

Meeting of the PCC of St Denys Church Ravensthorpe
Tuesday May 16th 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 with a passage of scripture and a prayer

In attendance: Rev Chris Peck (chair) 'CP', Meg Benn 'MB', Steve King 'SK', David Johnstone 'DJ', Gill Douglas 'GD', Alice Cooper 'AC', John Mott 'JMo', John Matts (JMa) Kieren Cooper 'KC' (for finance section of the meeting only). Kerryn Smyth attended the meeting as a guest at the invitation of the PCC
Chris Freeman 'CF' sent his apologies.

The minutes of the meeting of 13/3/17 were approved, and it was agreed could be posted on the noticeboard and the Uplands website.

The draft minutes of the recent 2016 AMP and APCM were also reviewed for accuracy prior to their formal approval at the following year's meeting and a couple of typos corrected before being approved.

- JMa noted his concern over the length of time the repair to the lead roof continued to take (and particularly the temporary repair) and asked if the PCC were satisfied with this. A number of members noted that they appreciated this had been disappointing, but had arisen from the time taken to make a proper decision based on full advice and quotes, and also the long waiting lists of the small number of reputable lead roofing companies remaining.
- CP fed back as agreed that he had considered the comments from the previous meeting, and also revisited the questionnaires received as part of the service schedule review this year, and noted that only one of these mentioned a desire for an evensong. CP expressed a concern that staffing a regular evensong at Ravensthorpe with clergy would also be a challenge, and that he was content that overall we now offered plenty of evensong opportunities at churches across the benefice and it was not felt another was needed at present.
- GD expressed a concern that in the recent review, no questionnaires had been returned from those with children who attend sporadically. All agreed that it would be appropriate to ask these people to complete a version of this questionnaire in any case.
- AC expressed that she had not heard back from Simon Elbrow re the annual gutter-clearing job, but would now chase again.
- The progress on the war memorial cleaning was noted. It was also noted that the re marking of the letters had been considered, but expert advice so far had been that this could in fact cause damage, and as such the immediate intention was not to carry this out.

GD & CP

AC

CP referred to the responses from the previous meeting where the PCC had collated their thoughts on what they wished the church to look like in 10 years time, and then asked them to think about the nearer future, i.e. 5 years in the future - and what steps would need to be happening to be on track for the 10 year vision.
The members offered individual views including: a desire that more

outreach events were taking place, a desire that the church was used for more events outside of traditional services, and more people being aware of our relevance to them, but these were not universally accepted and several members differed on their views as to the more practical elements of what may or may not have changed or be happening at St Denys in this time frame. CP said we would revisit this issue at another time, but left the thought that perhaps the challenge was to see what the church (as a building and community) could offer the village that was distinct from what the other community organisations could offer?

6 Roles & responsibilities of PCC members this year

MB and AC explained that they had pulled together a list of the warden's tasks, and proposals for those, which made sense too take them on to more fairly share the load. The list was reviewed at the meeting and owners were agreed. The only areas outstanding were those to be discussed with CF when he was available, AC agreed to update the list and circulate it for clarity, and also to print more copies of the service set-up instructions. MB to draft a service helper's rota and also book in a briefing session for PCC and sides people on what was required and also the importance of a good welcome.

AC

MB

7 Update from benefice leadership meeting

CP updated on the following:

- Following consultation with all parishes on the options for following Rev Linnet's retirement, there is a consensus amongst many of them that a full time replacement would be highly desirable, but as some parishes have doubts over the desirability and the ability of the group to afford this increase in costs, CP had proposed an alternative proposal, to stage the increase in costs. This would mean recruiting a full time replacement for Rev Linnet, and at the point of the appointment, CP going part time (but remaining rector). It is hoped that then when CP comes to retirement, we would have had enough time to bridge the funding gap to at that point be able to stretch to 2 full time roles at that stage. The leadership team, archdeacon and bishop approved this proposal.
- Trevor Cooke has been appointed as the new benefice administrator
- The proposed benefice events to mark the archbishop's call to prayer.

8 Fabric update

AC & JMa updated the PCC on their meeting with Western Power, where a temporary agreement to trim the trees had been reached. It was also noted that the plans for the improvements to the north path as part of the proposal currently with the DAC did not require any changes to the trees currently in that area. Depending on the decision made regarding burying the cable the issue may continue to arise. The meeting discussed the decision regarding burying the cable, (at an estimated cost of £1,500 according to Western Power). JMa set out that he believed this cost could be reduced significantly from this, and that he was happy to personally underwrite this cost (which he believed could be reduced to virtually nothing if Western Power were approached appropriately). The meeting was happy that if this was the case then the burying could take place as part of the other north path works, and that ducting for the internet cable (if required in future) could also be included at the same time if this took place.

9	Church facilities project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC updated on the frustrating speed of the application's process through the DAC. She explained that they now had the OK from both main historic bodes to be consulted, Historic England and Churchcare, but that the DAC had asked another batch of questions at their March meeting which she believed were largely areas that had already been addressed some time ago in the process. Therefore, despite having had no formal response from the DAC's March meeting (their normal reply time is 10 days) she had written to Sally Van de Steeren again yesterday addressing in detail what she believes their current questions to be. It was agreed that is no response is gained in a week then MB and SK should seek a meeting with the archdeacon to attempt to expedite matters. JMa and JMo raised a concern that they believed the plans submitted to the DAC did not reflect the position of the trees along the north path (as they are not shown on the plan), and that the plan view of the church floor space on one of the plans was misleading. A discussion ensued. It was noted that no churchyard trees were in fact shown on the plans (although none would be impacted by the plans in any case), and it was agreed by some that the positioning of the word "nave" in one place on the plans was somewhat misleading, but not in a significant way that would give concern. Some felt these observations could easily be addressed with the DAC or Chancellor if they were questioned as misleading. 	CP & MB
10	Update from Project Group	AC updated that the first meeting had been held to consider ways to approach the funding gap the benefice faced regarding parish share, and that a number of initial actions had been agreed, including all parishes sending out a giving request letter based on the one already used last month at Ravensthorpe.	
11	Forthcoming services & events	AC publicised the Christian Aid Week Big Breakfast event	
12	Mission & Outreach	Nothing to report - the discussion on "opening the Church" was deferred to the next meeting due to timing.	CP & MB
13	Children, families & young people	Nothing to report	
14	Pastoral matters	Nothing to report.	
15	Finance update	<p>KC gave a brief update, and 2 questions were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JMa asked about the pension cost figure in the detail on clergy costs given out recently, as £10,000 pa seemed very high. Kieren explained that this was an average figure across all clergy in the diocese, and also included an allocation of curate costs, and that as a defined benefit scheme the contribution would inevitably vary over the years. GD asked about the administrator costs - KC explained that these were £390 pcm, and recharged across all 8 parishes. 	
16	Matters for the newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in CW communion service time Archbishop's call to prayer event 	
17	Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that Alan Worthington had volunteered to take on the newsletter editorship, AC to confirm our grateful acceptance 	AC

to him

- 18** **Date of the next meeting** Monday 17th July, 7.30pm at 21 Church Gardens, Ravensthorpe.
- 19** **Closing prayer** The meeting closed with the Grace