

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

### **REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

#### **Staffing**

The Point has an excellent and committed staff team, we have continued to ensure all our staff team members are given the most appropriate support through the year and thank them on behalf of the whole church family.

2019 brought several significant staffing changes with Ben Leighton and Erin Butler being recommended for ordination and now studying at Trinity College, Bristol, we wish them well as they follow God's calling upon their ministries.

We welcomed Michael Holt as our new Youth and Schools Worker and Sian Ackers our Church Volunteer Intern, serving with the youth, schools and children's ministries.

In 2019, we continued to allocate significant time and resource to our annual staff reviews with the objective of giving support, encouragement and agreeing objectives for 2019-20. We have also reviewed and standardised staff job descriptions to make sure that each staff member's function is clear and complementary, enabling them to work as a coordinated body with a common purpose aligned to The Point's Vision.

#### **Safeguarding**

Sarah Emmanuel, the Point Safeguarding Officer, and the rest of the safeguarding team ensure that all volunteers who work with children and young people or vulnerable adults, are appropriately checked and trained. The Point staff team and Trustees are also included in this.

The Point continues to run its own safeguarding training, and all concerned are required to attend every two years. Sarah Emmanuel is an approved Diocesan trainer.

#### **Finances**

The Point's overall aim is to ensure that it has the resources and hence finances in place to deliver the vision to be "A transforming presence throughout Mid Sussex".

The vast majority of The Point's income in 2019 (around 95%) was through the church members giving. In addition, The Point received £8k of grant funding comprising £5k from the Tufton Charitable Trust, £2.5k from the Grant Foundation and £500 from The River Trust.

The £8k of grant funding in 2019 represented a significant reduction from the £21k of grant funding that was received in 2018. The grant funding reduced as grants from the Diocese and the Bishop Radford Trust came to the end of their term. As a result of this net drop in grant funding some cost reductions had to be made in 2019 including reducing some of the staff hours. Grant applications were made to around 25 trusts in 2019 and it is hoped this will secure additional grant funding for 2020.

Costs for The Point offices were lower in 2019 because for around 6 months the office was moved to a house due to the generosity of a church family. This temporary arrangement was put in place whilst new accommodation was sought. Mid way through the year the offices moved to a unit in Burgess Hill shopping centre but this too is only a temporary move as the office will be demolished for redevelopment and hence the Trustees are seeking another site which is likely to be needed in 2021.

#### **Mission opportunities**

2019 was full and flourishing year in missional activities. Our biggest mission was in July when a team of 16 people from The Point went to Kenya to encourage and support the work of our Mission Partner, 'Centre for Urban Mission', in the slums of Nairobi where we visited a number of schools and churches. We also supported the local YWAM base, Athi River, in their community work with those living with disabilities. The team of nine adults, six youth and one child all returned inspired for future mission trips.

Abi Barnes, Emily Taylor and Emma Wilkinson all respond to God's call to serve in some of the most challenging areas of our world. Emily and Emma have recently returned from Brazil and Sierra Leone with inspiring testimonies and changed lives. Abi has committed to stay in Korea for a further two years where she has been working with the street evangelism team, training people at the Discipleship School and teaching English to missionaries. Sam Leighton also continues to do mission in various cities around the world, where he is seeing incredible healings and many coming to Jesus.

Alpha attendance has almost doubled this year with 37 people going through one of the three courses we have run, showing that our church members are growing in confidence in inviting friends to Alpha. 26 of these people have either given their life to Jesus Christ or furthered their relationship with Him.

We continue to support our Mission Partners - HOPE, Befriended, Off The Fence, Hope House Haiti and Centre for Urban Mission (Kenya). We introduced a new offering system in 2019 where we share a full update on the charity and take an offering for each partner once a year. This has been successful in both improved awareness of the charities and providing additional financial support. We also work closely with the Mission Finance Committee to agree levels of financial support for our Mission Partners and have agreed to communicate a two or three year commitment to each partner to manage expectations from our chosen charities.

Finally, we sadly had to say goodbye to Erin Butler in July who faithfully led our mission work for many years and brought much joy to all. But it is with joy that she is now training to be a Vicar in the Church of England.

### **Small Groups**

Small Groups at The Point continue to be at the heart of our community. Everyone is encouraged to join a mid-week Small Group. Groups exist to provide fellowship, pastoral support and spiritual growth/discipleship for all. 2019 saw a slight decline in membership and 3 groups closed for various good reasons (members moving on or leaders committing to other areas of church life). As a result of John Naudé, the Associate Vicar, reducing his hours to part-time from April 2019, oversight of Small Groups transferred back to Will Kemp, the Vicar.

A full review was carried out over the summer and analysis carried out of numbers and character of each group. Sue Baldwin, trustee for Small Groups, has been very involved in this process. At the end of 2019 there were 9 functioning small groups that comprised a membership of about 110 people, just over half the adult membership of the church. We are seeking to grow the Small Groups ministry and through a series of "Leadership Evenings" at the start of 2020 we are setting fresh vision (focussed on growth, spiritual and numerical), identifying new group leaders and encouraging groups to welcome new members. We are also forming a Small Groups Team to mentor leaders and help with training. 2 new groups have started and 2 more will be launching after Easter 2020.

### **The Emmanuel Centre**

In Partnership with the Beacon Parish the refurbishment works originally scheduled are now complete at Emmanuel Chapel Ditchling, (now renamed The Emmanuel Centre) and we are jointly sharing and funding it. Further works are planned later in 2020 to replace the windows and address the roof issues.

The Emmanuel Centre management and refurbishment teams, comprising members across the Beacon Parish and The Point have continued to meet throughout the past year.

The Emmanuel centre is used during the week by church and non-church organisations with The Point at 6 on Sunday evenings which is led by Simon Shorey The Points Curate.

### **Health and safety**

The Health & Safety Committee meets annually, and Health and Safety is on the agenda at both Operational Leadership Team and Trustees meetings. A clear and effective emergency evacuation procedure is in place for St Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill (the main Sunday venue) with allocated responsibilities.

Organisers of all events such as The Point Weekend Away, youth and children's activities are required to complete risk assessments, which are kept under review.

First Aiders are also in place each Sunday and additional members trained as necessary.

### **GOING CONCERN**

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

### **TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT**

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Point Church for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees, on 17 March 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

**Rev William Kemp, Vicar**

**Paul Haines, Chair**