

VACANCY UPDATE



Dear all

It's some time since we updated you. The advert for Vicar of the Benefice was placed in the media in November and we had no news until the closing date on January 15th when the Archdeacon's Office told us that although there had been some interest there had, again, been no applications.

The Appointment Group moved very quickly and met with Bishop Paul and Archdeacon Paul the day after we received the news.

It was a very positive meeting. What is very apparent is that the job is a big ask for any one person. But we are not expecting anyone to come in and do the job all by themselves! We have a team of people here with a wide range of gifts, skills and ministries—already working hard in the Parish. This fact was recognised and affirmed by Bishop Paul. He was delighted that we are just getting on with God's work during the vacancy and not waiting around until the new Vicar arrives. He and we, are trusting God to send the right person at the right time.

The Bishop and Archdeacon made some changes to the advert, agreed at the meeting, and placed it in the media on Wednesday. We can now announce a new time-line.

- Closing date for applications 22 February
- Shortlisting 2pm at St Peters on 26 February
- Interview date Monday 12 March

Thank you all for pulling together as Living Stones.

Blessings in His name
Liz and Maggie,
Churchwardens.
28 January 2018



Things we need to do as a Church in the coming weeks:

- *Take notice of Rev'd Brian Duxbury's advice in this month's Crosstalk: "Stop worrying about the appointment and let's get on with the job of BEING church. It's all in God's hands. We trust Him and believe that He will sort this out in His perfect time."*
- *Join the small team who have prayed in Church faithfully every Wednesday since the vacancy started. We will get the vicar we pray for—so let's re-commit ourselves to regular prayer.*
- *Keep on loving and serving each other. The enemy would love to neutralise our discipleship and the easiest way for him to do that is to cause friction and enmity between us. Recognise when he is at work, bind him and reject his ways in prayer, in Jesus' powerful name.*
- *Use kind words or no words.*
- *Join a LENT group so that we get fed with God's word; get involved in learning and praying with each other; get involved in the '40acts' programme which challenges us to consider whether Lent could be about more than just giving stuff up and asks the question: What if it could be a time of radical generosity as well as spiritual discipline?*
- *Let's ask God to give us the ability to love in the way Jesus describes in John 13:35 "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

St Peter's Church, Gildersome

POWER HOUR OF PRAYER

Praying through the
VACANCY PERIOD

and PARISH OFFICE

Wednesday 7.30pm

Everyone Welcome