if possible, as all conversations regarding the faculty had been held through JM, and as such he was well aware of the requirements laid down. He also suggested we ask the Diocese Organ advisor as to the name of a local organ builder who may be interested in some parts of the current instrument.
- JMo updated the meeting on the progress of his grant applications on behalf of St Denys. Applications had been submitted to The National Churches Trust and The Maude Elkington Trust. Those to The Headley Trust, The Laing Family Trust, The Historic Churches Trust and the All Churches Trust are in progress. A list of other potential organisations is being considered, but these may be less likely to be appropriate for our project than the preceding list. No responses have yet been received. JMo remains hopeful that we will receive some contributions towards the costs of the project. CP thanked JMo for his continued efforts on this.

SK

It was asked what the next decision point was, and it was agreed by all members that we were now in a position to ask for the external element of the building work to begin as soon as the builder and Cotswold Archaeological are available. It was hoped that the ‘breaking through’ to the inside area, such as it was for this project, could be left until a later stage of the works. The meeting voted unanimously to proceed as above.

- AC therefore agreed to ask SK to instruct John Barker as follows as soon as possible:
 - That we should ask Goodfellows and Cotswold Archaeological to begin the external work as soon as possible (on the assumption that.
 - That we would reiterate the need to keep oversight of Cotswold Archaeological costs, especially should any significant findings be made.
 - That we should ask him to remind contractors that any plant needs to be taken into the churchyard by the back route (from Church gardens) rather than into the south entrance.

SK

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That we should ask him to remind contractors of the need to preserve the trees lining the path to the North door. ● It was also agreed that we should ask SK to talk to the diocese organ advisor regarding Jeremy Meager's recommendation that a local organ builder may be interested in some parts of the current organ if no home for the whole instrument has yet been identified. 	SK
5b	Fabric & Churchyard: Other matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A small potential leak has been identified in the last week or so, in the area near the portable altar table and the wall of the vestry. ● It was also reported that there had now been two early morning activations of the roof (lead theft) alarm, both of which had been responded to by Bill Douglas, with no suspicious matters being identified from his search. AC has noted this to the roof alarm company. ● In light of both of these issues JMa agreed to take a look up on the roof in the next week to check for any problems in the area referred to, or obstructions on the alarm sensors. 	JMa
6	Forthcoming services and events	Harvest festival was confirmed as Sunday 6 th October (morning – exact time to be confirmed nearer the time), and Supper as Friday 4 th October.	
7	Feedback on recent services and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our Kingdom Come – whilst the event had gone well as a benefice, there was an acknowledgement that it would have been great to have a greater attendance at the Ravensthorpe service, and we could have better publicised the event in the village. ● Hollowell Steam Rally – CP updated on the events of the rally this weekend, and thanked all who had contributed. GD agreed to write on behalf of the PCC and request a contribution towards our funds from profits from the rally. ● Gordon Walker's funeral – CP thanked all those, particularly Martin Wilkes and Kieren Cooper, who had worked so hard to make overflow arrangements in the marquee, extra seating, and an outdoor sound system available for the day, and who had ensured the running of the service went smoothly, even given such large numbers. 	GD
8	Mission and Outreach	AC asked the PCC to note their agreement that the summer 'Picnic and Play in the Park' events being held in Ravensthorpe, Spratton and Guilsborough over the school summer holidays constituted outreach events run on behalf of this church, and also those in Spratton and Guilsborough. All agreed that this was the case.	

9	Children, families and young people	AC briefly updated on the family picnics taking place over the summer, and that whilst Bus Stop Tots was breaking for the summer, Brunch@11 was continuing over the summer this year.	KC
10	Safeguarding	No matters to raise	KC
11	Pastoral matters	There was a brief update for all on local pastoral concerns.	KC
12	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No formal update was due to this meeting, but KC noted there were no unusual items for the PCC's attention. • He noted he was in the process of changing the contact details from David Johnstone to himself, which may result in a slight delay in this year's refund being issued. 	KC
13	Matters for the newsletter	<p>It was agreed that the next newsletter should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief update to the effect that we hope to start the external work related to the reordering project as soon as possible. • A note that we have had a number of early morning activations on the roof alarm recently, and if anyone sees anything unusual, to please call the police and/or alert a member of the PCC. • A reminder of the harvest festival date (first Sunday in October) and also the Harvest Supper on the preceding Friday, and a request for donations for the harvest auction, and for contributions of produce, baking or crafts from children, for which a small prize would be awarded at the harvest festival. • A box showing clergy/office names and contact details (phone and email). <p>It was also discussed that the prominence of Church news in the whole newsletter had been a concern in the last few editions. KJC agreed to mention this informally to Alan Worthington the editor, including also the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more prominent rector's letter if possible • A header of "church news" to make this clearer. 	SK
14	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JMa raised that he had struggled to find adequate BCP Communion service sheets this month. It was felt that there were plenty of sheets but that they may have been moved, but that if they could not be located, we could request a few spare copies to be printed. 	KC
16	Date of Next Meeting	PCC meetings for the rest of 2019: Monday 16 th September, 7.30pm Monday 11 th November, 7.30pm	KC
16	Closing Prayer	The meeting closed with the Grace	KC