

SCWP AGM 2018 - Chair's Report

In preparation for this meeting I revisited my report from our May 2017 AGM at Holy Trinity Church and noted with a wry smile how relieved we all felt to have our excellent new worker after the short gap following Ben's departure.

We praised God together for how well she was settling in, developing contacts in the schools and for the new members of the Board of Trustees and looked forward to building up the supporter network to cover the inevitable gradual decrease due to people moving away and some sad deaths.

We remained confident and encouraged till July when, as you know, Hannah accepted a job in Chester working 20 hr for their schools project and 20 hr for a church. I met up with her recently by the way and she sent greetings to everyone and gave a copy of the new version of 'Believe, she is...'

The SCWP team thank you all very much for your faithfulness and encouragement during what felt like a very long autumn and winter of advertising and agreeing that God's choice hadn't appeared. Betty Steel's helpful farmer's perspective on the reason God might choose for fruitful land to lie fallow for a while was particularly helpful. I also want to pay tribute to the brilliant team who have kept on with the inevitable meetings, reading applications, interviewing etc. Though we are a mixed bunch from a range of churchmanship we have listened to God together and been in harmony throughout on how we felt he was guiding.

It was so lovely on the final round in March to continue in agreement as we offered the job to Jane Webber. We rejoiced even more the next day to hear from her and her husband Matt about how God has been guiding them to serve Him in this area.

Till August Jane is busy completing her degree in Applied Theology, Youth and Schools and her placement in Exeter but she has just sent us this message.

Jane's letter.

So we'll pick up her prayer requests and please also pray for our 20 schools, that they stay open for Jane to bring the good news of Jesus in September, for the children who are starting school or moving on to a new one and for staff changes at this time.

In the meantime to keep the Charity Commission and Companies House happy we have updated our paperwork and written (or adapted from SU!) a stack of important policies so we are a more aware and robust organisation. Like all other organisations this includes GDPR and I've asked Pam to let you know about how we handle your details and about our new leaflet and forms.

Pam's item.

Those of us able to be at the joint CTOD service last night were privileged to hear Arthur Drowley's reminder that, though charity, kindness and social action are all very important there is **nothing** more important than bringing the gospel to someone who has not yet received it, the great news of the loving God who knows and understands every individual perfectly and offers to transform, fulfil and direct each person's life.

This is the heart of what the project's workers do, they go where the young people are and bring that wonderful, life changing offer to the 95% of local children who have no significant link with a church.

And we are very grateful to each of you, to your churches and to CTOD for enabling us to pay that worker. Apart from that our expenses are very minimal.

We're grateful to SU and Robin in particular for wisdom and support and the increasing suite of resources for reaching that 95%. He will tell you of ones your church can use at the end of this meeting.

Our ex workers, especially Hannah and Ben have also been very encouraging and offered to help Jane orientate herself round the 20 schools when she arrives. We are looking forward to hearing from Hannah later.

So now my task is to introduce our new co-opted board member. Lynsey Arnott was a great treasurer but with her two jobs and starting a course at University she had to step back and we were delighted that Lydia located Alistair Nurden who has very competently handled our finances and preparing the annual accounts.

I am going to ask him to introduce himself and present the Treasurer's report following which I hope you will feel happy to vote to confirm his place on the board.

Treasurer's Report