

Report to the Congregation 10th February 2019

A week ago, we told the congregation that we hoped to report the response from the PCC at St Mary Kippington soon. We have since heard from them.

I will start by reminding you what happened in previous episodes:

Last November, the Archdeacon, Julie Conalty circulated a proposal for what she provisionally called the *West Sevenoaks Team Ministry*, which would incorporate St Luke's, Riverhead and Kippington. Our PCC was generally positive about it. However, the proposal would put a full-time post at each of the other parishes but only a half-time post here. We argued that would only be acceptable to us if the other parishes recognize that the Ministry Team must act to treat all three parishes fairly. Also, led by Peter Fleming, we suggested that as there is currently only an 80% post at Kippington, we could have a 70% post here and still reach a total of 2½ posts.

Riverhead PCC had replied before Candlemass to the Archdeacon, supporting the plan and stating that they understand that the ministers must share the workload in the three parishes. The recent message from the Wardens at Kippington, Brenda Ross and Sally Munro, is as follows. I quote: *"We are grateful to receive all of the suggestions forwarded by St. Luke's and St. Mary's Riverhead regarding the Three Parish Review. Having considered the document put together by the Archdeacon Julie Conalty together with these suggestions, St. Mary Kippington sees the proposal as a positive move but appreciates that it has a greater impact on St. Luke's Church than the other two. We are committed therefore to supporting St. Luke's going forward and look forward to growing our relationships with both churches. Perhaps a more workable proposal would be a .6 rather than a .5 clergy placement at St. Luke's. We feel this would go some way to mitigating the anxieties expressed by St. Luke's. On this basis, we are happy to support the Archdeacon's proposal."* End of quotation.

So, all three PCCs have now expressed support for the Plan and understanding that this must be an effective team that shares the work in three parishes on 2½ salaries. We will consult our PCC for any further comments, so if you have anything to add at this stage, let any of the PCC know. Remember that there remains a formal consultation before the plan is finalised.

Looking ahead - I expect that we, in all three parishes, will all receive an invitation soon for a Prayer Evening at Kippington. Also, there is to be a Choral Evensong at Riverhead on February 24th, with a combined choir, to mark the retirement of Martin Booth, the vicar. These are two opportunities to meet the other congregations.

In the meantime, please think about names: what would better than the *West Sevenoaks Team Ministry*?