



St John the Evangelist



Andrew Attwood

March 2022

UPDATE CONCERNING YOUTH WORKER & WARDENS

Dear members of St. John the Evangelist,
I hope you are enjoying the change of seasons! Life tends to feel a bit brighter when the days are longer and warmer. And the Easter story draws near; reminding us of Christ's great victory over death, sin and evil. It is wonderful to remember and celebrate his resurrection! I'm writing to give you an update about our recent attempts to find a youth worker, and to find Wardens to replace Kim and Karen.

At the start of March we closed our third round of advertising for the youth worker post. We only received one application which was not suitable for the post. Since that time I have met with Wardens, Co-Leaders and PCC to explore the situation. I am aware that some other churches and secular organisations are also not finding it easy to place people in posts, so we are not alone in this struggle. Additionally, we are wanting to review this matter carefully; when something fails to work repeatedly, it is important to ask the question, "What is God saying?".

At this point, the leadership and PCC are concluding that we are in a time of waiting. Rather than simply keeping on advertising, we are pausing the process; to see what we think and feel in a few months. It may be that we need a different time of year to advertise, or we need to rethink the role we need. There are various ideas swirling around; in the light of our developing vision to release the whole church into mission, but we also often return to the importance of dedicated workers. So can I call everyone to pray as we wait on God at this time; for clarity and strategy.

Meanwhile, I am aware that several of us are volunteering to keep the youth work going. A very big thank you to all who are involved! Lindsey and I know that it requires effort to do so; as we are involved in weekly school lunch clubs and Sunday night youth too. Your patience and help is very much appreciated! Could the church pray for our youth and volunteers as we continue without a dedicated worker.

Likewise, we are heading towards an APCM in May (8th), and presently still do not have anyone willing to stand as warden. Roger Homes has been in training and support for a long while, but is unwilling to be a 'solo' Warden; as the work requires more than one person.

So, we need you to also think and pray about this too. The wardens are a vital part of church leadership; working alongside myself, interfacing with congregations, helping the organisation to work well. We are presently exploring aspects of the work that can be appropriately passed on to our new Administrator, Sue Dawson. This should make the Warden's role clearer and easier. So do get in touch with myself, Karen, Kim or Roger if you wish to explore the idea.

Meanwhile, can I point you back to Jesus.

He has been significantly developing us as a church over the last year or two, so I am confident that he can guide us through this situation as well.

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God...” Hebrews 12:2

Thank you for all you do, as we work at Becoming like Jesus, Make disciples, Bringing real change.

Ax