

St Paul's Parish Church, New Beckenham

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS Sunday 14th April 2019

Rev Simon Couper, Chairman of the Parochial Church Council, was in the chair. Sixty members of the parish were present.

Appointment of Clerk.

Anne Howick was appointed as Clerk to the Annual Meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of Parishioners held on 22nd April 2018. Robyn Ranu proposed, seconded Barbara Judge, that the minutes, having been displayed and circulated, be taken as read, approved and signed. Agreed.

Election of churchwardens. The PCC Secretary reported that two nominations had been received for the posts of churchwarden. Rosemary Dear had been proposed by Simon Dalwood, seconded Sandi Lee, and Biddy Gillman had been proposed by Rosemary Dear, seconded Brian Woolmer. In the absence of any other nominations Mrs Dear and Mrs Gillman were declared elected for the following year. The vicar thanked both churchwardens for their help and work over the past year.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING Sunday 14th April 2019

Rev Simon Couper, Chairman of the. Parochial Church Council, was in the chair and 62 members of the congregation were present.

Apologies for absence had been received from Ian Armitage, Sylvia Armitage, Rufus Ballaster, Mary Baines, Lizzie Collins, Suzy Dalwood, Rosemary Dear, Alison Dockray, Lindsey Lamb, Ethel Mafohla, Ann Vice.

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 22nd April 2018 had been displayed and circulated. Keith Howick proposed, seconded Katie Burr, that the minutes be taken as read, approved and signed. **Agreed.**

Electoral Roll. Simon Dalwood, as Electoral Roll Officer, presented the new Roll to the meeting. He reported that, following the complete revision of the Electoral Roll in 2019, there were 127 on the Electoral Roll, of whom 58 were resident in the Parish and 69 were not resident in the Parish. Simon Dalwood reminded members that, under the new GDPR rules, St Paul's is required to keep a tight rein on personal data. It would only be possible to give copies of the new Roll to those who have a very good reason to have a copy. He also commented that many people do not fill in the back part of the form. The vicar thanked Simon Dalwood for the huge amount of work he puts in as Electoral Roll Officer, and encouraged everyone to join as part of their involvement with the Parish. Members noted that numbers this year were down considerably compared to 2018 and wondered why this might be. It was noted that some people only apply to join the list so that they can be married at St Paul's. Any new applications would be considered by the PCC at its monthly meetings.

Election of five representatives to the Parochial Church Council. The PCC Secretary reported that there were five vacancies. Four nominations had been received in advance of the meeting for John Blakely, Mel Corkill, Hazel Koungoue, and Liz Spencer. There being no further nominations, Anthea Prendergast proposed, seconded Ann Birkett, that John Blakely, Mel Corkill, Hazel Koungoue and Liz Spencer should be elected to serve on the PCC. **Agreed.** The vicar thanked all the members of the PCC for their work over the last year, and reminded members that there would be a service of commission in due course.

Appointment of Sidesmen. The list of those willing to serve as sidesmen at the 8.00 am and 10.30 am services, and on the Welcome Team for the coming year had been circulated. The vicar commented that George Davies had served faithfully at the 8.00 am service for many years but was currently in hospital and might have to come off the list. He asked members to remember George in their prayers. Elaine Storey proposed, seconded Hazel Koungoue, that the following people be appointed as sidesmen and members of the Welcome Team for the coming year: Jackie Allen, Doff Ashley, Ann Birkett, Jill Brook, Carol Brownie, Juliet Bull, Katie Burr, Tarina Carroll, Alison Collins, Stephanie Crausay, Suzy Dalwood, Alison Dockray, Cherry Duffield, Blaine Greaves, Anne Harkness, Chris Harris, Anne Howick, Pam Hudson, Nicholas Koungoue, Alicia Kysow, Lindsey Lamb, Moreen Lane, Sandi Lee, Herbert Mafohla, Joan Morris, Lynda Moulding, Stephen Parkin, Anthea Prendergast, Marie Read, Sue Rodgers, Roz Turner, Ann Vice, Brian Woolmer. **Agreed.**

