

THE PARISH CHURCH OF KESWICK ST JOHN

OCTOBER 2017



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Revd Charles writes:

September and the start of October has been a busy time. My apologies for the Magazine being late, but the November edition will be on time as half of it done already!

Ministry across the Mission Community is developing rapidly. Susi Wood has now started as Reader in Charge of Threlkeld and St John in the Vale – a lay person running a parish is an exciting development. But for legal and practical reasons a clergyperson has to fill the incumbent role. So I am ‘mentoring’ Susi as well as becoming ‘Priest in Charge’ of those two parishes as well as what I am responsible for already. (This incidentally fulfils what I was told of the ministerial plan when I applied for the role of vicar of Keswick St John – the other part of that plan was for the Vicar of Crosthwaite to take on Thornthwaite, Braithwaite and Newlands with the support of a house for duty priest – the staffing of the area is moving towards that.)

But ministry is not just about clergy / readers. It is about the team as a whole. A team that has to grow, develop and include others. It is about people discovering new vocations and new roles.

The ethos we need to develop is one that encourages people, (i.e. each other,) to develop new skills, try new roles, do new things. It means we all have to take risks. Some things won’t work, some things will go really well. Does it matter if they don’t work? No, we learn together. Does it matter if things could be a bit better? Well, we can work on it together. Does it have to be perfect? No, we are all God’s work in progress. If we do our best, it is good enough.

In other words, the Mission Community and all of her Churches, and indeed our Church needs to be a ‘reflective learning community’. We need to encourage, not criticise each other; affirm not belittle; build up each other, not knock down. It’s not easy! Sometimes we just want to say something, sort something out. But we need to pause and think – how can we, or I, build up this person or situation.

Moving Mountains March 2018

Plans for the Diocesan Mission move ahead rapidly. A team led by Bishop David Hawkins will be joining us in Keswick. Bishop David was the Bishop of Barking in Chelmsford and the East End of London. He was with us in October for a day to talk about the Mission with representatives of the Mission Community.

In helping us think about what we can do, part of his advice was to think of the networks that reach out beyond the Church into the wider Community of which we are members. Then think if there is any sort of event / activity our ‘network’ could do that could have a ‘God’ / ‘Jesus’ dimension to it. Another bit of his advice is ‘don’t overdo things’; fewer good and well planned events are better than lots of ‘bits’. We also discussed the value of follow up.

This means that at the Mission Community social for Church Councils on Wed Nov 15th, 7-9pm, we will be thinking about Moving Mountains in Keswick. We will also be thinking about follow-up events, some form of enquirers group / 'what's the Christian faith about' group – it could be Alpha, it could be something else.

Please think about what 'networks' you are part of and how they could play a part in the Moving Mountains Mission – and share your thoughts with me or anyone else on the PCC.

Rev Charles