

Wardens' report

2018 was a year of significant change at St Mark's and St Paul's. We began the year in interregnum, continuing to welcome locums to conduct services. By the end of the year, we had said goodbye to Elaine Labourel, who had served faithfully as chaplain of St Paul's, and to Kevin and Carol Bodsworth, who had done great work in administrative and support roles at St Mark's for several years.

The recruitment process for a new chaplain was a key feature of the first 6 months of 2018, in line with the PCC's decision that the appointment of a full time chaplain was our strategic priority. Conscious of the weaknesses of this process in previous years, the PCC and ICS (our Patron, an Evangelical Anglican mission organisation with oversight of our recruitment process) were able to put in place a more robust process in which candidates and their spouses were invited to spend two days at St Mark's to discover the situation of the church and get to know the team, as well as undertake a series of interviews.

The outcome of this process was the appointment of Dale Hanson as full time chaplain to St Mark's and St Paul's. Dale and his wife Pat moved into the chaplaincy house over the summer. The latter part of the year saw Dale beginning his ministry to the church and getting to know the congregation. We thank God for this very positive outcome for the church after many years of uncertainty.

Another significant consequence of the changes of 2018 is that the church office is now being run on a volunteer basis, with Christina Galley and Elizabeth Harper helping Dale to deal with the administrative side of Church life. We are extremely grateful for Christina and Elizabeth's service, and pray that others may feel called to join them in the coming months.

We very much appreciate all those who have helped in running services, childrens/youth activities and homegroups, organising and catering for events, maintaining the grounds and buildings, and generally making the church a welcoming and loving place.

The PCC continues to focus on a number of key issues, among which we might mention the following :

- Maintaining a financial balance by planning for essential maintenance work, exploring opportunities to rent out rooms and seeking to reduce costs where possible.

- Maintaining a constructive dialogue with the diocese on such issues as safeguarding.

- Encouraging vocations as we look to the long term future of the church.

- Taking an interest in the changes in the legal status of church associations in France and their consequences for the church.

We are thankful to God for His guidance through 2018 and continue to see Him at work in 2019. We are thankful to the members of St Mark's for their continued support through this period and look forward to healthy growth for St Mark's in the coming years.