

## Update from the Churchwarden

Dear Friends

I am pleased to be able to let you know that as I write our new audio-visual system is being installed and will be operational by the time you read this report. We look forward to this providing greater clarity of sound in St Wilfrid's and to give us much more flexibility in the future.

We will be interviewing for our new Rector on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May and I hope that I will have news of our appointment by early June. As you know the advert which includes our Parish Profile has been live since the end of March.

If you have looked at our Profile you will have seen that we defined a vision for the future of our Parish and identified our priorities. These are to:

- Reaffirm our mission to the parish.
- Grow the presence of young families.
- Inspire fresh thinking and new ideas to attract the local community.
- Create flexibility in the church interior.
- Develop our use of newly-installed technology
- Whilst maintaining a balance of traditional and contemporary approaches to worship, with a range of musical provision and styles.....

If we are to achieve this vision the PCC will need to work with our congregations and involve non-PCC members in the planning and development of our future. Therefore, with our new incumbent the PCC would like to create three separate sub-groups to take forward the planning and development of the work and mission of our church.

These will be made up of both PCC members and non-members. The groups would be responsible for developing action plans with a chair who would be responsible for reporting to the PCC. Through these groups we would aim to harness the ideas and expertise of church members who are active with the work of our church.

1. **Worship & Prayer** - a focus on the different spiritual disciplines (worship and celebration, prayer, Bible study) that help develop spiritual maturity in our relationship with God. We already have a group who look at services and the PCC would like to engage with this group, and with our new incumbent to look at worship and prayer and develop our engagement with families in our community.
2. **Mission & Outreach** – Mission and outreach in church ministry is essential. By engaging in God's mission to reach and serve the world, we can spread the message of the gospel, serve others in the name of Christ, and build relationships with those outside the church. We need to be a church that is engaged in mission and outreach, and to do so with love, compassion, and a desire to serve others in the name of Christ.
3. **Buildings & Finance** – This group will focus on ensuring that our finances are in the best position possible, and our buildings are fit for purpose within the finances available.

This past fifteen months have been challenging for us all and we have seen many unexpected changes, but thanks to Revd Phillip Grayson and all the retired clergy and lay people who work so hard in our church it has been both successful and enjoyable.

Last year in my report to the APCM I identified how 'everyone in our church works together and values each other's' part in the continuation of our worship and mission' at St Wilfrid's and at St Francis. When she visited Archdeacon Sam recognised this strength in our church community too, and this will help us as we work with our new incumbent to realise the Diocesan Vision of Living Christ's Story in Brayton Parish.

Pat Jarvis,  
April 2024