

Meeting of the PCC of St Denys Church Ravensthorpe
Monday March 13th 2017, 7.30pm, at 21 Church Gardens, Ravensthorpe

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Action agreed</u>
1	Opening prayer	
2	Attendance & apologies	
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	
4	Matters arising	
5	Vision for the church	

The meeting opened in a reflection on Lent

In attendance: Rev Chris Peck (chair) 'CP', Meg Benn 'MB', Steve King 'SK', David Johnstone 'DJ', Gill Douglas 'GD', Alice Cooper 'AC', Chris Freeman 'CF', John Mott 'JM', Kieren Cooper 'KC' (for finance section of the meeting only).
 No apologies for absence.

The minutes of the meeting of 23/1/17 were approved
 The minutes of the meeting of 20/2/17 were approved subject to the amendment as follows: That the mention of the vote taken to submit the revised plans to the DAC should be made, and noted that 7 members had voted in favour, and JM had chosen to vote against, largely on the basis of his belief that the space might have been better utilised.
 Once amended, both minutes are to be posted on the church porch board.

- From the minutes of 23/1/17 it was noted that in addition to the positive comments noted in response to the Christmas cards, a few parishioners had expressed the view that they did not wish to be thanked in this manner.
- From the minutes of 23/1/17 it was noted by AC that she had been asked to help the PCC understand the current reserves position and maybe consider putting in place a policy to articulate the PCC's views re this. AC outlined the current numbers and also the approximate sums which we currently consider may be needed for future projects, and therefore the remaining unallocated reserves. However, as the matter of reserves policies is currently being looked at by the treasurers group she suggested the PCC refrain from putting anything formal in place until it saw the output of this.
- It was asked if we knew any further when the full roof repair work would be carried out - AC agreed to ask Minster Lead for an update.

AC

CP asked the PCC to consider the next steps in formulating our vision for St Denys into the future, namely the question of what we wanted our church to look like in 10 years time. The responses from PCC members included:

- Still an active, thriving place of worship
 - More mixed in terms of ages and cross section of the village
 - Having (inevitably) somewhat changed its worship pattern
 - Having a well maintained and improved building (with better facilities)
 - Being more meaningful to people across the village
 - Seen by more people in the village as more relevant, and wanting to help them in whatever they need.
 - Less division between 'church' and 'community'
- At the next meeting we will look at the nearer future steps.

a) Options for Associate Priest role:

The meeting discussed the open meeting held at Thornby on Sunday regarding the options for the forthcoming vacancy for our associate priest.

General themes of the discussion were:

- Attendance had been good, including around 14 from Ravensthorpe
- Tone of meeting was good, with excellent presentation of information on options, and good questions.
- Decision appeared to most relatively straightforward should we wish to see growth in our churches, and agreed that there was a need to show the view of the PCC to CP sooner rather than later. Feeling was that whilst a full time post could never guarantee growth, failure to opt for this would inevitably quash the green shoots of growth we are seeing throughout the benefice in various new initiatives (such as Brunch@11) and also the ability to do anything but the bare minimum in terms of services and events that enrich our church life.
- DJ expressed a view, echoed by AC, that we should share information on the true costs (at a church and individual level) of the full time option as widely as possible with the village (via a newsletter insert) and also the electoral roll (at the APCM). AC agreed to talk to the newsletter team and also to draft an insert for all the PCC to approve before it is sent out next week. This should aim to quash any incorrect assumptions and communicate the true facts.
- CP made the point that whilst fundraising is useful in many ways, it should not be used to replace a reliance on regular committed giving, as this should be the core of our funding, particularly for clergy costs. Therefore looking at how we might increase giving was important.
- It was recognised that overall we are not a deprived area benefice, and that therefore whilst some individuals would of course struggle to give at near the average level suggested by the diocese, many would, and should be able to consider giving at this level or higher to offset this.
- AC also noted that should any form of redistribution of these costs need to be considered, all parishes would need to have confidence that all parishes had attached the same level of importance to increasing giving, despite the challenges this involves.
- AC was asked to provide a pile of regular giving forms in the church.

