



## Trustees Newsletter 2017-18

Dear Church family,

We are delighted to take this opportunity to share with you the work of The Point Trustees over the past year. As a Trustee board we meet formally twice every month (once for prayer and once for a formal business meeting) but of course you will see from the report below that the Trustees are working on a much more frequent basis, in partnership with the Staff Team and the Operational Leadership Team to help carry out the vision that God has given for our church.

The Trustee Board currently comprises

Will Kemp	Vicar
John Naudé	Associate Vicar
Helen Watkin	Chair
James Allen	Secretary
Robert Plumb	Treasurer
Paul Haines	
Anne Upton	
Nix Freestone	
Chris Walsh	
Bob Brewer	

Following the Church Annual General meeting we take the opportunity to review the roles and responsibilities of each trustee, so that we can best use our individual skills to serve the church.

The report below summarises the key matters that we have worked on over the previous year. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the Annual General Meeting, but you are very welcome to come and chat to any of us informally at other times.

## The Emmanuel Centre

In partnership with the Beacon Parish we have agreed the taking on of Emmanuel Chapel in Ditchling, (now renamed The Emmanuel Centre) and are now jointly sharing and funding it. We have begun renovation works on The Centre using the amazing skills of members of the Church to support this work to keep the costs down- a number of people have generously given their time for free to this work. We were encouraged and humbled by the generous

response from The Point and Beacon Parish to provide the necessary funds for the building work.

Teams have been established with members across Beacon Parish and for The Point for the refurbishment and the day to day management of The Centre.

Another team has also been assembled from The Point Church Members to look at the options of the new proposed office relocation into a building in the grounds of the Emmanuel Centre. This team is planning for the necessary building works to ensure it will be fit for purpose for all the staff working there. A loan to fund this has been agreed in principle, and we have applied for planning permission and are awaiting the outcome.

Those trustees who are working on all of this, report that It been a real blessing being involved with this exciting new building and seeing churches come together in achieving God's plans. Please do pray for the ongoing work of the various teams as they progress these plans.

### Staffing

We are so very grateful for the excellent staff team that we have at The Point. We have worked to ensure that the staff team are given the right support and guidance, and over the summer we had the privilege of carrying out annual reviews with each one of them. We were able to celebrate all that they have accomplished, with God's help, over the past year and to thank them on behalf of the whole church family. We also use this opportunity to look forward and plan and prioritise with each one for the next 12 months.

In particular, we have reviewed the work of the Youth Ministry. As a result, a temporary Youth Ministry Assistant has been appointed, and the Youth pastor's hours increased. Youth volunteers were also appointed to support the church in the Autumn of 2017.

Clergy accommodation has also been reviewed, specifically as to how it should be maintained, as we are responsible to the Diocese for this.

### Safeguarding

We take Safeguarding very seriously at our church, and have worked with Sarah Emmanuel, our Safeguarding Officer and the rest of the safeguarding team to make sure that all our volunteers who work with children and young people or vulnerable adults, are appropriately checked and trained. We also include our staff team and trustees in this.

At the moment we run our own safeguarding training, and all concerned are required to attend every 2 years, in addition to the Diocesan training. We have held two sessions in the last 12 months with a total of 36 in attendance. We are delighted that Sarah Emmanuel and Helen Watkin have now been approved as trainers by the Diocese, which will mean that folk

will only be required to attend one set of training in future.

Sarah Emmanuel will be presenting a full Safeguarding report at our church AGM on Wednesday 25th April, so please make sure you have this date in your diary.

### Appointment of a new Curate

The Trustees agreed that we would apply to the Diocese for a curate and this was approved.

A thorough and structured interview process was undertaken and a new Curate, Simon Shorey, was appointed and will start in June 2018. Simon and his wife Lou have already made a number of visits to The Point and we are looking forward to them joining us. Please do pray for them, specifically for the right accommodation to rent, and for school places for their children.

