

REVEREND KEVIN ROGERS' REPORT

Vision

In our aspiration to be vibrant Christian communities with Jesus as the heart of our ministry, making a difference, we have considered two key areas. The first is our music provision where we have considered ways to encourage choirs in providing a wider selection of hymns/songs, with an aspiration to encourage a variety of musical instruments. The second is in our intercessions where we have considered how to make them more inclusive for a wider audience, defining how we lead them, choosing the appropriate content and wording, and some practical pointers to enable greater congregational participation.

Mission

In our desire to be relevant and inclusive worshipping communities, embracing all people, serving others and sharing the message of Jesus, there have been two baptisms, 21 weddings, and 22 funerals/burial of ashes. Grateful thanks to our Benefice Administrator for enabling this and so much more in the Benefice.

Worship: Our service provision (type, frequency and location) remains under review as we consider how best to allocate our resources to present the good news of Jesus in a post-modern and post-Christian (almost pagan) context.

Discipleship: This has been a focus by encouraging daily personal devotional times, being a part of a homegroup, joining together for prayer and attending worship regularly. There has also been an emphasis on inviting people we know to join us in what we do as a community.

Leadership: The ministry team has met regularly to encourage, support and to learn from one another and from God. The PCC membership is fairly static although we are grateful to both those who have joined and those who continue to serve in this way. Our challenge is encouraging the engagement of others in this expression of ministry, as we seek to make these roles less daunting in terms of time commitment and volume of work, and more appealing platforms to offer their gifts and passions.

Outreach: Parish visiting, care home support, fetes, shows, coffee mornings, soup lunches, involvement with our schools, bubble church, pet services, harvest festivals, toddlers, café church, and other special services and more have all provided avenues for service and evangelism. However, more work is needed on considering how we present ourselves to our communities and how they perceive us as worshipping communities. This includes our magazines as well as our on-line and in-person interactions and presence.

Safeguarding

I am grateful to our Parish Safeguarding Officers for how they are helping us forge a safer church community. Safeguarding is an agreed benefice high priority area. I appreciate people are busy but it is very important that everyone who needs certification or training is up to date with it at all times.

Conclusion

We have much to celebrate and be thankful for. We know our calling is to accompany God on his mission to his world. We know that we are his, and that he chooses to involve us in bringing the good news of Salvation to his world. Our aim is to serve the purposes of God in our generation, and never our own. No matter how fragile, or weak, or broken, or poor we may think we are, this is about God in us, the hope of glory. 'Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.' (Ephesians 3:20-21).

With immense gratitude and appreciation to you all.