Vicar's report

A comment had been made earlier in the year that “we are a strange village parish right next to London”. The vicar felt that this was a comment about the physical location, not about the people. St Paul's is a village parish on the shoulder of a great metropolis, which is part of its charm. St Paul's is a place of sanctuary for the busy people of Beckenham, a point of consistency and stability for the many people in the neighbourhood who are left reeling from the sapping toll life takes, a place of refuge. The vicar sensed already, as St Paul's works towards its year of jubilee, the 150th anniversary in 2022, that this would be a significant theme for 2020 and beyond. St Paul's Beckenham – your place of sanctuary, your local refuge from the confusion and chaos of contemporary culture. The vicar gave thanks for all those who enriched society, with the way they welcome people so tenderly, those who wrap people up in their loving hugs, those who strengthened society by the way they faithfully lead and preach, those whose imagination draws all generations into the world of the Scriptures. St Paul's is a place of sanctuary for those in a space of unknowing, a point of stability because we know that God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

The past twelve months had been full of activities and events. The vicar outlined some of the activities, events and ministries which had been organised in the past year. 7-11s socials, auction of promises, assemblies and school visits, Autumn fair, baptisms, Babies & Toddlers, Bereavement group, Book Club, Gardening team, Community choir concerts, Connect magazine redesign, CTiB events, Families Together, Foodbank, funerals, Homegroups, Morning Prayer, New website and Facebook, Seasonal lunch, seminars and workshops, Summer tea party, Sunday squad, Theology course, varied sermon series, Wednesday Fellowship, Weddings, Where Faith meets Life, Year of connect, Youth Group.

He felt it was all very exciting, but there was a tension, as we are stretched thin and time poor, and often it was the same few volunteers carrying out the bulk of the work. In future we would need to be creative about how to address this. The demands of the workplace meant that for many the weekend was a time of recovery. Going forward the vicar re-committed himself to

two key areas of Christian ministry – pastoral care and teaching. He hoped to undertake more pastoral visits and host more conversations about theology. He thanked the churchwardens and the Ministry Leadership Team for their support. 2019 would be a year of outreach. More new people had been attending Families Together, and occasional services, such as Mothering Sunday. The new magazine, Connect, the website and the Facebook page were helping to guide newcomers through the doors, and he thanked David Charlesworth and the team. He hoped members would have the confidence to invite friends and neighbours to the church. The year of outreach would be important to reassure the community that St Paul's is a place of refuge.

The vicar was delighted to announce that, following discussions with the archdeacon, a local curate from the Deanery would be joining St Paul's to complete his second phase of curacy training. The role of a curate is to learn from all of us what ordained parish ministry looks like, and to grow as a disciple and teacher of the Christian faith. The vicar thanked everyone for their support and finished with a thought. He wondered what it would mean, or indeed look like, if every resident on Brackley Road saw this place as their place of sanctuary, their refuge from the confusion and chaos of contemporary culture.

Annual report on proceedings of the PCC and activities of the Parish for the year ended 31 December 2018.

The full PCC had met ten times during 2018 to deal with church matters, with an average attendance of 81%. In 2017 the PCC met ten times with an average attendance of 70%. The Prayer Ministry Group had continued to meet regularly during the year. The team had worked on a rota basis offering prayer for any who come into the Chapel during the 10.30 am Service of Holy Communion. The Mission Statement and Guidelines had been kept under review and training advice had been considered so that the group could offer, by the Grace of God, good practice in confidential prayer ministry. A Prayer Basket is available at the back of church with request slips, which can be completed anonymously or with a name. These prayers are offered at the weekly Friday prayer meeting. There was also a prayer cordon of people who undertake to pray in response to specific requests or emergencies. Each morning during the week there had a time of Morning Prayer for half an hour in the Chapel.

The Ministry Leadership Team, which consists of the Vicar, two Readers, two Pastoral Assistants, one Evangelist, two churchwardens and one former churchwarden, had met regularly to review the services and work of ministry at St Paul's.

The eight Home Groups, which about eighty members of the congregation attend, had continued actively during 2018, and formed an important backbone of worship, study, discussion and nurture outside Sunday worship. Termly programmes had been co-ordinated by Simon Dalwood, in consultation with the vicar, and these had occasionally been related to preaching, particularly in evening services. The Wednesday Fellowship had continued to meet weekly for friendship and talks on a wide variety of subjects, and during Lent for a series of devotional talks. A small team of members had taken on the organisation since Liz Burt had announced in 2017 that she did not feel able to continue to run the group. As part of our outreach and nurture we would normally have organised a marriage preparation course to which all those getting married or having a service of blessing at St Paul's would have been invited, but in 2018 there was only one wedding and so it did not feel appropriate to hold the course. In 2018 there was one wedding and eight baptisms. The St Paul's Book Club had met once a month to discuss a different book each time. During 2018 it had been agreed that the

Parish newsletter should be renamed and following consultation with the congregation it was now known as "Connect".

