

## Church Warden's Report 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018

It has been a privilege to serve as Church Warden for the last nine years. I would like to thank Ian and Keith who have both shared the role with me.

During the last year we received the report from the Quinquennial Inspection and have prioritised maintenance work that needs doing immediately and have identified work that can be included in the building project. We have also taken the first steps in our church re-ordering scheme and have appointed an Architect.

We also held our first St. Paul's Festival weekend at Wyedale and our second Holiday club with continued input from Pulse Ministries. Kath McBride left to begin her training for Ministry. Jenny Rankin increased her hours and is now responsible for small groups.

What many of these things have in common is vision. John had a vision for a new weekend away for the church that would be different from the long running Parish Weekend at Scarborough. He has also had a vision for a number of years to re-order the church, to give us much needed space and a flexible area for church and community use. Fourteen years ago Maureen had a vision for a regular coffee morning at St. Paul's. It would provide good coffee, delicious cakes, company and a warm and inviting welcome for everyone. There would be no hidden agenda and it would take place every week of the year.

We need people with vision, people who can see what they would like church to look like in five, ten or more years. A few years ago I joined the staff team on a training day looking at what makes a good team. Through various activities we discovered how others saw us and how we saw ourselves. We discovered our strengths and skills. At the end of the day our names were placed on a grid. In the top left hand box were those who were good at vision, the bottom right hand box was for those who had very practical skills. John and a couple of others were in the vision box; I was in the box for people with practical skills.

John's vision for the Festival weekend was a success because he put in place a team that had the necessary skills to make it happen. John's vision for the re-ordering of the church was given a huge boost when Steve offered to be the project manager. Maureen inspired a team of people to make Coffee & Co. an event that people from church and the community now value as an important

part of their weekly routine. Holiday Club began with a vision and now has a team who can take that vision forward. Without vision the church would stagnate or decline but we also need people who can turn that vision into a reality.

Last Sunday John spoke about the need for more people to come forward to help with the Youth and Children's work and Di spoke passionately about leading Scramblers. What really stood out for me was when Di said that she was not sure how much the children learnt but she did know that they felt valued. At our small group meeting last week we looked at Genesis and the creation of man.

"So God created man in his own image."

We were then asked two questions:

If we are made in God's image do we value ourselves? If we are made in God's image do we value other people?

This seemingly straightforward question was difficult to answer. How can we value ourselves if we do not feel valued by others or at worst feel taken for granted? How do we show others that we value them so that they value themselves? Do we support and encourage one another or are we quick to criticise? I have received a lot of support and encouragement during my time as Church Warden and because of the positive comments I have felt valued. I have really valued all the volunteers who work for St. Paul's in whatever capacity. Through their unstinting work they not only serve St. Paul's and the wider community but they serve God.

We are always looking for new people to offer their strengths and skills for a number of rotas. If you are not sure where you can serve the church, try asking your friends what they see in you as you might be surprised by their answer as they may see something in you that you are unaware of. Talk to the church leadership or anyone on the staff team about any ideas you might have. As John said last week you are not committing yourself to an unending contract and if you try something and it does not feel right for you it is perfectly acceptable to say so. When John first approached me to be Church Warden I did not feel worthy to accept the role. However, after weeks of prayer and some very wise words from Chris I decided to accept. So please take that step of faith, dip your toe in the water and see where it leads you. There are challenging but exciting times ahead in the life of St. Paul's.