



West Dartmoor Mission Community Meeting

Held at St Paul's, Yelverton at 7pm on 28th August 2024

Minutes

Attending: Revd Andrew Thomas (AT) (Chair), Philippa Bellows (PB), Richard Bayly (RB), Helen Sims (HS), Janet Sturmer (JS), Bunty Baxter (BB), Ros Knight (RK), Mary Helby (MH), Hilary Prout (HP), Gill George (GG), Andrew Lacey (AL).

Apologies: Brian Medhurst (BM), Caroline Jennings (CJ), Elaine Hay (EH), Simon Hill (SH), Richard Byrn (RBy).

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| 1 | Opening Prayer & Welcome Following an opening prayer, everyone was welcomed to the meeting. | Next Steps |
| 2 | Discussion Topic – Pastoral Principles – Acknowledging Prejudice This set of principles has been issued by the Church of England Pastoral Advisory Group for Living Well Together. The six principles form the basis of a course attended by AT and PB over Lent and focus on six pervading evils for consideration: acknowledge prejudice, speak into silence, address ignorance, cast out fear, admit hypocrisy and pay attention to power. These were discussed by all in attendance, noting personal experiences and impact within local communities, especially those in West Devon where new experiences and encounters can be restricted especially for the older and more vulnerable in our communities. Church is a good place to welcome new people but are we making it open enough? Could our structure be more flexible? This is where the Church activities within the community are very important and it was noted, very successful. Face to face communication is often preferable and community activities facilitate this. | |
| 3 | Apologies Apologies noted (as above). | |
| 4 | Minutes/Action Points of the MCC Meeting of 22nd May 2024 Minutes from the meeting of 22 nd May 2024 were approved as a true record. AT duly signed along with those from the 7 th February following one correction. AT/AL reviewed Action Points last week, all now up to date and the list has been updated. | |



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| 5 | <p>Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda</p> <p>Devon Churches Trust Ride and Stride. As mentioned at the previous meeting, the MCC support the charity as they have been very supportive of the MCC but SH informed AT after being volunteered at the May meeting that he would not have sufficient time to give to organising an MCC event. It was noted that Horrabridge are holding a coffee morning on the day so will be open for refreshments for anyone participating in Ride and Stride. Walkhampton and Meavy will also offer refreshments, Sheepstor will offer soft drinks in the church porch but Sampford Spiney and Yelverton cannot.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Finance</p> <p>BM had sent AL an update prior to the meeting noting nothing untoward and MC finances remain well within budget for the year.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>Churchwarden Meeting Feedback</p> <p>It was noted that a meeting has not been held recently.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Treasurers Working Group Feedback</p> <p>It was noted that a meeting has not been held recently.</p> <p>AL has taken on the role for Walkhampton and all other treasurer roles continue. Graham Raikes is now doing the fees.</p> <p>A meeting will be arranged before the year end and the profile will be used for any working groups going forward.</p> | AT/RB to arrange |
| 9 | <p>Service Schedules</p> <p>AT noted that planning strategically is required due to the reduction in available priests to cover services. AT highlighted the options available and that as an MCC we cannot expect a service in every church, every Sunday, noting that three (Sampford Spiney, Walkhampton and Meavy) do not have this already.</p> <p>AT/PB will meet and make a final decision by Christmas and all PCC's were asked to discuss at their next meeting and revert to AT by the end of November.</p> | <p>AT/PB to meet</p> <p>PSS's to discuss & revert</p> |



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| <p>10</p> | <p>Mission Community Mission Action Plan Progress</p> <p>Feedback was requested from all on the MAP and process. It was highlighted that it doesn't feel like a "bottom up" process as it is prepared and issued by the Ministry Team but also that there has to be someone responsible for this role and that a community view is taken by the Ministry Team. The question was raised over showing progress of items on the MAP as currently when complete they are removed from the document. PB will add a column to note progress as this was seen as a good way of showing positive progress.</p> <p>Positive feedback is always received on the work with primary schools and with the vulnerable and elderly but there appears to be a gap in-between. PB is working with others with a focus on joining teams, doing training and becoming Anna Chaplains. Open the Book is always appreciated by the schools.</p> <p>PB will prepare a short summary of progress and to highlight where current aim is focused so that this can be shared with all PCC's.</p> <p>The MCC must remember where our strengths are and be supportive of other charities and organisations like Catalyst that have other expertise. PCC's can also reach out on their own to the community and hold events or offer facilities and then feed back to the MCC thus facilitating the involvement of all in this process.</p> <p>It was noted that some of the MAP language is ecclesiastical and a change to more standard English would make it easier to present to PCC's. AT/PB will pick two PCC Members and discuss and highlight the language that needs to be changed to make the MAP easier to understand.</p> <p>PCC's should prepare a summary to show progress within their PCC.</p> | <p>PB add progress</p> <p>PB prepare summary</p> <p>AT/PB meet PCC's</p> <p>PCC's prepare summary</p> |
| <p>11</p> | <p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Is there anyone we wish to appoint to a position who will need to be subject to our safer recruitment procedures and/or DBS checks? No. PB noted that Pastoral Care / Care Settings are ongoing.</p> <p>Is there anyone or any situation that is causing us concern from a safeguarding point of view? No.</p> <p>Are there any training needs for new members or others in the congregation or refresher training for existing appointees? No. AT noted that he has formally handed this over to Phil Knight.</p> <p>It was noted that Churchwardens have received emails from the Archdeacon in Plymouth warning of a person of interest who poses a threat to vulnerable children and also of requests for a marriage of convenience that all should be aware of.</p> | |



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| 12 | <p>AOB</p> <p>The Carol Service Schedule was circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed by all.</p> <p>Clarity over Carol Service Giving was requested and it was clarified that Carol Giving and/or other services would go to Shekina, so each PCC must decide. Christingle goes to the Children’s Charity. Harvest Services monies will go to the Farming Community Network and food donations to the Food Bank.</p> <p>BM also needs to be informed whether PCC’s have claimed Gift Aid or not as he will then do so if not.</p> <p>Anne Delooy has moved away but will be in the MCC in October and AT is arranging a formal gesture of thanks.</p> <p>AT has also been approached to take on a reader in training and although he is in agreement to do this would like support from the MCC.</p> <p>All agreed.</p> <p>GG thanked all for making her very welcome.</p> | |
| | <p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 23rd January 2025, 7pm St Pauls, Yelverton.</p> | |
| | <p>Meeting Closed</p> <p>After saying Grace at 8:55pm.</p> | |