

Chaplain's report for the AGM 31st March 2019

Giving this report makes me even more aware of the way God continues to pour out His blessings on our church community.

At our AGM at the end of April last year, I highlighted three key areas of growth and mission as my focus for the year.

1 Training: In order to resource and enable members of our church to carry out their ministry here, there is an open invitation to apply for funding from the Archdeaconry CME funds for short courses. David has had to put his NT module on hold due to pressure of work but hopes to complete it before too long. Greg Vanackere completed his and did very well. We have run more Discipleship courses in house: *Leading Worship* and *Christianity Explored*. I am currently looking at hosting a day course on mental health as well as a follow up course after *Christianity Explored*.

2 Ministry: always both maintenance and mission.

- Maintenance: We have been blessed by a new heating system paid for mostly by the developers of the property next to the church but supplemented by a generous amount from the town hall; a new water heater in the kitchen was also installed by the Town Hall. Our next project is perhaps to turn our attention to the area from the entrance upstairs onwards to the toilets as it needs attention and could possibly be better used with a different layout. Ideas welcome! There has also been a lot of work done in the church renovating the tiles in the chancel and the result is stunning. We are currently looking for a company to remove the carpet in church, which is very firmly glued into place, we will then renovate the floor.
- Mission: one of the aims of our teaching on Graceful Giving was to see if we could afford to fund a part-time person to work with our youth and students. This is not yet possible but as the Evening Service team feel no need for a student worker because we are doing the same work differently, there remains the question about our teenagers and their needs. Would it be possible for us to run a Youth Group once a month led by parents? Music in the morning has taken on a new tone with Amanda leading other musicians and our faithful choir twice a month. Coffee and cake in between two morning services every month is a popular event. Serving refreshments

30 minutes before the Evening Service is another very popular new idea as it makes entering a church for the first time much easier. The Evening Service has recently introduced a weekly social event. There is a new Men's Group and a new home group Bible Study.

3 Outreach: We began a monthly drop in on a Saturday evening for students and young professionals early last year which was popular and will begin again in September. The work with the Eglise Protestante Unie de France has not yet developed, due entirely to a lack of availability of both me and the Protestant Pastor, Jan. It is still on my list of things to move forward. Our weekly café is much appreciated by all who drop in for coffee and a chat and I would like to expand the opening hours if we find some volunteers. Over the year Christ Church has hosted concerts, a quiz night and an art exhibition.

What else?

- A very successful Braderie with a very large group of helpers made it a most enjoyable event and one which broke the record for income. The Christmas market held across the road in the Aumonerie was another great event as were the Christmas services all of which bring in ever growing numbers of people.
- We brought in new ways to give at our Graceful Giving teaching with a card reader and also weekly and monthly envelopes for cash givers.
- Next year we will be celebrating 150 years of ministry at Christ Church and looking forward with new vision into the next 100 years.

We are working on communications both internal to Christ Church and across the media platforms; a new website is in preparation

We welcomed our Diocesan Bishop, Robert Innes as he led a service of Confirmation for 5 adult candidates. There are more adult candidates for baptism later this year.

We are most grateful to the EPUdF for the use of their parish rooms for Playgroup and to the RC diocese for the use of the Aumônerie during the period of works to change the heating system, some five months, and we are making a donation to them both as they have not charged us for the use of their premises.

Thank you

I cannot close this review without thanking many people. **Church Wardens:** my thanks to Bruno and David for all they do and for our monthly meetings. The **Church Council**, for all the time they give on your behalf to care for the running and planning for our church. **Frances** for her care of our finances as Treasurer. **Vincent and Veronica** deserve hearty thanks from us all for their dedication to Children's ministry and the fine work they do with our children. The **Evening service team** continues to move forward and work together under the experienced leadership of **Paul Devos**, and we thank him for all the time he devotes to this work. To those who **lead worship or preach**, thank you for time you dedicate to this ministry. **Ladies Bible Study** continues to thrive under the leadership of Veronica and Kathe, our thanks to you both for sustaining this ministry. Thanks to **Pam** who despite the demands of her job continues to do an excellent job as Safeguarding Officer. **Maggie** for the weekly prayer time on a Wednesday lunchtime. It follows the weekly **drop in Café** that **Rosemary** runs, and which is much appreciated by all who drop in whether from CCL or passers-by; thank you. To **Tom** and to **Stephanie and Matthieu** thank you for leading new groups.

I am very grateful to **each of you** who volunteer to help here in so many ways; from cleaning to preparing the tea and coffee.

So many people doing a great job, however three people go way beyond any reasonable expectations of time and involvement on your behalf. For all three, the work they do for this church is almost full-time; each also has my personal thanks for the help and support they give me as Chaplain; thank you Frances, Rosemary and Maggie.

Closing Remarks

I believe that God is calling us into a time of change, I don't yet know what this looks like so I simply ask you to pray **specifically for this church community** as we continue to move forward, confident in God's love and provision of all that we need and the ability to share what we have with others.