

## **ST PAUL'S & ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – VESTRY MEETING 18/01/10**

Present: Douglas Millican (Chair), Stephen Brooks, Dave Richards, Alison Strang, Geoff Horne, Margaret Jack, Ruth Stewart, Myra Martin, Derek Gordon, James Galbraith, Diana Hall, Rosie Addis.

Apologies: Roderick MacKenzie,

In Attendance: Ruth Milliken, David Wright (Intern)

Douglas welcomed Rosie and Diana to their first Vestry meeting and opened the meeting in prayer.

### **1. Reflections from 11 January Prayer Meeting**

Dave gave a summary of the broad ideas that had come from members attending last week's prayer meeting:

- A picture of a tree: planted by a river (as in Psalm 1); bent over and stripped down to the bark; an oasis in the desert.
- References to Nehemiah, working with the city and the poor
- A desire for more positive stories about prayer
- For the Church to spend more time seeking God together

There was a discussion around possible further main prayer meetings and how these could be balanced with the need for Vestry to pray together as a separate group. One person has agreed to organise prayer breakfasts.

### **2. Appointment of a new Vestry Secretary**

Rosie Addis was approved as the new Secretary to the Vestry. She has asked for correspondence to be sent to the Church address.

### **3. Minutes of previous meetings**

The minutes of the Vestry meeting of 9 November 2009 were considered. Geoff was following up the issue of insurance, and that of Global Focus would be considered tonight. The minutes were approved.

Geoff noted that there were sixteen action points from the previous Resources Group of 7 December 2009, which were all being taken forward.

Douglas noted from the minutes of the Church Life Group of 14 December 2009 that Dave is in the process of convening a working group to review the Counselling Service.

### **4. Rector's Report**

This included the following points:

- John White, the new Youth Director is settling in well, and will be interviewed at the front in the not too distant future.
- The Christmas services went well, with good attendance at the Carol Service. There is the possibility next year of having two services, a 'family friendly' one at 4pm and a more traditional one at 7pm. Thanks was expressed to Adrienne for her film, which has been posted on YouTube.
- Heating continued to be an issue, with the system working on one boiler since 26 December.
- The church is now going through a time of consolidation. This is reflected in the numbers (around 600). It is good to see that there are now more large churches

in the city, and part of our future plan would be to work more closely with other churches across denominations.

- The incident at last Sunday's 11am service has shown that the Welcome Team need a protocol to follow. This is being taken forward.

Dave ended by reiterating the role of Vestry. As a large, city-centre church we have a responsibility to consider future models of church, as more of the same will mean decline.

### **5. Children's Ministry**

Gemma was welcomed and talked to the paper that had been circulated prior to the meeting. She outlined the current and future plans, which all came under the three main headings of Discipleship, Families, and Outreach.

We are privileged to have so many children attending the church on a Sunday, and the aim will be to create community amongst the children, so that they can then outreach to their friends (e.g. bring them to Energise or Holiday Club).

There are also many children and their carers who attend the Babies and Toddlers Thursday morning group. This is currently our biggest opportunity, but also where there is a desperate need for more volunteers. There are lots of ideas, but not enough people to make these happen at the moment. There was discussion around how this gap could be bridged, including the idea of bringing in an intern and/or a part-time paid assistant.

**Action:** Gemma will write a paper, providing a detailed needs analysis, job description, and defining the difference in role of an intern and assistant. This will be passed in the first instance to Geoff and Ruth Stewart, to provide costings before consideration at the Resources Group.

The Vestry thanked Gemma for her hard work and support of this vital ministry.

### **6. Finance**

The Vestry Report and Financial Statements were approved.

The P21 accounts were approved by the current Trustees (Douglas, Dave, and Geoff). Geoff recommended that given the income to date, and the fact that there will be no Associate Director for at least another six months, £4,000 should be released, to be spent on some of the items on the current 'wish-list'.

**Action:** Ruth and Geoff will meet to prioritise these items, and the Resources Group will deal with the balance when appropriate.

### **7. Serving the World Discussion**

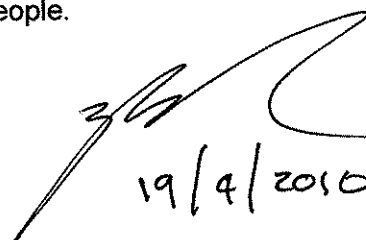
Following the discussion last meeting, the following two basic principles have been agreed:

- As a church we are committed to giving away 10% of our income to activities outwith our control
- We want to at least match the 10% giving with that given to our Mission Partners

**Action:** After some discussion it was decided that Geoff and Douglas will meet with representatives from the Global Focus and 10% groups, to draft a proposal for how monies are allocated. This will then be brought back to Vestry.

### **8. Future Meetings**

It was agreed that the meeting on 19 April will be focused on Youth, and 24 May will now be a full Vestry, to complete the review of Loving People.



19/4/2010