

Future and vision together SPSV. (20 people plus JWD)

Apologies had been received from David and Pauline Pearson.

Introduction and Overview

Johnny reaffirmed his commitment to one church family in two locations and read from Proverbs 29 v 18. The kingdom of God requires a certain sense of purpose and plan.

1. St Paul's, Swanley Village exists to ...

Proclaim the love of Jesus

Provide a quieter and more contemplative form of service – difference in this place.

Provide a society wedding venue – ‘Hatch, match and dispatch’. This location is a wonderful location for occasional offices

Serve the people in their need (whatever that may be) in Swanley Village

Place of sanctuary; place of comfort and reassurance in the community.

Represents how the church got here; serious place for the meeting of memories about ancestors

How do we connect both sites with the longevity of God and faithful stories of witness

Ministers to people who come to the graveyard on special days e.g. Mothers Day, Red Letter Days, Fathers day, Remembrance Sunday etc.

Does it exist to minister to older people?

There is not a clearly agreed answer to what St P's exists to do ... (JWD)

In 25 years time what will our legacy be?

Still holding traditional carol services

Unless there is a church plant/massive move of God, I can't see the way ahead

Dementia services

Need to be supported by St Peters

The building costs a lot to keep going - £75k on stone work alone in last ten years plus heating, boiler etc.

Johnny pleaded for an end to the 'us and them' mentality and language committed to one church family.

What must change? What may change? What must not change?

Must change

Service clashes

Physical refresh e.g. curtains

'Us and them' mentality

Need new vergers and people to take over from Roy and Noelle

Welcome of outsiders; dispel myths of what happens here and entrenched attitudes

Do mission or something so differently or we die

Do something for children/intergenerational worship

Sense that children aren't welcome at St Paul's (came from BH)

May change

Greater use of the bells on a Sunday to announce that we are here.

Decent audio and projector screen – updated technology

Open church e.g. physical access

More use from the school

Leadership e.g. curate who could give dedicated time to mission here.
Family service led by school to encourage parents to come.
Use it for quiet days e.g. Jennifer Rees Larcombe
Children's choir linked with the school; teach children to ring bells
Pet service

Must not change

The friendship of shared worshippers must not change.
Seek to serve the school community/partnership with the school.
Evening service
Exchanging the peace.

2. Village mission

What is the appropriate partnership with the school? Must grapple to be intergenerational for the sake of a long-term future.
Messy vintage/messy church.

3. Christian worship (renew and refresh)

What would add to Christian worship being faithful to the past but being future friendly?
JWD wants us to do high days and holy days really well here e.g. Christingle etc.
Refreshing the green booklets; what other fresh liturgies might we use?
Regular events that will bring the community in e.g. flower festival and exhibitions, art work from school etc. – need to do diary of appropriate events throughout the year.
Remembrance Sunday – can be three services going on at the same time.
Need to do it better e.g. music, IT
Family Service has been amazing in the past but there are now no children here.

4. Service time

2nd Sunday clashes – Mothering Sunday this year was particularly problematic. This service was originally devised to have infant baptisms and family services but people wanted baptisms in the family service. Resourcing second Sunday is challenging. Johnny invited a pilot in September to overcome the clashes and a simple 'what time/where' going forward that offers consistency and accessibility for the outsider.

Johnny heard a number of private views about the 6.30pm service in the winter months; he does not therefore believe there is a wish to change to 4.30pm or 5.00pm but there is a need to review and refresh the content of the service. Johnny would welcome volunteers.

JPD

13.06.2018