



Associate Vicar's AGM Report for the year April 2017/ to April 2018.

My role as Associate Vicar focuses on five main areas

Small Groups:

We have 14 small groups meeting at various times and in various locations throughout Mid Sussex. Small Groups are an integral part of the church life and they are how we as individuals continue to grow in fellowship and maturity in our faith.

The small groups leaders often pursue their own teaching material as they see the needs within their group. Each group often also has its own focus, whether it be supporting each other with the pastoral needs, a teaching focus going deeper into the Word of God, worship, fellowship or testimony. Some of them have a mixture of all the above.

In the last year, material has been provided for the small group leader to use. This has ranged from notes from the previous weeks sermons to the Lyfe Course provided by the Bible society. This was a course written to help us look at different aspects of the Christian life. Some small groups are continuing with it, whilst others have used the Diocesan Lent course looking at how Art can draw us closer to God.

For the future, small groups are free to use any material they wish in order to meet the needs of their group. We will at times seek to bring the church together by following one specific piece of material.

Men's and Women's Ministry:

Both men's and women's ministries have been very ably led by Andy Gillbard and Barbara Redman and their excellent teams

Barbara has continued to run the Women's Ministry by providing a breakfast each month with fellowship and teaching and she has also

taken a group of women to a number of women's National conferences.

The Men's Ministry group has involved an evangelistic trip to the Emirates Stadium to hear J John.

A number of men have also helped out on some DIY occasions for various individuals in and outside of the church as part of the churches witness of service.

There is also the Men at The Point Facebook page coordinated by Jan Butter who does a great job of inspiring the men with frequent posts.

We also held a Point men's conference 'United in Strength' at Holmsted Manor attended by nearly 50 men and had the amazing Paul Young come and speak to them.

Prayer

Prayer is at the centre of everything we are and do as a church. There are three regular prayer meetings open to all each week: Tuesday morning at 7:30am at Gail & Stuart Millar's house, Friday Morning at 9:15 at the Office and every Sunday morning at 9:30 in the school chapel at St. Paul's. We also have "The Meeting Place" (our monthly church Prayer meeting at the Emmanuel Centre) for us to come together and seek God for The Point.

We also have The Point Intercessors email, which is wonderfully coordinated by Neroli Allen.

We shared for the first time with the Beacon Parish, a Week of Prayer in January in 2018 at the Emmanuel Centre which was open every day from 7am until 10pm. Many thanks to those involved in preparing and transforming the Emmanuel Centre into a house of Prayer. Chris Challen, Rachel Gordon, Jo Wright, Neroli Allen, Jo Osborne and many others were involved in creating a space for us to seek God and draw on the Hope that He gives us.

We also join with the other churches in Mid Sussex quarterly to pray together. 'Prayer United' is a fantastic time for us as God's church, to

seek his purpose in Burgess Hill and to support each other in what God is doing in each of our churches.

Pastoral Care & Use of fellowship Fund

There have been a number of pastoral needs within the church. The need to try and support those who are going through difficult times is an essential part of us caring for the Body of Christ. The need for a Pastoral Team within the congregation is something I am trying to develop.

We have supported, loved and cared for the families of Emma Haward and Richard Kay in their loss. But there have been other needs within the family of The Point and my prayer is that we demonstrate God's love to them through such times. I have been involved personally in supporting couples through some counselling/support, and individuals through bereavement and many other family/personal issues. It is an area I feel privileged to serve in.

As a Church we have the 'Fellowship Fund' where we have been able to support various individuals occasionally at times of financial need.

Discipleship & Courses.

In the last year we have run a Bible Study Course, The Prayer Course and a 'Circle of Security Parenting Course' run by Caroline Kemp.

We have also started a Discipleship Program. This year we started an ongoing year-long plan to help new Christians and members within the congregation to grow in their faith and mature into strong faithful disciples of Christ. When we have run Alpha courses' we see the need to ensure that those people who are new to faith are then nurtured and developed into maturity. As part of this discipling program we ran the Lifeshapes and the Energised Courses, with the hope to also run Freedom in Christ. So, within a year of coming to faith a person will have had the foundations of the Christian faith, discovered their Spiritual Gifts and explored how God wants them to serve Him. We are also considering the Freedom in Christ course, which aims to seek God and see whether there is any spiritual baggage in our lives that God may wish to help us get rid of.

It has been wonderful over the last year to see people growing in their understanding and expression of their faith in Jesus Christ. One of the highlights for me was running the Energised Course with Jenny Butter the author and creator of it. It is so good to see people using their God given gifts to serve Him.

The joy of the Energised Course is to see people discover their Spiritual Gifts, which is the 'what' they have, and then discover what their Strengths are (which is Jenny's real expertise) - which is the 'How' to then exercise them. We had 32 people in the last course, and it was exciting to hear all the testimonies as to where people felt God was calling them to serve him.

Representing Disability:

As part of my role at The Point, I have been released to serve the Diocese and the Anglican Church on Issues to do with Disability. I have been on the Council for Ministry for Deaf and Disabled People (CMMDP) and the Disability Working Party (DWP) for the Ministry Division of the Church of England. This has meant attending meetings in London usually once every three months.

I also had the privilege of being part of the World Council of Churches gathering in Tanzania, where I was an adviser on disability.

John Naudé
Associate Vicar.