



14 July 2021

Dear friends

RENEWING OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28 v18-19)

While these have been very testing times for churches worldwide, at Christ Church, we have been very blessed. We have been able to maintain our Sunday services both inside and outside, reach out across the congregation pastorally, develop a substantial on-line presence and restart our work amongst the young.

However, in order to position our ministry for future growth, the PCC recognises that further change and development is required. As a result, the PCC has also been hard at work during recent months and has renewed our vision and started to refocus our resources for growth and blessing.

Thank you for all your input and prayers as we have considered what it means to answer God’s call and follow him into the new opportunities He is placing before us. Our vision is to be a loving Church family which makes Christ known, is committed to growing in its discipleship of Christ, and longs to see lives and our local community transformed through the power of the Gospel message and the work of the Holy Spirit. We seek to make this a reality through reflecting God’s grace as Christ-centred and Christ-shaped people.

New plans are being considered, particularly in the areas of discipleship, serving and the development of our buildings. As we seek to begin to fulfil our vision, the PCC has felt led to step forward in faith and recruit for the following posts which will be vital to fulfilling our future plans:

Part-time Pastoral Assistant - additional investment in this area to support Tracy and Laura and deal with the additional pastoral needs created as we emerge from the pandemic.

Worship and Creative Minister – a post with a major focus on worship, and a subsidiary focus on the tech/comms side of the ministry, to provide impetus within our contemporary worship formats and boost our creative presence online.

Youth Minister – a new emphasis on the development of an integrated evangelism and discipleship programme for all young people and young adults from 11yrs onwards.

Operations Manager – a new appointment to lead our office team and provide the kind of high-level administrative support which will enable those in front-line ministry to flourish as the ministry develops.

Adverts for all these posts will go live and be on our website by this weekend.

In addition to these appointments, we feel called to increase our giving to Christian mission in the UK and around the world, so from the total donations received from church members 18% from September (an increase from 17%), 19% from January 2022 and 20% from January 2023 will be set aside for distribution by the Mission Action Group.

The new posts represent a substantial step of faith for us as a church financially, even though at least one of them covers the replacement of Ben Holbrook, as Worship and Youth Minister. We estimate that the overall budget for the year will increase from £564,000 (with no appointments) to £624,000, an increase of £60,000. Of this increase, £48,000 is for the new members of staff, and £12,000 is an increase in our general Mission Giving. Now the spiritual challenge is for us to pray for these new appointments and to review our sacrificial giving.

Ways of giving to Christ Church are described on the church webpage <https://cccw.org.uk/donating/> our preferred option being a regular standing order as this is administratively easy (for the donors and for us), and allows financial planning. All questions about giving should be addressed to Mark Sullivan (the Gift Secretary) through giftsecretary@cccw.org.uk. Finally, please see point 2 below about regular giving to the work of the Lord!

With these developments in mind, throughout the summer months, we are encouraging the entire church family to do two things:

1. Pray daily for these appointments and the future development of our vision. Please do join us as well at the weekly prayer meeting held on Zoom from 8.00am to 9.00am every Saturday. You can join or leave this prayer meeting at any time during that hour. In addition, please mark in to join us on Zoom at our next monthly prayer meeting at 8.00pm on Tuesday 14 September. The access code for both these prayer times can be obtained via the calendar on our website.
2. Review your regular sacrificial giving to the church. If you have never given regularly, now is the time to start! If you are excited about what God may do through our shared work for him in the future, and are in a position to do so, please consider if God is calling you to give more.

Why are we doing all this? We recognise that the sums involved are significant, however, we believe that these are necessary steps to fulfil our commission so that Christ will be glorified and our community transformed. As Paul put it when writing to the church at Ephesus: "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3 v20-21)

Yours in Christ

David Hall

Timeline

Sun 18 July	Adverts out
Wed 25 Aug	Deadline for applications
Tue 31 Aug	Candidates called for interview on one of the following weekends (tba)
Fri 10 – Sun 12 Sept	First interview weekend
Fri 17 – Sun 19	Second interview weekend
Fri 24 – Sun 26	Third interview weekend