

North Beltisloe Group Council Report for PCC AGMs.

The North Beltisloe Group Council met four times last year. Copies of the minutes are available from your Council Rep. The Group AGM will be on May 18th 2011 at Boothby Pagnell Village Hall – all PCC members from the 10 Parishes are invited to attend.

1. Richard Ireson

Throughout 2010 Richard continued to provide strong and empathetic missionary leadership throughout our communities. Bishop John, in his visit to Sapperton in December publicly thanked Richard for his work with us - and the parishes he had served before he came. On behalf of the Group Paul Gromett wrote to Bishop John expressing our gratitude to Richard for all he had done for us.

2. Lay Ministry

The Lay Ministry team are taking a lead role in organising our services during the interregnum. The Sunday Club meets every month. Study Groups are being organised throughout the year.

3. Pattern of Services

During the Interregnum we are operating a reduced Sunday Service pattern. Group Services are normally on the first and fifth Sundays of the month. On the other Sundays there are usually two morning services (one of which is Communion) and an evening Service. These services are rotated round the Group as fairly as possible over the course of the year.

4. New Rector

The appointment of a new Rector cannot officially start until March 22nd, which is Richard's actual retirement date. In the intervening period we are preparing a draft Statement of Needs. This will be circulated to PCCs for comment in early March. Experience from our previous vacancies tells us that it may take up to a year to appoint a new Rector. Notwithstanding this possible time scale all members of the Council are anxious for a suitable priest to be appointed as soon as possible to continue to build on Richard's good work. The Council members will do everything to expedite the appointment.

5. Group Activities

- **Website** The new Group Website is up and running. Please pass any suggestions for improvements to Rick Clegg or Roger Heaton. The address is: www.northbeltisloeparishes.co.uk
- **Calendar** 2011 Calendars were distributed to every household in the Group. We shall continue this initiative this year.

- **Barn Dance** The 2010 Barn Dance was much appreciated by all those who attended (over 150). We shall organise another one this year.

6. Group Charity initiatives

There were 3 Group Charity activities in 2011, which again raised over £2,000 as shown below:

Group Charity Support	2008	2009	2010
Christian Aid	£822	£1,342	£1350
Harvest Charity	£425	£775	£839
Womens' World Day of Prayer	£77	£121	£137
Total	£1,324	£2,238	£2,326

7. Parish Share

The total amount paid by the NBG parishes in 2010 was £37.6k which covered 94% of the allocated salary, pension, housing and training costs of a stipendiary priest. This amount is well over double that paid in 2005.

Report of the Lay Ministers of the North Beltisloe Group to the Parish Annual General Meetings

Our Rector, Richard Ireson, has now retired from his work in the Group, and during the Vacancy the Lay Ministry Team is working to ensure that a schedule of services is maintained. Mike Notley and John Spriggs have agreed to take on the majority of the Holy Communion services, while others are being led by Ken Mann, Fred Mann, Tony Clayton, Colin McGarrigle, Jacqueline Bell and Percy Hunt. Village services are also being taken by other members of the team and local churchwardens.

The service pattern during the Vacancy is intended to be a temporary pattern, reverting to the customary arrangements on the appointment of a new Rector. Sundays with a Group service have only the one service, while on other Sundays at least one church in the group will hold a Holy Communion service. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to attend churches in neighbouring parishes if no service is being held in their own church.

During Holy Week the long-standing pattern of daily services is being maintained, with Compline on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday and the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.