AC
All

AC

To confirm the feeling of the meeting a vote was taken on the options to appoint a new associate priest role, and the vote unanimously supported the appointment of a full time role.

b) Outcome of service pattern review:

The outcomes of the review as far as they impact on Ravensthorpe were communicated to the PCC, mainly that the 9.45 CW HC service would be at 9.30am from June, in order to allow members of the congregation to attend Brunch@11 afterwards.

There was also some discussion regarding whether the current monthly Taize service should be replaced with a more traditional evensong service, either on rotation, or each time. Views existed on all sides of the debate, and the discussion was not concluded at this time, but CP took the issue away as noted for consideration for the

CP

		future.	
7	APCM planning	<p>It was raised that we needed to fix a time for the APCM on Sunday 23rd April. It was agreed that after the 11am Worship for All service, at circa 11.45 would be best.</p> <p>AC will make copies of nomination forms for PCC members and Churchwardens available in the church for those who need to be re-elected, and also get the official notices of the meeting done and signed off by CP and posted.</p> <p>AC now needs to finalise the warden's report, so clarified with MB what the final electoral roll number was (confirmed as 36).</p> <p>JM also raised that he needed CP to sign the logbook and inventory as up to date before the APCM, and that this should also be noted in the APCM report by AC.</p> <p>AC also to do a version of flyer re costs of associate priest etc. for APCM</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>AC</p> <p>JM & CP AC AC</p>
8	Fabric update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DJ noted that wall repair work was complete DJ raised that the churchyard maintenance man had now disappeared, and a new person was needed. AC agreed to put a note in the newsletter AC also noted that they were not sure if Simon Elbow had yet carried out his annual gutter clear out - AC agreed to confirm this with him 	<p>AC</p> <p>AC</p>
9	Church facilities project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC confirmed for the purpose of the minutes the process that had taken place since the meeting on 23/2 for submitting the plans to the DAC, as communicated to the PCC via email at the time. All questions and proposed amendments raised by the PCC had been actioned, and the only issue that had not been enacted was the question of the new oak panelling to conceal the new organ. It had been agreed via email that we would choose not to add this to our plans at this stage, but could choose to put in an amendment later in the process should we still believe this was desirable once work began. AC agreed to update the PCC as soon as any update was received after the DAC meeting The PCC agreed that they were content that the plans were on display in the church and on the church and village website, but that there also needed to be a note put up regarding the demonstration of the new organ as soon as logistics were confirmed by AC. JM to draft notices. 	<p>AC</p> <p>AC & JM</p>
10	Forthcoming services & events	Confirmed all arrangements were in play for both Mothering Sunday and holy week services. CP and MB to liaise on choir for Maundy Thursday	CP & MB
11	Mission & Outreach	It was noted that foodbank collections had now restarted, and that we needed to remind the congregation of this. MB to mention this in church on Sunday	MB
12	Children, families & young people	It had been a good few weeks for Bus stop tots, with a couple of new families visiting again.	
13	Pastoral matters	Discussed those in need of prayer and practical assistance in the parish.	

14	Finance update	<p>KC presented the 2016 financial report and accounts for the PCC's approval. These are currently with P Smith for independent review, and the PCC will be informed of any changes. Subject to this the accounts were unanimously approved by the PCC.</p> <p>KC to circulate the benefice account annual accounts for the information of the PCC only.</p>	KC
15	Matters for the newsletter	No matters other than those noted elsewhere above.	
16	Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GD wished to confirm that we wished the church to be open for Ride & Stride again this year - PCC agreed we did. • There was also a brief discussion regarding some information requested of CF by the bell-ringing chapter. • JM confirmed that he now had the necessary permission to order the work on the war memorial as soon as Simon Elbrow is available to carry it out. 	
17	Date of the next meeting	Tuesday 16th May, 7.30pm at 21 Church Gardens, Ravensthorpe.	
18	Closing prayer	The meeting closed with the Grace	