

## WARDENS' AND CLERGY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 18th July 2018

Maycroft, Norwich Road, Stoke Holy Cross

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| <b>In Attendance</b> | Rev Rob Baker, Jani Wymer, Freyja Mardell, Pat Howlett, Roy Harding, Annie Leathers, Graham Ford, Viv Carrington, Rev Lyn Marsh |
| <b>Apologies</b>     | N/A   |

### 1. Bible reading and reflecting together

Meeting began at 7.40pm with a Bible reading from Philippians 1: 1-11 and a conversation about things we are all thankful for. **Some notable mentions:** The new head at SHX Primary School Miss Chaney and how welcoming she is with the Church assemblies and how open to prayer. Lyn's ordination, a lovely day and a fantastic moment in Lyn's journey and for the church/community. How the church community supports anyone who may be sick or unwell/in need with regular calls etc. The huge success of the street party at Caistor and the Vicarage BBQ, both were well attended with a large mix of people/ages. The success of Cathryn's home group relaunch and the conversations being had there. Ticket sales for the upcoming Norfolk day, 40+ tickets so far. Come for coffee conversations. **Pat's health!**

### 2. Committed to growth:

#### a. some questions about the churches growing

##### i. What pictures or examples of growth do we see in the Bible?

Examples discussed were: Feeding of the 5000, Acts 2, Jesus performing miracles and more people gathering to listen/watch, Jesus healing the sick; another example of images of growth could be from the Parable of the Sower with the crops.

##### ii. What thoughts and feelings do we have when we talk about the churches growing? Are they positive or negative?

It was discussed as being a huge positive when the churches grow – A full church is a fantastic feeling, especially to enjoy worship with others. However it is a slow and gradual process and there was a concern for the future, as more of the congregation are getting older. The ratio of help within the church to the number of people within the community needs to be balanced right. **Questions to think about: How do we get younger people into the church? Do we need to change what we are doing?**

##### iii. Why might we want the churches to grow?

Everyone was in agreement that it is good news worth sharing! A growing church enables us to have more help inside the church and for external events, which in-turn grows the church further. People can experience hope, community, belonging and comfort with others through the church too.

##### iv. When you picture our churches growing, what do you see?

Collectively we discussed images of: A full church, smiling faces, greater community and more variety of events/activities happening in the area.

##### v. How much do you pray that the church would grow?

Everyone was in agreement that we tend to pray for things that are upcoming or ongoing or people specifically, and rarely think to pray for the growth and future of the church. *Prayers for the new houses being built to send people to us, have shown to be successful with a few new additions to the church.*

#### b. Some ideas for the longer term

Inviting more people, encourage a wider range of people, we also need to go to where things are actively happening and attend as much as we can. There was a discussion about clergy perhaps visiting people in the area (example –Arminghall homes) for those who may not be aware of who Rev Rob is or the church –*A point also made was that we are all part of the church community and we can all actively encourage people who have questions to attend the church to experience it first-hand.*

- c. A place to begin  
Discussions were had on where to begin with growth of the church, Rob mentioned the recent Leading Your Church into Growth course that he attended and how much of the content from it can be adapted for our churches and to aid our missions.
- d. PCCs away day  
Still to be confirmed. Awaiting responses from some members.
- e. On into 2018-19  
A plan is to be made to set up more evenings into next year, for all the churches to get together and regularly reflect on growth and the churches' next steps to keep up momentum.

### 3. Prayer meetings around the churches

There was a moment of discussion to get a sense of how it is all going – Questions raised: Are they at good times? e.g. At lunch (12) Arminghall. What is the difference between home meetings and church meetings? Overall feedback is that the format is good but we can always do better. At Caistor the 'come for coffee' helped attendance and opened conversations; but is it always logical to have coffee then prayers?- as some people may not wish to join in if they are there for coffee. People may seem more inclined to attend a public place than someone's home for a first meeting.

**ACTION: Prayer meeting signs to be made for Arminghall to encourage people in to the church. Try to find a way to engage as many people as possible. Invite more people?**

### 4. Finance: Stewardship update and parish share

Talks of parish share and stewardship have seemed to come around very quickly this year, Rob will contact treasurers to get a sense of how it is going with replies. There will need to be a meeting to start the discussion about dividing the parish share across the benefices.

