

View from the pew

Colin Bird

In previous articles in the magazine we have talked about the PCC's awayday and subsequent meeting to consider how to improve the way we work. We have agreed that each PCC meeting will focus on particular areas. We recognise that we have a wide range of skills within our church membership and that some areas for discussion will interest different members. To reflect this, we would welcome to our PCC meetings non PCC members with particular skills or interests covering these areas, so that we get as wide a church view as possible, at least once a year on important areas of church life. Of course any strategically important issues will be covered in addition when necessary but we feel that a regular annual cycle will help everyone. The cycle, and the dates of the PCC meetings at which they will be covered are:-

- Vision/Strategy/Risk Management – 11th July
- Worship/Outreach/Mission/Young People – 23rd October
- Fabric/Social/Effectiveness – 22nd January 2018
- Finance/Projects – 9th April 2018
- Organisation/Roles/Responsibilities/Memberships/Skills/Safeguarding – May 2018
- [By way of note next year's APCM will be on 29th April 2018]

We covered a number of organisational matters at the last PCC meeting on 8th May. The minutes are to be published and the agendas for each PCC meeting going forward will also be published beforehand.

A particular move was to create an informal but regular group for mission, under Jo's leadership, where everyone can have the opportunity for discussion and reflection – perhaps visiting other centres of worship to widen our experience and give us new ideas.

This brings us to HeartEdge. As a reminder, the HeartEdge network of churches has

recently been launched under the auspices of St Martins in the Fields and All Saints is an early participant. St Martins has been revolutionised over the last few years by bringing the building into community and commercial use, thus reducing the need for continual stewardship campaigns. They recognised that it is no longer possible to maintain their plant (i.e. mainly their buildings) by increasing the giving of the congregation.

A number of other churches in the network have achieved sustainability by innovative and respectful use of their assets, including buildings. We intend to harness the experience of the networked churches to help us decide how to move All Saints forward towards becoming less dependent on stewardship and fully sustainable (what HeartEdge calls the Kingdom model).

In July we will have chance to consider a draft report to HeartEdge covering our challenges, our assets and the barriers to moving to a Kingdom model of sustainability. We will base this on the output from the open meeting held on 4th April on the future of All Saints, which was reported on in last month's magazine. We hope to have a visit from HeartEdge in the autumn to get their views on the way forward for All Saints.

Yours in Christ

Colin Bird

