

Meeting Needs

I write this message for the front of our award-winning magazine on the back of a very positive Annual Church Meeting (AGM). Perhaps I undersold the event at the start of worship, but I think that for the first time ever, we had a shout of “What a great meeting” by the end! I was exhausted by then and that so it’s difficult for me to know exactly how everything went. However, this time even I can say with confidence that, for the whole morning, we had been sailing with the driving wind of the Holy Spirit.

The text for the service had been Acts 17 - Paul’s visit to Athens. The moment he arrives in the new place he is incredibly disturbed by what he sees - idol after idol. People were devoting themselves to empty statues, things that can bring very little meaning into their lives and certainly no love. He was greatly moved.

Throughout the AGM we saw photos of the year that had gone by and heard reports from some of our groups which help things happen. After the AGM, we turned to our Children, Young People and Families’ work and particularly the role we created which Fae Thomas has striven so hard to undertake. During the course of the meeting, it became ever clearer that Christ Church is not a fellowship which is settled and happy with the status quo. Despite everybody’s being run off our feet with things from all sides of life, there is a great concern for everything and everyone around us. There was a sense of a particular burden for the young people of this area and that was unanimously expressed in agreement to extend Fae’s role for a further three years. Frank Blackburn expressed this well as he said that three years of sowing need at least three more years to reap.

That is not a cue for us all to sit back, relax and watch Fae grow the church! Quite the opposite; Fae is here to **help us** minister chip in but, more than that, we need to get praying for God to send out the workers into the harvest fields (Matthew 9.38) and to pray for the faith to see that what we think impossible, is just a simple task to our loving God. God longs to bring meaning, purpose and love into the life of every single person in Manchester and it’s ever clearer that He’s pushing us to grow into the role He has for us as a part of His mission. I can’t wait for the next church meeting! I hope you’ll be there!

Andy Hall