

PCC Digest January 2019

The PCC of St James met recently and this is a summary of the discussions and decisions.

Safeguarding

Judy Douglas, our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), updated the PCC on the latest changes in safeguarding policies and shared a Self-Audit she had recently completed on behalf of the church. This highlighted some issues that the PCC will need to address in the coming months.

Finances

The Treasurer presented a positive report on the finances up to the end of December. By the grace of God, we once again ended the year with a surplus for which we give God all the glory. The 2019 budget was approved and Rob will be sending out his annual giving letter and finance brochure very soon.

PCC Away Day Follow Up – Evangelism

Rob reminded the PCC of the session on evangelism held at the PCC Away Day last November. Statistics suggest that 85% of practising Christians came to faith through the influence of a parent or friend and the majority of non-Christians know a practising Christian and many of them would like to hear about Jesus.

Ephesians 2 shows us that the reason evangelism is so important is the fact that without Christ people are spiritually dead, separated from God and heading for eternal judgement. But, in His grace and through faith in Jesus Christ, God raises the spiritually dead, reconciles them to Him and sets them on course for eternal life. This happens when ordinary Christians share the good news about Jesus with their non-Christian family, friends and neighbours.

Rob then shared some of the practical suggestions and ideas from the Away Day on how St James might develop our evangelism and asked the PCC to choose the ideas they believed God might be calling us to put into practice.

The three main areas for action are:

- How can we help the people who are already connected to St James to become Christians?
- How can St James get out into the community to share the good news with those who are not yet connected to us?
- How can we help each other to grow in confidence and competence in sharing the good news with the people we know?

Rob will now reflect on the PCC's views and bring suggestions back, so a strategy for evangelism can be developed.

The next meeting of the PCC will be on 25 March. If you have any issues you would like to be considered for inclusion on the agenda please use the PCC Suggestion Box on the Information Desk or email the church office at admin_stjameschurch@btinternet.com