**ACTION – Freyja to send out an email with dates (to be agreed by Rob) to have a meeting to discuss the divide with everyone, in preparation for the meeting in Oct/Nov.**

### 5. Autumn events

- a. Alpha, September 2018  
Previously been hosted at the vicarage, it is planned again for this year – leaflets will start to be handed out. Rob has asked for help with meals etc. please can everyone invite and bring people –expected start Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September in the evenings.
- b. Harvest supper – charity event?  
There was a discussion of whether to raise money for the EACH Nook appeal, which was unanimously accepted. The supper will be a fully combined effort with cooking and entertainment etc. 5<sup>th</sup> October is pencilled in St Georges Hall. Ideas of maybe a quiz or quieter back ground music were discussed.  
**ACTION: Roy to speak to Gillian and Veronica regarding entertainment. Freyja to be the central co-ordination of tickets across the churches (after liaising with Jani on ideas). Lyn will check St George's Hall availability. EACH to be possibly contacted to inform them.**
- c. Confirm Harvest services:  
9.30am on 9th September, Caistor St Edmund Church , Harvest Family Service.  
4.00pm on 23rd September at Arminghall  
10.30am on 7th October, Stoke Holy Cross Church  
10.30am on 30<sup>th</sup> September, Joint Service at Caistor St Edmund Church– includes Baptism  
**ACTION: Freyja to put these dates on the website. Jani/Graham to check with Brian about 16<sup>th</sup> September Praise and Worship service.**
- d. Finalise dates for Christmas 2018  
2<sup>nd</sup> December, 10.30am, Stoke Church Hall, Café church - advent themed  
2<sup>nd</sup> December, 9am, Traditional Communion at Caistor St Edmund church.  
9<sup>th</sup> December, 9.30am, Praise & Worship at Caistor  
9<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am Stoke Carol Service  
9<sup>th</sup> December, 6.30pm, Arminghall Carol Service  
14<sup>th</sup> December, 7.00pm, Arminghall Xmas Dinner.

16<sup>th</sup> December, 11.00am, Communion at Stoke Holy Cross Church  
16<sup>th</sup> December 5pm, Taize service at Caistor  
16<sup>th</sup> December 6pm, Carols around the tree at Stoke Holy Cross  
18<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm Carols at Stoke Holy Cross  
23<sup>rd</sup> December, something in the morning?  
23<sup>rd</sup> December, 4.00pm, Carols at Caistor St Edmund Church  
24<sup>th</sup> December, 4.00pm Crib Service at Stoke Holy Cross, 11.30pm Midnight Service at Arminghall Church.  
*Could we fit some carol singing in at Dunston Hall?*  
25<sup>th</sup> December, 9.00am Caistor St Edmund, 10.30am Stoke Holy Cross Church,  
30<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am Group service at Stoke Holy Cross.

Any other events August-December 2018?

15th August, 10.00am, Annie to host the coffee morning  
7<sup>th</sup> September, Arminghall Concert to be confirmed.  
8th September, All churches -Bike ride and walk, 9 – 5pm.  
28<sup>th</sup> October, 4.00pm, Shoebox Service at Arminghall  
11<sup>th</sup> November, 10.45am, Caistor St Edmund, Remembrance Service. 6.30pm, Arminghall Remembrance Service with the bell to be rung at 7.05pm (Dunston/ Caistor bells to also be rung)  
**ACTION: Jim to contact concert musician for definite answer. Freyja to make posters for Remembrance services and Christmas services. Everyone to encourage people to attend the shoebox service with boxes. Henry and Eostre to be contacted to ensure the Shoebox service is included in Septembers Free for All with clear instructions for the boxes (11<sup>th</sup> August is the September deadline)**

**6. Any other business (to notify at the beginning of the meeting to help with planning)**

Lyn will be reducing her hours at the UEA, therefore she will be freer for the parish, and this will become affective from 1st August. Rob is at New Wine on 5th - 11th August, then is on holiday 17<sup>th</sup> August – 1st September.

**ACTION: Freyja to make note of these dates of availability on the next notice sheet.**

The meeting ended at 21.35pm with a prayer from Lyn and Rob.

Minutes were recorded by Freyja Mardell, verified by Rev Rob Baker