

ST. PETER'S HOUSE GROUP PROPOSAL

Open Discussion

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13 May 2015, at Woodpeckers.

ATTENDEES:

The Rector: Reverend Tom Holme

Churchwardens: June Gilbert
Mike Gilbert

Also present: John Sworder
Christabel Sworder
Helen Milner
Juliette Waghorn
Peter Waghorn

Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with prayer asking our Heavenly Father for His blessing, help and guidance in our discussions.

Apologies

Apologies from Sheila Oliver and Paul Milner.

Proposal

A brief overview of a proposal submitted on 25 March 2015 to the Rector and Churchwardens was outlined.

- To establish a St Peter's Church House Fellowship Group in Fordcombe to complement our Church worship services and personal devotions.
- To learn from, encourage and support each other. To challenge us and be of practical value in our daily Christian faith, walk and conversation.
- Be deeply rooted in, and an integral part of, our Parish Church.
- To seek the approval, blessing and guidance from, and be accountable to, those at St Peter's who are over us in the Lord.

Open Discussion

Summary of the discussion:

- **Name**
The name of “**St Peter’s Fellowship**” was proposed and adopted.
- **Venue**
Fellowship meetings will take place in homes and be rotated between those who have kindly offered to act as host.
- **Meeting Dates**
The Fellowship will meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month which fits in well as there is no service at St Peter’s on the third Sunday of each month. This does not preclude more frequent meetings, for example during Lent and Advent, when a series of weekly meetings may be more appropriate.
- **Scope**
The meetings are to be inclusive, and all able to attend. To that end the meetings will be publicised in the Parish Newsletter and on the Church website.
- **Level**
Be aimed at a level such that everyone who attends feels able to contribute and, whatever their current level of knowledge, can benefit by gaining a deeper understanding of their faith.
- **Focus**
Meetings need to be focussed and it was suggested that the Church year and festivals could provide that focal reference. This was well received by all.
- **Scripture**
The text of Holy Scripture is the central and only authoritative source whilst commentaries and other books can be of assistance and provide useful helps to promote thoughtful reflection.
- **Resources**
The Parish Pump and the Bible Reading Fellowship have been used for source material. Books purchased from the Christian bookshop in Tonbridge for the Lent meetings this year were very successful. Other sources mentioned included Burrswood and the internet, where many resources can be accessed free of charge.
- **First Meeting**

Date: **Wednesday 24 June 2015**

Venue: **Woodpeckers**
 7:30pm for an 8:00pm start.

Topic: **St Peter**, whose feast day is observed on 29 June (together with St Paul). Reflections on the life of St Peter, pre and post our Lord’s crucifixion, provides sufficient discussion material for the first two fellowship meetings.
- **Review**
A review will be held after six months.

Actions

- **Parish Newsletter**
Mike to place an entry in the June Parish Newsletter announcing St Peter's Fellowship and the first meeting.
- **Church Website**
Peter will post Fellowship Meetings on the Church website.
- **Topics**
It would be most helpful if all who attended could reflect and, if possible, propose topics for future meetings. Please forward to Peter who will collate and disseminate.

Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with the collect for Ascension Day:

*Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ
to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.*

Peter.