

Notes from **Partnership Executive Meeting** Thu 14 Nov 2013 at LM Vicarage at 7:30

Present: Tudor, Sue, Mark, Chris
Apologies Clive

Welcome from Mark.

Tudor read from Ex 3: 1-5

Ask God to speak not just in the normal, but in the unusual too. What is God saying to you at the edge (comfort zone) Spend time with God.

Update on Clive

No biopsy as lump is still too hard. Continuing on the antibiotics till next Thursday. Scan on 26th. ENT appointment the following morning.

We considered Clive's possible duties requiring cover/stand in. Nothing urgent on the rota. Chris will speak to Wendy and possibly Pat (Watson) and Paul (Gardner) at SMLT to see if they will cope.

Update from All Saints (on their quest for advice/support etc)

SCTSB, as reported by Janet, were just throwing around ideas. There are deanery re-organisations also being speculated about.

Diocesan advice for ASLM will not happen before Dec - they're waiting for 24 Nov EGM outcomes to be known before they form the consultation group.

A "clean break" may be desirable, but its clear it won't be complete soon. 1 Jan could have advantages for finances. Though agreement and split won't happen fully by 1 Jan. Sue and Tina can start working to begin separating strands.

We can setup a District Church Council (according to Church Representation Rules Part II pertaining to Parochial Church Councils, and section 18 sub para (b) <http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/churchlawlegis/church-representation-rules/part-ii.aspx#ba18>) This will separate decision making and reduce total meeting load.

There will be continuing relationships. But there will be a parting, perhaps gradual as we "unwind the strings". Practicalities are important, because we all still have a job to do.

Plans for Lent

Did anyone ever help Tudor with planning (Minutes PC 20 May AI 11c) for 2014? Tudor regrets this has not been possible. Plan B – Westlea's Tuesday HG offer is accepted.

Plans for Christmas

Already firmed up and Brenda has the dates for the compilation flyer and Partnership news.

Gaps

Is there anything left that Dick and Janet didn't hand over before they retired, or are there gaps still to be filled.

We will miss Dick and Janet's "insider knowledge" on SCT and SCTSB, though there's not much we can formally do about this. Mike Dilly has occasionally attended SCT meetings.

We will miss Janet's convenient convening of pan-church prayer meetings. Sue suggested Angela Mak and Barbara Woodford, who organised Emerge's prayer day, could possibly be asked in future.

Staff/exec meeting

Will continue as it is for now. May be separate meetings as required for pastoral support and business...

We're concerned because we don't know how much pastoral support Clive has. We may recommend he finds a spiritual director or similar. Chris will talk to him (and Wendy)

Brenda should ask chairs of church committees for suitable people to write editorial contributions for PN.

PC Exec will continue with Tudor and ASLM committee as necessary during our "interim" – called by either party as needed.

Exec will continue, without Tudor after DCC is set up.

Final planning for the EGM - HTS are supporting all the practicalities. Chris is doing slides for factual background and anticipating questions. Will check these with Mark Dowling and Mark Barrett

Communication

"Whinging" should be verbal not written. We need to be careful with notes published online. Chris asked for people to check notes from meetings, his default setting is to publish

Teaching.

We have been asked by Gateway to join them in putting on an alpha relay of an HTB broadcast. It would be broadcast direct to a central location. Seems like a good idea. Swindon Deanery also keen on setting up something similar. Clearly we should cooperate.

Marriage course with Gateway and Marriage preparation course not discussed further.

Emerge

Have created some local policy documents for presentation to non-church funding agencies...We should not be overt, but we will not hide the fact that we are a Christian backed organisation. Chris and Julie will have a pastoral word with Claire, and will work with the Emerge Management Team to approve their local policies through PC.

Immediate concerns of individuals/churches

Arch-Bishop of Canterbury is visiting Bristol Diocese from Sept 12 to 14th, launching various discipleship courses. He is in Swindon on 13th from 8 :00 am to 2:30 pm

Uganda sending a delegation to Swindon in October. Each church has been asked to give £200.

Joe Rickets is in hospital

Lack of leadership in depth is a problem. Housegroups can only support lay ministers so much. This will need to be grappled with.

Meeting Dates

24 Nov EGM Sunday 2:30 pm at HTS - apply a "three-line whip"

27 Nov Exec to plan for PC, but may be short meeting unless lots of outcomes from EGM

2 Dec PC planned LM School (Tudor to check)
(and long term...)

23 March P-AGM