

House for Duty Minister

The House for Duty Minister position was discussed at the recent PCC meeting. A summary of the discussion was minuted as follows:-

The Rector has met with the acting Methodist Circuit Superintendent and Circuit Treasurer to explore initial questions. This includes thinking about funding to pay for the post, administrative obstacles and permissions (local or at more senior level). There is also the need to prepare a job description and finally to understand the arrangements for Sandylands Methodist Church. It is hoped that answers will be available in a few weeks.

The meeting was encouraged by the Rector to approach others within the wider church to help answer questions or raise concerns (eg with the Rural Dean or the Archdeacon). The different understandings of communion and status of Ministers has been raised by a parishioner. There is a breadth of understanding of these in both churches. A letter sent to the PCC secretary was discussed, with particular regard to the PCC procedural points. All the points are all things that the PCC would expect to understand.

The PCC discussed the issues raised by another parishioner in a letter to the PCC. The first was a concern about how long the process will take. The Rector estimates that we will know more in about 6 weeks.

They asked whether the House for Duty post could be made more 'attractive' and then re-advertised. It was noted that to take on their specific suggestions would require some reorganisation of the Rainbow Parish including the service rotas. There are currently 8 vacancies in the Carlisle Diocese for House for Duty appointments (these are not all advertised on the Diocesan website).

The PCC recognised that a solution with the Methodist Church has greater long term possibilities beyond the House for Duty post.

There was much discussion but concluded with the following:-

- *The PCC would exclusively pursue the solution of working with the Methodist Church on a shared ministry*
- *The PCC will review progress at each meeting*

Only if the possible solution with the Methodist Church falls through will we look at alternative options.

Finally the parishioner raised a concern over the Rector's workload while we have this vacancy. Merlin Hibbs, Liz Dew and Rev. Anne Pettifor are going to meet with Richard to see what can be done to alleviate his load.