

APCM 2018 – Simon Kirby’s Talk Notes

Psalm 121:1-8

Thank you’s

- Sue Kirby
- Wardens
- Outgoing PCC particularly those standing down
- Officers
- Nick Pike
- Retired Clergy, Lay Ministers, Ministry Leaders & Volunteers
- Staff Team

I want to take you back to an April night in 1987, it was a bit wet & windy. There was a 19 year old young man who hadn’t grown up in a church going family but had connected to a youth group. That night he was with some of them in a tent as a speaker asked ‘are you available to God?’. The speaker said “what’s stopping you from being available to God?” That night he realised that there was a God who loved him and had a purpose for his life to share that love with others.

Some of you will have done the maths and worked out that was me - I left the big top at Spring Harvest weeping tears of joy and wanting to tell anyone and everyone that there was a God who loved them and had a purpose for their life.

The same night I became a Christian I received a calling to share that message. It started with my own generation young people and I’ll be honest I was not happy with the Church of England - because I’d been on the edge of a number of Anglican churches and communities and I felt that they had kept this message of love and of purpose really well hidden from me and my peers.

Investing time in the wrong things and the wrong places, spending too much time looking inward rather than outward.

When I had this fairly dramatic conversion my family were concerned - at the time they felt I was taking God too seriously, I started working for an organisation called Youth for Christ - couldn’t I do that as a hobby at the weekends and get a real job?

Then when it was clear I wouldn’t be getting a real job the suggestions that I might become a vicar started, because as my son said to me at the weekend, it’s a good fall back job and they accept anyone.... At that time I bet my sister a million pounds that I would never get ordained. Over 10 years later at my ordination as a priest I told that story at which point the bishop shouted out – “all

debts cancelled!”

I shared a couple of weeks ago when I was ordained as a Deacon in St Paul’s Cathedral 15 years ago I read Isaiah 6:1-9.

Once again I had an overwhelming of being sent on mission to reach a lost people. God in his wisdom and grace sent me to Cogges for which I am truly grateful.

Going forward what do we want to do:

We want to reach out to transform and empower the next generations through the love of Jesus.

THE average C of E church has just three children attending, and the smallest 25 per cent have, on average, none at all, according to the latest Statistics for Mission.

The data, collected by parishes a year ago, shows the overall decline in attendance to be almost twice as pronounced among children. The average attendance by children, defined as being under 16, fell by 22 per cent between 2006 and 2016, compared with a 13-per-cent fall among adults.

In the smallest 25 per cent of churches, the average weekly attendance by children — at church services or Fresh Expressions on Sundays or weekdays — was zero. In the largest 25 per cent it rose to 11; and in the largest five per cent it was 35. The median is just three.

We mustn’t take for granted what is going on with children and young people, we mustn’t become complacent about it and we need to continue to invest in this vital area for the future of the church.

The service change is going to be a challenge particularly for our children’s team and this weekend Kirsty is going to lead the Blaze group (8-11s) at both service, she doesn’t have a leader for the Sparks at 11.15. No-one to register at 11.15 - children’s work

We want to enable everyone to flourish through connecting them with God, each other and their world.

Come and See

We want a come and see element to what’s going on - encounter with God.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives among you?

Go and Share

Ezekiel 47:9⁹ Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.

V12¹² Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.'

We are called to become a resourcing Church, engaging in mission in our community and beyond.

Generous with our time, our treasure and our talents – recent email from someone we gave to out of our mission giving.

Thank you so much, this is a real answer to prayer! We had set a budget in faith for KidsLife which we're launching in January and this gift is the exact amount that we were hoping for. There are no after school activities in the local area so KidsLife is going to be a huge blessing to the estates around us, where there are many families living in poverty. Please pass on our thanks for your support, it's a huge blessing to us and our local community. We'll be in touch with some updates in the new year.

Best wishes,

Georgina Stirling

Operations Manager

Saint Philips Chapel Street, Salford

Mission opportunities - Moldova, Salford

Missional communities & church planting

Disciplemaking

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