The Church website had continued to be a source of information for church members, visitors and local residents and David Charlesworth had been thanked for all he had done to refresh it and to add more social media features such as Facebook. The church was extremely well served by its many volunteers who clean the brass, serve refreshments after the services, operate the overhead projector and sound system during services, arrange the flowers, serve on the Welcome Team, distribute the parish newsletter, maintain the gardens, print the weekly notice sheets, wind the clock, serve as sidesmen at services, lead services and thanks was recorded for all their work. Members were also particularly grateful to the musicians who play the organ or piano at each service, and who lead the "Where Faith meets Life" service on the 3rd Sunday in the month. Discussions had continued regarding the vision for St Paul's.

An on-going review of risks had been carried out and following consultation with the various PCC committees a Risk Register had been compiled and a set of policies had been adopted. In addition a standard checklist was available to be used by any committee in planning a church event.

The PCC has several committees, responsible for particular areas of the life of the church at St Paul's. All members of the committees were required to complete a Conflict of Interest form. The following committee reports had been received and summarized activity in those areas.

The **Buildings Committee** had met six times in 2018, experiencing a mixture of excitement and frustration. This mixture was often part of making progress in maintenance and development of church buildings, which exist to serve God's work and the community around us. Discerning God's will about how to prioritise spending resources is always a challenge, but the mist has cleared on some projects during the year. The PCC decided that the Church path should be maintained rather than replaced. Some activity along the edges revealed that edging put in by Jim Vice some decades ago was largely in tact, confirming the prudence of this decision. The PCC authorised replacement of the clock night silencer, the original silencer having failed in early 2018. The clock would be chiming again, except between 10pm and 7am, in early 2019.

The Chapel development project had taken much time and energy. A proposal, developed with architects Thomas Ford & Partners, to level the floor, carpet the floor and include heating mats under the carpet, renovate or restore all the panelling and joinery against the outside walls, and remove the reredos, while retaining the painting, had been rejected by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) at their meeting on 26th July, essentially in its entirety. This had been communicated to St Paul's in September. A detailed submission to the DAC had been prepared in October, and at the December DAC meeting all proposals had been accepted, except that the reredos was to be retained but lowered. This work would be carried out in 2019, combined with repair works in various places inside and outside the church buildings as identified in the 2015 Quinquennial Inspection.

Progress had been made towards installing external lighting, both to illuminate the church path and to play light on to the church buildings. This was for two purposes: safety for people using the church path at night, and a signal to our community that St Paul's is alive and confident. Getting this right had not been easy; it was important not to waste energy or resources, and not to add to light pollution. Early enquiries showed that it would be possible to spend

outrageous sums on external lighting. The PCC steer had been to find an effective solution at a modest and realistic cost, and work on this would continue in 2019. The Committee had looked at improving access for wheelchair users, and those for whom use of pews was not possible. The Archdeacon had given permission to remove one or more further pews and this would be actioned in 2019.

The **Finance Committee** attends to all matters directly related to the running of the church finances. The committee had met six times during the calendar year. Items on the agenda had included the 2018 and 2019 Parish share. The 2018 budget had been monitored and a budget plan for 2019 had been made. Other Agenda items had included Away-Giving, and Collection plate and Digital giving. Stewardship plans had been discussed and a stewardship sub committee formed to move this forward. The Committee had reviewed the arrangements for maintenance of the church organ and the costs involved. A more visual form of presentation had been agreed for informing the congregation about financial matters. New procedures had been proposed and accepted for the arrangements with third parties for Hall Hire. Other matters discussed had included Depreciation policy for the new AV system and the need and cost of a new hall boiler. The decision had been taken not to have a Smart meter as this generation of smart meters was not robust enough nor inter-changeable between suppliers.

The **Growth & Nurture Committee** had met and worked to develop outreach in our local community, and nurture and support within the St Paul's community. The Committee had discussed and planned issues of the Parish newsletter, now called *Connect*, and delivery, including contacting several new property developments in the Parish. Home Groups had continued to meet, although some did not meet in the Autumn as many members were attending the Theology course at St Paul's. Members had discussed plans to open the church buildings more during the day, and were grateful to all those who had helped to open the church during Autumn and Winter early mornings for Pre-School families. St Paul's had continued to support the local foodbanks at CAP (Penge) and Living Well (Bromley) each month, and there had also been special foodbank collections at Easter, Harvest and Christmas which members of the community had also been invited to contribute to. A New Year's Eve tea party, with an open invitation to the Parish, had been held. Classes from Worsley Bridge School had been welcomed for services and activity mornings. The Bereavement group had continued to meet on the first Saturday in the month. The Committee had begun to look forward to creating opportunities to serve our community and showing that St Paul's is open and welcoming to all.

