

Parish re-organisation –

Archdeacon Peter Leonard joined us and brought us up to date with what is going on with the Newport Parish Re-organisation. He shared with us how it was a pleasure to be part of PCC meetings again and how much he had missed it.

He began with giving his apologies for the lack of communication about the progress of the re-organisation. He felt that not having an Isle of Wight Archdeacon did contribute to the poor way we have been kept informed. The Bishop's team did feel they could have done better. They acknowledged where they got it wrong. He reassured us that now we have an archdeacon, things will improve.

The re-organisation will go ahead without the inclusion of St. Paul's Barton. The process from the Bishop to the Bishop's council and on to the church commissioners has happened, however we still have time to appeal by 25th November 2019. No appeals have been received to date, but if an appeal is lodged it will then go to the Privy Council. If no appeals have been received then it all starts on 1st December 2019 and comes into effect on 1st June 2020, three parishes become one. Incumbents in the three parishes, will be no more from 3rd June 2020. Kevin has announced his retirement from the Minster.

If the scheme has the green light on 1st Dec, then the process of recruitments will begin, for Team rector, 2 Team vicars to promote family and youth and congregation planting in existing places (not church planting as there are enough churches in Newport, Pioneer leader, lay or ordained and operations manager, with the possibility of a curate in training within the new Newport Parish.

There will be one PCC for the Newport Parish, but each church will have its own church council (DCC). On 1st Dec there will be one Parish profile, but each church will contribute to the creation of that profile.

Probably a team rector will be recruited first, then the others will be recruited, the team rector will have input into those recruited. We at St. John's will be involved with the appointment of the officers. Some draft descriptions have been done so far. Our 2020 vision will have a specific profile. The team rector/team vicars will probably be in charge of certain buildings but not specifically, Peter thought that we at St. John's are a church gifted in the area of youth.

There are 2 current houses (vicarages) and another house is due to be bought.

Questions.

Will the adverts be nationwide and be an open recruitment?

Come 1st Dec will be the starting point for adverts to start recruiting (assuming no appeals). There will be no advantage with present incumbent, anyone can apply.

There will be a parish PCC with 2 churchwardens, then church DCC for each church with deputy churchwardens (suggest 2)

Do we go through recruiting a team rector first?

What has worked on the Island before is to have a recruitment day – might be a good idea. Then do applications and interviews, personally Peter felt his preference would be for the Team rector to be appointed, because that person would be the one to bring the team ministry together.

Now that the decisions have been made to omit St. Paul's from the new re-organisations, what are the plans for Pan meadows etc and the parish around St. Paul's, as it is our aim to increase membership?

The Bishop is hoping to meet with the PCC of St. Paul's, there are ways and means to cover parish boundaries, Ecclesiastical boundaries can be overcome to ensure Pan meadows etc/ people in the parish of St. Paul's are catered for.

St. Paul's has half in office, the other half could be the link to parish re-organisation.

Is the same amount of funding available, even though St. Paul's is not being included in the re-organisation?

Yes, the same amount is available so we can still employ 5 people. The duration of the funding is 5 years. The posts that are funded are the Pioneer and operations manager.

What is the likelihood of finding a new vicarage, as Allie found it difficult to find one in Newport?

We assume St. Paul's vicarage is not available but could be used. However, there is a house being investigate for purchase at the moment.

Will six months be long enough to write the new constitution?

There are representation policies in place which will be applied to new Newport Parish.

What happens to new churchwardens appointed at the APCM?

They will be in office until 1st June (for 2 months) then the new churchwarden positions can be applied for along with the deputy churchwardens for each church.

After St. John's, had a bad experience in the past, how sympathetic is the diocese going to be on the churchmanship we will have to share – we have been scarred in the past?

Peter didn't think it would be a problem as he didn't feel the three churches were that far apart. All of that will be taken into account. He appreciated how we felt and reassured us that he was involved in the parish review at the Minster and was involved in that coming to an end. Peter will be involved in the recruitment and will not appoint if it would bring about a repeat. It will be appreciated that the Minster will be associated with the civic side of things and perhaps a team vicar involved in the area of youth would be connected to another church, i.e. St. John's, just as a suggestion.

What role would the operations manager be – would it be in support of the clergy?

Yes, this administration's post would free up the clergy from the mundane paperwork. We would continue to have our own administration post funded by each church. The operations manager would have to be proficient in the role of grant funding and would support us in our 2020 vision project.

When would we have to have our church profile ready?

Possibly the first PCC meeting after 1st Dec 2019. A suggestion was made that we get out our old Parish profile out now and go through it (there obviously would be adjustments because the last profile was when we were in plurality with the Minster) however we have got a mini parish profile which we had put together when Allie came to us.

What about safeguarding?

There would be a single safeguarding structure for the new Parish re-ordering. However, each church would continue to have their own safeguarding officer.

What happens if there is no one in office in June 2020?

Then it would fall to Peter and Amanda to ensure there would be cover in place.

Who would the Readers be licenced to?

The Readers would be licenced to the new Newport Parish and would be available throughout. They would have a home church but be licenced to all.

Would the Newport parish PCC be able to take our 2020 funds away from St. John's?

No they would not be able to use our 2020 funds for anything else and St. John's would not be liable for any debts of the other churches in the new parish re-organisation.

What focus would St. John's have?

The focus would probably be on the family especially with the facilities we would have with our 2020 vision.

However, people outside church don't see the parishes of St. John's, St. Mary's and the Minster, they just see Newport, equally those inside church think of denominations not churches.

What about the ecumenical unity for Newport?

A need to restart ecumenical outreach – working together.

In conclusion Archdeacon Peter said he wants the vision for the Island to be exciting so much so that people will flock for vacancies on the Island.

Archdeacon Peter left us with this maxim - Know who we are, know what we do and do it well and encouraged us to keep praying for God's vision.

(Notes from the PCC meeting 14.11.19)