

Partnership Exec. Mon 24 Nov 2014 at Sues

Present: Sue, Clive, Chris, Mark.

Clive's health and workload

Still coughing. Bit of a respite this weekend with the Partnership service. Three Baptisms in the plan. Other medical things better, but still appointments to make sure. The Highworth thing went well.

Sabbatical - Clive is planning a relatively clean break - incommunicado apart from an answering machine message directing to Brenda in the office.

Exec + SM wardens+ Trevor should meet to nail this all down

Sustainability response to DLT

Want response by 30 Nov.

Main driver from the denominations is lack of income and not being able to afford ministers

HTS have become the focus of our mission groups, emerge for teenagers, a base for our primary school outreach

Toothill might be well advised to look at the third age ministry

St Marys will continue to be a fine venue for occasional offices, a destination in itself.

Westlea have more available growth and teaching resource than most others and needs to consider a mission strategy. Growth at Westlea seems to be a key to growth in the partnership.

Sunday morning worship sessions are not so much a problem. Lay people are usually available and the rota works well. It's the other stuff that will, soon, not work.

We know we have issues yet to address with long term pastoral cover and long term community service.

Chris will format a paragraph tonight and have a email review

Round up of churches

St Marys are suffering a bit from lack of continuity, which will be a bit addressed in the new rota. Having Trevor around will also help. More lay people around will allow flexibility for clergy rotas.

HTS had a members meeting - cafe style. They want an away day - not very far, just not HTS - probably Toothill.

The same sex thing - HTS will hold a preliminary meeting. Toothill will make the material available. But not hold a meeting before the big one. Westlea and St Marys yet to decide.

Same sex marriage thing

Chris read through the Methodist same-sex thing (and its references). Exec summary- we don't need to do anything extra for the Meths over and beyond what we'll do for the URCs...

Chris will do a poster and Partnership Notice of meeting, for notice boards

In 2013, Methodists considered changing their definition of marriage, in the light of the civil same-sex marriage legislation.

In 2014 it was decided NOT to change at the moment but to wait, listen and reflect for

2 years

During this period the Methodist Church will not "opt in" to the legislation, but in 2015 conference will consider the ecumenical position (and that of shared buildings)

Methodists currently recommend:

- immediate work to be done on the question of homophobia;
- a revised set of guidelines about appropriate responses to requests for prayers and services for same sex relationships;
- a decision to be made by the Conference as to whether to extend its ruling on civil partnerships to legally contracted same sex marriages ie that there is nothing per se to preclude Methodist ministers and lay people from entering into them.

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/samesexmarriageactfaq>, is extremely good.

Other than knowing about the pending issue, listening and reflecting locally, we have no immediate question under consultation by the Methodist Church. We may well be able to provide useful opinion when our denominations consider ecumenical aspects and shared buildings.

Methodist Ministers abuse thing.

Chris will write to each membership secretaries and get them to write to all members (and those who we know and can trace), If they know of or have been aware of abuse in a church setting (all denominations not just Meth). Replies to Julie. There is a form to fill out.

Rachel D(T) Sarah Taylor (HTS), and Lyn Morgen (STLM) and Sarah W(W)
Julie will let Clive know of any pastoral concerns.

Christmas services and events

Dazzling greeting in progress. All the other stuff will happen.

Lent

Clive has contacted Paul Gooder at UBS. We may get an H+ focus group

Emerge

They have lost their two youth workers. The groups are doing OK. Claire wants to pay one of the other young people to do some hours. And do some overtime in the short term. Sue is happy this works in the budget.

Andy is working some review issues (and lessons learned) in the longer term.

We'll miss out on the Sunday morning support.

The Dobson plan

Gateway marriage course March/Easter 2015 will go ahead.

Chris will re-issue the ISR-actions table with the first one community focussed - HTS/Toothill/ST Marys/Westlea division of responsibilities.

And the gateway marriage thing.

The Remembrance thing turned into a mission opportunity with primary school and grandparents. Many people in church. The garden of remembrance also hit the public mood and folk responded well.

Request for information from DLT re next review

(timeframe/criteria/methodology/participation)

Chris will address Simon, in the new year. The process should probably begin in 6 months when Clive's sabbatical starts. Terms of reference of the parish review. Scope, and criteria, conceivable outcomes. Will we participate, will consultation occur or will it be imposed externally?

We may be vulnerable on statistics, but we are strong on new-forms of ministry activity.

Worship Leader training

Mark has 14 signed up so far...!

Photocopying in the office.

Lay ministry is clearly the future. Even the Diocese and Deanery are beginning to recognise this.

Tudors thing

May be more appropriate in future to convene a PCC for such communication purposes.

We should tell the PC this occurred. Chris will so inform.

PC is Feb 9th is confirmed.

Exec should be Mon 19th Jan 2015

Update and proposals from review document (ISR then Chris Dobson et al)

	High priority actions	Status - 1 Jan 2015
Weakness, 6.2.11	<i>Lack of planning for Partnership outreach</i> The view was expressed that there is presently no coherent plan for Partnership mission outreach or for joint social events that would help to build links between the Partnership and the local community.	Christmas events, Primary school outreach, Remembrance HTS focus on mission to young families(messy), children (primary school) and youth (emerge) Toothill focus on ministry to third age St Marys focus on mission around occasional offices and visitors to the building/park Westlea plan for growth other than transfers
Change, 7.2 f	The Partnership Council draws up an action plan for mission which identifies specific mission projects to be undertaken by the Partnership as a whole (in addition to Emerge and Messy Church).	Appointed primary schools worker. Review Gayle's work
Action Point, 9.4	The Partnership Council should oversee an annual review of Emerge, undertaken by the Emerge Management Team and including site visits.	Andy Vernon, Chris Scarisbrick Review undertaken 2014
Weakness, 6.2.5, and Action Point, 9.7	<i>Relationships with other churches</i> The geographical area covered by the Partnership includes a number of active churches who are not members of the Partnership. It was felt that relationships with these churches were overlooked because of the focus on the Partnership churches. The Partnership Council should explore ways to strengthen its relationship with other local churches who are not members of the Partnership (e.g. Freshbrook, Gateway, St. Peter's RC).	Work with Gateway on Marriage Course
	Medium priority actions	
Action Point, 9.8	The Partnership Council should explore ways to establish closer working between the five local church treasurers of the Partnership	Sue Easy, now we are 3...