The **Mission Committee** is responsible for all matters outside the Parish of St Paul's, relating to the worldwide mission of the Church outside the Parish of St Paul's, supporting missionary work at home and overseas. The Mission Committee had met five times during 2018. The following 12 mission societies for 2018 had been recommended to the PCC and agreed by them. In date order they were as follows:-

January - "Overseas Missionary Fellowship" and support for Julia Birkett in Thailand.

February - "Church Mission Society" and support of Ben and Katy Ray in Tanzania.

March - "Crosslinks" and support of Nick and Harriet Algeo in Gambia

April - "Prison Fellowship".

May - "Mission Aviation Fellowship".

June - "Deptford Reach".

July - "Wycliffe Translators" and support of Julian and Catherine Shelton working in Southern Russia.

August - "Christians Against Poverty, Penge".

September - "IcFEM and Kimililli Hospital" in Kenya.

October - "Bible Society".

November - "Welcare in Bromley".

December - "HART – Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust" (Persecuted Church).

During the year Sheila Weaver and Barbara Saunders, who were both long serving members of the Committee, had stepped down from serving on the committee.

During 2018 the **Social Committee** had organised a variety of events which included Easter and August Bank Holiday walks, each followed by delicious pub lunches. In October nine people had enjoyed an interesting London Walk along the North side of the Strand, including the site of the original Scotland Yard, Bow Street, the area around the Convent Garden (today's Covent Garden) and finishing in Lincoln's Inn Fields. The annual soup lunch had been organised to raise money for Christian Aid following the 10.30 am service on 13 May which had been attended by around thirty people and had raised over £200.

As previously, the Summer Community Garden Party had been very popular, attended by approximately 150 people, of whom 50% were visitors from the parish or guests of church members who had enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea. Thanks were paid to all those who had helped with the catering, serving gallons of tea and clearing up. The day had been blessed with good weather and the Brass and Wind group had presented a varied and enjoyable programme. There had been games for the children and country dancing ably led by Michele Odell with Sarah Butler on the violin. During Harvest weekend there had been an International Evening with dishes representing a variety of different cuisines. A parade of national and international costumes had been a great hit and musical and other entertaining items had been enjoyed by all. In November there had been an Autumn Fair. This had been a very successful and happy time with a variety of stalls including different crafts, cakes, plants, honey products and activities for the children. The face painting had been a great success! RNLI, Demelza House and Traidcraft had also been represented. A magnificent £900 had been raised for Church Funds. The Christmas tree tags this year had raised £345 for St Christopher's Hospice in recognition of the amazing work of the home support team.

During the year the Committee had said farewell to Anne Harkness, thanking her for her many years of service and her invaluable IT skills, and the Committee had welcomed Theresa Avery.

The **Worship Committee** had met regularly to consider and to plan the worshipping life of the Church, and to support the Vicar as he leads us in worship. Early in 2018 the new AV system had been installed and its developing use and operation had been monitored. Services were regularly recorded digitally and a recording of the sermon was posted on the church website. The committee had also looked at the format of the monthly contemporary service which was now called "Where Faith Meets Life" in which speakers had been invited to look at topical issues: it now takes place at 5pm in line with the other evening services. A Worship Workshop was planned for the Autumn for all who participate in the services: reading, praying, assisting at communion, preaching, to encourage and develop the contribution they make. Special services during the year: Easter, Harvest, Memorial, Remembrance and Christmas had been planned and reviewed by the committee. It was hoped that it would be possible to raise the profile of these festival events in the community by better publicity in the coming year.

As a result of all the groups and activities that are run for children, ages 0 – 16, the **Youth Committee** had come into contact with at least one hundred children and their parents. In addition nearly forty children had attend the Pre-School. The Youth Committee had held some strategic discussions about the direction and purpose of the youth work including the range of activities that encourage children and families to strengthen their commitment to the church. The vicar had initiated the Sunday evening Youth Group at the start of the year, and Anna Couper had started to participate. Other changes were being introduced step by step, such as a termly Sharing Lunch for Families.

The **Babies & Toddlers Group** on a Thursday morning had certainly met a need for young parents who were coming along in increasing numbers to meet other new parents and make new friendships. Some weeks more than thirty children and accompanying adults had attended.