### Finances

An essential part of our church is its finances The Trustees have undertaken a detailed financial review of the accounts for 2017 and have planned the budget for 2018 after spending a great deal of time in prayer, seeking God's leading on this. The review has been focussed on enabling our vision to be "A transforming presence throughout Mid Sussex".

We are blessed in having many church members who are able to contribute generously to support our work, and this provides most of our income. We work to an annual budget of income and spending. The Treasurer's role is to keep an eye on the finances and advise the other Trustees. This includes considering how to save money and how to spend it most efficiently.

We are drawing down on savings this year, but the step of faith that we have taken in setting this year's budget means we will still need to increase regular giving to make the numbers balance for the future. The money goes on salaries, rent, mission and stewardship giving, youth and kids work, Church of England central costs, office costs etc.

Our accounts are independently examined and are available to see (on the Charity Commission website or from the office). We commit to giving away at least 10% of our income and have always exceeded that. We thank God for the generous response to the Ditchling project gift day. Robert Plumb, our current treasurer will be giving a full report at the AGM. He will also be stepping down from his role following this meeting, having served us so well and faithfully over the past four years.

We thank him wholeheartedly for all that he has done.

Please continue to include our finances in your prayers.

### Mission opportunities

The Trustees have been looking at opportunities to continue to support our vision and these have included

- Ex-Serviceman's Club in Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint
- Supporting other Churches in Mid-Sussex in worship, youth and kids work

We have also been pleased to hear reports from the various Mission Partners that the church supports, namely Off The Fence, Daniel Omondi, Hope, Hope House Haiti and Befriended. It has been particularly helpful to hear first-hand reports from staff and volunteers who have visited the partners over the year, at their own expense.

### Small groups

The trustees work to support John Naudé in the management of the small groups that operate at The Point. Paul, our designated Trustee, met with John along with some small group leaders in the summer of last year to discuss, pray and plan the direction in which God was leading us, and how small groups could better serve the church family.

Trustees are also available to support John if necessary, in pastoral issues and we regularly pray for such matters at our Trustee prayer meetings.

### Health and safety

The Trustees have become increasingly aware of the need to ensure that in all we plan and do, the safety of our church family is important. The Health and Safety Committee meets annually, and H & S is on the Agenda at both Operational Leadership Team and Trustee meetings.

We have established a clear Emergency Evacuation procedure with allocated responsibilities.

Organisers of all events such as Youth activities, The Point Weekend Away, the Panto and the Altar are asked to complete a risk assessment, and these have been carefully undertaken, referred to and filed for future reference.

Attention is currently focussing on the way our regular events are organised, in particular Sunday mornings at St Pauls, concentrating on the need to ensure that our teams work in the safest way both for themselves and for the church family. To this end an overarching Sunday risk assessment has been drawn up and during 2018 each team will be asked to complete their own as well their own operational guidelines.

Every Sunday has dedicated First Aiders covering not only the main service but also Youth and Children's sessions. 2 more people have now undertaken a 1<sup>st</sup> Responder course, and a

further 5 or 6 are willing to be trained during 2018. These added to our current First Aiders gives us a good number of trained people to call upon.

### Kids and Youth Work

Throughout the Autumn term trustees visited both the Kids and Youth Sunday morning programmes to see the amazing provision our young people experience each week. As a church we are very blessed to have such competent and dedicated leaders in both Liz and Ben and thank them for the way they resource and provide such an imaginative and engaging experience for our Kids and Youth each week.

Trustees have recently agreed to increase Ben Leighton's hours and this will enable him to develop both existing Youth work at The Point as well as opportunities for schools work which is a real privilege in the current educational climate. Pete Hall has also been working on a new Youth project, "Wildfire" with a focus on Missions and Evangelism.

Finally, we would like to thank you all for your prayers and support for us over the past year. It was particularly encouraging to have so many of you praying over us as a group at a Sunday morning service in the new year. Please continue to keep us in your prayers, and do feel free to seek us out if you have any questions or comments.

The Point Trustees. April 2018

