

TRINITY Report for 2017/2018

This is an extract from the Church's Trustees Annual Report and should be read in conjunction with our TRINITY 2017 Ministry Report which is at the back of church and on our website: www.trinitylewes.org.uk.

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Steve Daughtery, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and, ecumenical
- To see lives transformed by the love of Jesus
- To be and to make whole-heartedly disciples of Jesus Christ
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or, ability to pay
- Providing financial support those in need and, to other organisations with similar objectives.

Our vision is to see lives and transformed by the love of Christ.

Jesus Christ came to teach, to serve and to heal. Most importantly, he came to die for us, so that we might be forgiven and offered a life lived in a right relationship with God. Jesus invites us to find in him the security, joy, friendship and adventure which we have all been made to enjoy. We believe in the power of this Good News to change lives and communities, and Jesus sends us to be agents of that change across our town and beyond.

We are a church that worships God, is sent by Jesus and is empowered by the Holy Spirit to see all people and communities transformed by his love.

Our values

The Word of God

We believe that God spoke the world into being, that he has spoken to us by sending Jesus, and that he still speaks today through the pages of the Bible. While we can know some things about God through creation, community and experiences, but God primarily reveals his character, story and love for us through his word. We study the Bible because we want to hear God speak to us and change us.

The Cross of Jesus

The central event in the whole of history is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We can know God only because God himself, in Jesus, came to bring us into a relationship with himself. On the cross Jesus pays the price for our rebellion against God and offers us a new start. Everyone in the world is faced with a choice: whether to trust in the mercy and compassion of God, or to ignore his offer of forgiveness.

We believe that to be a Christian is to make this decision. Doing Christian 'things' does not bring us into a relationship with God; only trusting in what Jesus has achieved through his death and resurrection can do this. The cross is our motivation for living out our faith. As we consider God's incredible love for us in Jesus, so we respond by seeking to live as Jesus lived and love as he loves.

Lives empowered by the Spirit

Jesus died on Good Friday. On Easter Sunday he was raised to life by the Holy Spirit. This same Spirit is given to us today to transform our lives and to be our strength, guide and constant companion. It is impossible to live the Christian life without reliance upon God the Holy Spirit. At Southover we want everyone to be filled with the power of God's Spirit. We strive to join in with his work so we might be enabled to take part in his mission and to live lives of love, joy and peace.

Our mission is to build wholehearted disciples of Jesus Christ.

How are we to do this? By being visible, active and distinctive for the glory of Christ.

- **Visible** - God has first loved us and calls us to love him by being pleased to tell others about him. Jesus calls the church to be visible signposts of God's love. As a church we can only do this if we are known and visible. We therefore seek to make ourselves known in our community through words and actions, to point others to Jesus.
- **Active** - As God's love is expressed through acts of grace within the church, we seek to share this grace with those in our wider community, by love in action. Our message of Jesus cannot be detached from the lives we live. We therefore seek to be active in sharing God's love and generosity to our town.
- **Distinctive** - The Church is not only the light of the world but the salt of the earth. The greatest need of every human being is to come into a relationship with God. God's love saves us and heals us because he is holy and perfect. As such, our mission will not be effective unless we are distinctive in our actions, values, views and priorities.

It is fair to say that we are never short of ideas for mission! Almost all of our ministries regularly run outreach initiatives tailor-made to the people-groups they have a passion to reach.

For the church leadership, the key challenge is discerning God's priorities for the coming season. Our Mission Action Plan (MAP) below is a collection of our current projects and plans.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

Our overall organisational plan for the last 7 years has been to unite St. John the Baptist Southover (SO) with the multi-benefice parishes of St. John sub Castro (SJ), St. Michael's South Malling (SM). We want to create a single new parish called TRINITY which operates out of 3 physical locations with 6 congregations. We have been increasingly operating in partnership with each other to take advantage to our combined potential, economies of scale and ministries.

Almost all of our ministries regularly run outreach initiatives tailor-made to the people-groups they have a passion to reach. For 2017 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

People & Ministry development - Completed

- Launch TRINITY to Lewes;
- Develop a Vision for the TRINITY Centre and CaféLife
- Celebrate all our outreach ministries under the banner: Love in Action
- Hold and Develop the Big Conversation including End Hunger UK
- Achieve an Eco Church Silver Award.
- Shape our 6:30pm service to be more attractive to youth and young adults;
- Start an additional Contemporary Carol Service and a Christingle All-Age Service
- Introduce Godly Play into a Primary School.
- Delivered OT mini and a Prayer Space into our two Church Primary Schools.
- Held our first Mental Health Awareness course.