The monthly after-school **Families Together** event had continued to be an effective form of outreach to local families who were not predominantly regular church goers. The programme of crafts, activities, games & story-telling themed around a biblical story or character, followed by a tea had made it a very accessible form of Church. There had been a steady flow of new families from Babies & Toddlers, Pre-School and by word of mouth recommendation. Numbers had been slightly down in 2018 at an average of 27 children plus 3 babies, plus about 20 parents/carers. Worsley Bridge School had been very supportive in publicising Families Together which is open to children up to year 6.

Our **7-11s group**, led by Judith Freeborn, Alison Collins and Ann Birkett, had met for a range of social activities including games, quizzes, model building challenge, cooking and ten pin bowling. The events had been attended by 16-20 children, several of whom were non-church friends of St Paul's children. Each session had been rounded off with a short bible based talk and by sharing supper together. In November after leading the group for four years Judith, Alison & Ann had notified the Youth Committee that they no longer felt able to continue doing so but had recorded their sincere thanks to so many people at St Paul's who had offered practical help and support. The Youth Committee had agreed to undertake organising these events for 7-11's and, conscious of limited resources, the Youth Group had also been included.

The **Youth Group** provides secondary school age children with the opportunity to have an evening of fun ending with a discussion on a biblical theme and how it applies to their lives. The non-Sunday activities had formed a significantly important part of our outreach and although numbers had fluctuated week by week the families coming along to crèche (in increasing numbers) and bringing their children to attend Sunday Squad are central to the worship life at the church and in making connections to the other groups. Many members of the church had been involved in helping out at these different events. A Families Together event had on average twenty people to run it, the crèche team had more than twenty on the rota, Sunday Squad about 12, plus those who help with the Babies & Toddlers, and the Youth Group. The Youth Committee was greatly indebted to them all for their support & enthusiasm.

Katie Burr proposed, seconded Marie Read, that the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of St Paul's for the year ended 31st December 2018 be accepted. **Agreed.**

Independently examined financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2018

David Holmes presented the accounts. The Finance Committee had met regularly throughout the year. The total income for 2018 was down and there were only 58 donors which was less than in previous years. There had been 62 in 2017, 68 in 2016, 69 in 2015 and 78 in 2014. There had been an increase in the number of legacies received, which had totalled £16,500 (£2017: £5,000). Income from hall hire was slightly up on 2017 at £15,358 but income from funerals, interment of ashes, and weddings had dropped, mainly because there had been fewer weddings in 2018 compared to 2017. Planned Giving was down by £6,500 and other giving was down by £7,000.

As a result of there being lower income, the amount given to the Mission of the Month causes had been down. The Children and Youth expenditure had been significantly down as St Paul's had not had a Children and Family worker in 2018. Expenditure on maintenance, including the grounds, had increased considerably due to tree management work and the purchase of a new lawnmower. Depreciation had increased significantly as a result of the purchase of the new audio-visual system. The £16,556 charge in the 2018 accounts had included £4,717 for the new system. The Stewardship sub-committee had been looking at ways of increasing giving and making people more aware of the church's income and expenditure. They hoped more people might be on the Electoral Roll and more people might be encouraged to give on a regular basis. The unrestricted free reserves were £50,641 which was in line with the church policy of having 3-12 months of annual resource expenditure at current activity levels.

Ian Rodgers commented on the Treasurer's report and how it compared to ten years ago. He hoped everyone would be aware of the costs of running the church and the different ways in which people can give. It was wonderful how many people had remembered St Paul's in their legacies. The vicar thanked Ian for his observations. He felt it was important that people recognised the good work St Paul's was doing in the community but also recognise how much it costs to run the church. Katie Burr and Keith Howick are members of the Stewardship team. Keith Howick thanked Katie Burr for setting up the contactless reader for donations which was available at the back of church.

The vicar thanked David Holmes for his time and work. David Holmes thanked Rosemary Dear for her support. Ian Rodgers proposed, seconded Brian Woolmer, that the independently examined financial statement of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2-18 should be received and adopted. **Agreed.**

Report on church fabric, goods and ornaments. A report prepared by the churchwardens had been received. Many visitors to the church, as well as the current congregation, frequently comment on the attractive appearance of the inside of the church, particularly the floor tiles which are always so immaculate. Biddy Gillman thanked Ron and Pauline Barrett for all their care and attention to the church and halls. The church fabric was in good hands. Periodically members of the congregation had made up a 'team' to supplement the regular cleaning tasks, so that pews and windows and ledges had received extra attention. She thanked David and Daphne Bryan for looking after the table frontals and communion fabric and linens, which are always changed and ready for use. She also thanked the flower team who had worked regularly to adorn the church, and also thanked those who had donated flowers. The church had looked very special at the time of festivals.

