



Point AGM 2023

Trustee's Report

Staffing

The Point has an excellent and committed staff team, and the Trustees would like to thank them on behalf of the whole church family. Some key staff changes took place in 2022 summarised below:

In May 2022 Barbara Redman retired, she had been the Church Administrator for 16 years and had served the church brilliantly in the role. She continues to be member of the church and serves in a number of key voluntary roles.

In September 2022 Michael Holt stepped down as Youth and Schools Worker to take up a role working with children and young people in residential care here in Mid Sussex. He had been the youth team leader for 3 years and had done an amazing job. He will continue to be a member of the church and serves in a voluntary capacity with his wife as one on the small group leaders.

The Trustees were delighted to be able to appoint Dean Gargano as the new Youth and School Worker and he took up his role in September 2022. Dean has made an excellent start ensuring continuity in the youth ministry which is a key ministry in the church.

In November 2022 Simon Shorey completed his curacy with The Point and moved to Associate Vicar Role at St Mark's Church in Holbrook, Horsham. Simon had been an outstanding curate and will be very much missed by staff and church members alike.

In April 2023 we said goodbye to John and Janine Naudé as John moved on to lead St Peter's Church in Rock Ferry, Birkenhead. John, who has been with The Point for 7 years, has been an amazing Associate Vicar in so many ways but particularly with pastoral support and leading courses. He has been brilliantly supported by Janine who has also served in many teams across the church. They will both be greatly missed.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be a priority at The Point. The Trustees are very grateful to Sarah Emmanuel for serving as Safeguarding Officer. Sarah leads The Point's Safeguarding Team comprising herself, the Vicar, Associate Vicar, Dale Marklew (Safeguarding Trustee), Liz Styles (Children's Pastor), Dean Gargano (Youth Pastor) and Ellie Zaragoza. This team ensures that training, safer recruitment, record keeping, policies and procedures are all up to date. Sarah is introduced to the church regularly as the person to contact with any concerns (or anyone else on the team), and her details are clearly displayed on the church Welcome Desk on a Sunday

morning and on the church website. The annual NSPCC P.A.N.T.S presentation (helping children to keep themselves safe) was held in May 2022.

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 2022 (around 95%) was through the church members giving. Members of the church gave very generously to appeals to support crisis in Ukraine and Pakistan as well as appeals to support the church mission partners. In total over £30k (including gift aid) was raised for these appeals in 2022.

Office rental costs in the Martlets, Burgess Hill increased in 2022 due to a rent review by the landlord, however the rate remains competitive.

Mission Opportunities

The Point's work in local schools was relaunched in 2022 following significant restrictions in the two previous years due to the pandemic. The work in 2022 included running assemblies in 4 local primary and 4 local secondary schools, continuing with the parent/toddler group in Hurstpierpoint and running the alpha course for young people.

The Trustees are delighted that the church has been able to keep up its regular financial commitment to its mission partners. The Point continues to support the following mission partners; Off the Fence, Befriended, Hope, Centre for Urban Mission (Nairobi), Hope House Haiti and Sam Leighton (YWAM). In addition, the church gave very generously to specific appeals to support these partners in 2022.

Small Groups

The church has around twelve 'small groups' that meet during the week that enable the church members to grow more like Christ and become family with one another. These small groups continued to be a key part of church life during 2022 and they nearly all moved back to face to face meetings in 2022 following the pandemic in the previous two years.

The Trustees would like to thank the small group leaders for all their hard work in running these groups which remain a key part of the community at The Point.

Pandemic Impact

Following the pandemic, the church has returned to around 75% of pre-pandemic Sunday attendance with a further 10% regularly attending online.