Trinity Infrastructure - Completed

- Vote to legally unify and agree new Governance structure
- Agree unified financial procedures and records across TRINITY;
- Unify our safeguarding policies and procedures across TRINITY
- Extend the Parish Giving Scheme across TRINITY
- Run parallel financial records across the 3 churches ready for unification on 1st Jan 2018

Buildings, Land and Equipment - Completed

- Complete the external repairs of St John sub Castro
- Complete Phase 2 internal refurbishment of St John sub Castro
- Hold a Gift Day to provide housing for Christine Angell and provide funds for key building projects in each location (refurbishment of the church bells at South Malling, Southover Church Tower Roof, Complete the finishing of the TRINITY Centre).

We did not complete, but are continuing to prioritise

- Developing our church's experience of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our Sunday services;
- Encouraging and Equipping the Contemporary Worship Team and the Prayer Ministry Leadership by holding regular meetings
- Obtain planning permission and final drawings for the redevelopment of the St John's Hall site.
- Developing a national template for Eco Walking Services.

Identifying only the new things that have happened fails to recognise the enormous amount of work being undertaken by so many people for the glory of God across all our existing ministries. Even the accompanying Report on our Church's Life only represents the tip of the iceberg. The glory of church community is **unseen** in the hundreds and thousands of acts of love and service as the membership cares for and encourages each other and the town it serves. This is the way it should be – we are all ministers to each other and the world. God has ordained and appointed every one of us to be priests, to be his voice, hands and his feet. It is He who calls us, He who sees our acts of service, He who understands our sacrifice and He who will not fail to reward us with his favour and blessing.

Attendance at worship

The church family welcomes visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and, it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities.

With six regular Sunday congregations shared across 3 parishes it is almost impossible for any individual to see the many good things that God is doing across the life of the church. Our 'shape' in terms of size, is approximately:

- 15 adults at 8:00am at SO;
- 50 adults with 5 children at 9:30am at SM;
- 165 adults with 25 children and young people at 10:00am at SO;
- 55 adults with 25 children and young people at 11:15am at SJ;
- 45 adults at our 4:30pm traditional service (twice a month) at SJ;
- 75 adults and young people at 6:30pm at SO.

As in previous years, many people from our fellowship (over 280 different people) have been involved in numerous (over 650) different 'serving roles' across Southover. These range from making coffee to preaching, from helping older people at Monday Club to helping in our crèche, from leading Mission work in Rwanda to helping someone to go shopping in Lewes. The Bible shows us that service offered to Him in this way is worship.

It's great to know that Southover is a 'seven day a week' worshipping community. We are extremely grateful to God for the gifts that He has given us, for the depth of people's love and for the faithful commitment that so many display in their daily lives.

I honour all those in our church who give of themselves to God to bless others. For a deeper look at the many things we do, I commend our booklet The TRINITY 2017 Ministry Report which is at the back of church and on our website: www.trinitylewes.org.uk.

Looking Forward to 2018

Our Mission Action Plan reflects where we believe God's priorities are for us moving forward. 2018 is a key year for us as it will be the first year of our new church's ministry.

We set our targets optimistically knowing that God provides the resources for the ministries He wants us to do. Moreover, as our church grows, so does our ability to undertake more projects simultaneously. While we may encounter unexpected obstacles, which slow progress, or unforeseen needs that become urgent, we want to highlight where we believe God is leading us in 2018.

Our strategic approach will be to focus on

- UP – our relationship with God
- IN – our relationship with each other; and
- OUT – our relationship with our community and world.

UP – Our relationship with God

- Develop and enhance our Sunday worship;
- Develop our church's life in the practice of charismatic gifts including healing and prophetic ministry;

IN – Our relationship with each other

- Develop volunteer recruitment, support and training especially in the areas of contemporary worship, children’s ministry, preaching, service leading and prayer ministry - including holding a Ministry Fayre;
- Develop the identity and fellowship life of each of TRINITY’s congregations - including establishing Congregational Leadership Teams; and making our 6:30pm service more attractive for Youth and Young Adults
- Develop stronger Health & Safety and Data Protection policies and procedures;

OUT – Our relationship with our community and world.

- Develop TRINITY’s Love in Action outreach in Lewes - including Love In Action days, Mental Health training, engagement with Church Action on Poverty, Prison Fellowship, and Homelessness;
- launch the TRINITY Centre - including, the Civic Opening; opening the Café alongside the appointment of café manager and baristas
- Develop our Creative Arts ministry;
- Investigate and develop our presence in Priory School (e.g. a CU, Prayer Space, Youth Alpha);
- Develop and roll-out to the Diocese our eco church project: Walk Further;
- Launch a new TRINITY branded website and resources;
- Obtain planning permission for the redevelopment of the St John sub Castro Hall site;