Outside the church building the gardening team and grass mowers had kept the grounds looking smart and inviting. A new motor mower had been purchased to replace the one that had been stolen. The felling of three large fir trees on the Brackley Road side of the church

meant that the church itself was much more visible from the road. Hopefully in 2019 some lighting would be installed to illuminate the path, and parts of the outside of the church.

In February the new AV system had been installed, comprising greatly improved sound amplification and visuals on the four installed screens. The wardens thanked Simon Dalwood for overseeing this extensive work. The Hall boiler had been replaced in the autumn, and the temperature of the halls was now reliably warm.

Biddy Gillman confirmed that the Log book and the Church's Goods and Ornaments register were up to date.

Hazel Koungoue proposed, seconded Clare Ralph, that the report on church fabric, goods and ornaments should be accepted. **Agreed.**

Report on Deanery Synod proceedings. A report had been received. Beckenham Deanery Synod had met three times (March, June and November) for regular meetings. A fourth "extraordinary" meeting had taken place in September to discuss how to respond to a consultation on proposals from the Diocese for changes relating to what parishes send to the Diocese each year (termed "Parish Share" in the past, then the more polished "Parish Pledge" and now called "Indicative Offer"). Regular meetings had featured presentations on the "Called Together" initiative, "Home for Good" (a Christian fostering and adoption service with links to the Diocese) and on Rochester Cathedral and its work. The main project of the Deanery Synod during the year had been to identify and agree strategic priorities for the Beckenham Deanery. These had ranked at the March meeting and the top three were: 1. Cross Parish outreach events. 2. Deanery wide mission week. 3. Wider Deanery responsibility for Living Well. Other highly ranked priorities were: Ministry for Men, Dementia friendly church and awareness, and Deanery discipleship courses. The follow up was that some Deanery-wide events had been promised; one which did take place was the Theology course led by Rev Simon Couper at St Paul's in the Autumn. With regard to "Indicative Offers", it was noted that Beckenham Deanery had been one of a handful of deaneries to consider seriously, and to question, proposals coming from the Diocese. The process would continue into 2019.

David Gillman proposed, seconded Bernard Dainton, that the report on Deanery Synod proceedings be received. **Agreed.**

Appointment of Independent Examiner. The vicar thanked Paul Brinkley for his time. Anthea Prendergast proposed, seconded Simon Dalwood, that Paul Brinkley should be nominated to be the Independent Examiner for 2019. **Agreed.**

Open Forum. John Collins asked about the cost of re-doing the Chapel, given the current financial situation. The vicar confirmed that funds had been put aside for the Chapel and there was a Repair fund at the Diocese. The most recent plans had been put out for public consultation and an objection had been received. As a result it had been decided to delay the plans and the sanctuary would be kept as it is. The QI works still needed to be done. Funds were still available for the Chapel work. It was hoped heating mats could be installed under the carpet. In answer to a question regarding extending the halls, the vicar commented that we needed to think about what we do in this place, and how it might benefit the Pre-School and other hall users. Anthea Prendergast commented that the QI repairs had been outstanding for a long time. The vicar reported that he was waiting to hear back from the Diocese.

Sarah Butler reminded members that Sue and Richard Algeo had moved away during the year. She was very grateful for all the work they had done for St Pauls. Sue had led many services and preached, and Richard had been on several committees. They had run the Alpha course and a Home group. St Paul's owed them a huge debt of gratitude. These comments were supported by Ian Rodgers.

Simon Dalwood reported on home groups. Back in 2002 people had been encouraged to sign up to indicate when they would be available and at least eighty people had met. In recent times some of the groups had dwindled and some had grown. He hoped more people would wish to be involved. It was a great opportunity to share and to support each other, and to grow in our confidence in the Gospel. There would be a list at the back of church for people to sign up.

Jill Brook gave her appreciation to Sarah Butler for her leading, preaching and teaching. The vicar thanked Simon Dalwood and all who lead and preach on the rota for their work.

It was noted that a report from Liz Spencer regarding the work of the Pre-School would be available after the meeting.

Presentation. Adrian Landman gave a presentation regarding the use of a defibrillator.

At the end of the presentation, there being no further business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 1.35pm.