

*Keeping in touch with God
and each other.*

Update MAY 2007

SUMMARY OF CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

The following is a brief summary of Justin Welby's chairman's report, which he gave at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners on Monday 23rd April 2007.

He opened the meeting with Zechariah 1:20 & 21 - Then the LORD showed me four blacksmiths. And I asked, "What are they coming to do?" He answered, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no head could be raised; but these have come to terrify them, to strike down the horns of the nations that lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter its people." (NRSV)

He stressed there was no comparison with Holy Trinity Church (HTC) intended, but with the idea that God is one who works the unexpected, makes the unimaginable a reality. The nature of God is to turn the world upside down. He bursts into our lives when it is going well and bad. The next twelve months are a turning point for HTC. It is a new step and a time for a fresh vision. We do not know the mind of God yet, but it will be more wonderful than we can imagine. Be listening, thinking about what is the mind of God.

He introduced his chairman's report by saying it will be a SWOT analysis based on his initial observations of HTC. In his opening remarks he also stated that his role (given his very limited time of 10 hours/week) over the next few months at HTC was to facilitate the identification of a fresh vision for the next stage of HTC's life and the creation of the parish profile. The parish profile is the document which is used to help choose the next vicar.

Strengths

- The work of the Wardens – they are profoundly committed and he thought that very few knew how hard they contribute their time and effort to the smooth running of HTC.
- The Lay leadership – he had never been in any other church where lay leadership was so involved in the good running of the church. There is strength and depth in their contribution, with much time, energy and reflection given.
- Vicar's P/A – bore a huge burden and is very efficient. She works for more hours than her contract and helps HTC run smoothly, especially during the interregnum.
- Service Leaders Group – remarked on how well the system worked and the enormous contributions that each team made to the services
- Alpha Leaders – praised the commitment and smooth running of the leaders of the Alpha courses over such prolonged periods
- Music – (especially Chris Howard and the choir). Said that he had “relied heavily” on Chris during this past month and without Chris’ input he would have been sunk as music was not his forte! Mentioned the creativity and the excellence of the music group.
- Maintenance - the church is kept well maintained, clean and has a warm welcome. These are a wonderful sign of the church’s spiritual life.
- Diversity of forms of worship - although this sometimes causes a little friction, it comes from “genuine passion and commitment”.
- History - He also remarked that the strength of HTC was in the long and short term histories of faithful and faith growing ministry.

Weaknesses

- Conspiracy theories! – Justin felt that there were a number of people who could not get away from the fact that there must be a “hidden agenda” somewhere.
- Grumbling and paranoia – Justin had noted that there were members who suffered from this.
- He stressed he **HAS NO** hidden agendas and asked people to resist grumbling and paranoia.

Opportunities

- On the edge of something wonderful, listen to what God is saying.
- If we are listening to God, then you will be prepared for radical change. Not abandoning the past, but building on it.
- Not business driven, but Spirit driven.

Threats

- Out of commitment, driving oneself to the danger of exhaustion. The challenge when seeing a need is to step back and ask “am I called to this?” A need is not a call.

He finished by thanking HTC for the opportunity to work with us over the next few months and help us find our future vision.