

2. As we seek to 're-imagine the Church' for the next 30 years what are the changes and developments you would hope to see?

To make strong headway in bringing a needy nation to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. See my election address. **(Paul Boyd-Lee)**

I would hope to see a Church that is fully inclusive and affirming, demonstrating Christ's love for us through our own actions. I would hope to see an outward-facing Church, committed to engaging with the challenges of modern society and not shying away from them. I would hope to see a Church still celebrating its heritage and affirming the importance of maintaining liturgy and tradition, as this is the consistency the Church offers in times of flux, but that this would not come at the cost of social progress and justice. I would hope to see a Church where love is paramount and all feel welcome. **(Fenella Cannings-Jurd)**

A recognition of lay ministry (not just licensed) and harnessing this huge potential to grow God's kingdom. The way clergy are trained and their expectations does not strengthen the position of the laity. Given that 40% of clergy will retire in the next 10 years there has to be a wake up call soon. I have spoken in General Synod about inadequate resources for laity vocations and that the ministry of the laity is not valued or considered to have a viable place in the ministry of the Church. I do not necessarily include the Diocese of Salisbury in that attitude although much more needs to be done. For example we should have an equivalent laity event such as the clergy conference. The way we do church will have to change dramatically but the bishops et al are not brave enough to make radical changes. The Reform and Renewal programme that is going through Synod is an attempt at trying to keep the status quo by upping the quota for training more clergy and encouraging more clergy vocations. The Senior Leadership Training programme is aimed at clergy only with a nod to Diocesan Secretaries. Again I spoke out about that as well. I was told that there is no resource at this time to include laity. Should I be elected I will continue to voice my concerns and challenge the lack of resources that is available for laity vocations.

Having said all of the above, it is also vital that the laity become confident in being able to share their faith and bring others to know the Lord. This can only be achieved through being confident disciples ourselves and sharing our stories. I would pray that each parish is developing all the people of God in their discipleship. Only then will the church see the growth that is much talked about. **(Chris Corteen)**

OK – here goes

- Most importantly – a church that sees 'mission' as a top priority. We are in the same situation as those disciples in the 'Acts of the Apostles'. We must attract new members in order to survive and, hopefully, grow.
- A church that has purged it's administration in order to release funds to the local church where this mission is to take place.
- Fewer church buildings to maintain, staffed by a team of clergy.
- Local groups of Christians – the 'church' meeting in homes, led by lay people.
- Relevant, informal worship services to attract outsiders and yet some traditional services maintained for those who worship and meet with God in this way.

Cathedrals to be empowered to carry on the historical and musical traditions of the church so they aren't lost. **(Gill de Berry)**

I would like to see more people coming to Christ and rejecting materialism, realising how shallow the want of earthly possessions are. **(Richard Jones)**

People have joined together and met as the Church for over 2000 years to worship the Lord. And, in 30 years time its prime function will still be to do the same. However, so as not to be marginalised and diminish in numbers and presence, for that prime purpose, I have listed four of the many initiatives and trends I would anticipate the Church is developing or moving towards. I have tried not to be 'Panglossian' in my forecast but I do believe and hope that many have come to fruition long before 30 years have elapsed.

a. Vigorous Outreach and Missional Work in Our Communities. The Church will become much more vigorous and pro-active in its charitable mission and outreach thereby, of necessity, devoting a larger portion of its resources and energies to these projects and missions. The present & foreseeable economic & social climate needs and supports these missional moves. As with Jesus' teaching and miracles, our striving to help and our unqualified broad outreach will be recognised and people will listen the more to our message of God's love. The un-churched are not fools or unintelligent: they simply are just not conscious of Jesus and their need for Him. We will strengthen and grow our communities; our children, the young, adults, the mature and old alike and through these draw more strength. Therefore, there needs to be a plethora of enduring local projects and outreach. The name of Jesus will be known to the majority of the youngsters which is not the case now. We will have moved Christianity back, if not to the centre of society at least to being a known and conscious part of it. Through these examples moral and ethical views will, hopefully, be considered then taken up.

b. Engaging with Cultural, Ethnic and Religious Diversity. In less than 30 years even Wiltshire, Hampshire and Dorset will be increasingly multi-cultural and diverse, with a greater span of faiths active within our diocese. This is not to be seen as a threat but as an opportunity. Christianity needs to grow more confident and positive in its posture, presence and performance so that its values and beliefs remain at the centre of our way of life. The unity of the Church therefore must be maintained to continue to exercise influence: so the present cultural/scriptural differences within the Anglican church can be accommodated. The unity of the Church of England as a world wide denomination and movement is and must continue to be worked at and exercised. Unity in diversity is too important to relinquish as our won bonds of faith and friendship have been hard won.

c. Form of and places of Worship: The estate. I believe there are many churches that will not survive as places of worship if they continue to only use traditional services. The generational differences and expectations between traditional worship and the unchurched and those potentially attending are great, and the format irrelevant to younger people and families. Therefore, recognising the need to continue traditional worship, we should encourage all to deliver the message in a much more contemporary and relevant form: this form will itself go on changing as the years progress. This may be an anathema to some but then, many of us will not be here in one let alone three decades. This issue is allied to modern patterns of living. Centuries old churches in villages and city centres will not necessarily relate to the present and future locations of homes and families living on modern housing estates. Therefore, the way we manage our estate, its buildings and land, need to be changing so they do not absorb our limited resources and energy in places where people are not going to make best or any use of them.

d. Status of the Church. I hope the Church will be seen as a natural reference point to be consulted by politicians and major bodies (here I am also thinking of global organisations both commercial, governmental and NGOs) so much so that when the Church speaks or makes

comment there isn't an 'oh, it's them again' reaction. For this to be so our values & beliefs must remain constant; our comments informed & relevant so that we are seen as stable & balanced. Our central leadership therefore needs to be designed and organised to grow with and give direction to the developing Church. The leadership must also be responsive to local and parish needs and concerns and importantly, professional enough to exchange views, ideas, even to issue censure with outside bodies. **(Keith Leslie)**

In 30 years, I hope the Church

- will be facing outward and concentrating on people rather than internal structures and buildings
- the lay people will be valued for their work and witness outside the Church and there will be a constructive relationship between clergy and laity which values the distinctive contributions of each
- will have relegated its preoccupation with human sexuality to an historical footnote.

(Debbie McIsaac)

More outreach, bringing Christ to the people and working closely with schools and the youth of England. Forging a way forward with all church groups within the Christian faith and making sure that we are as a Christian fellowship, a greater presence in the community using our churches to bring people together and not just being a church that is open only on Sundays for the select few.

(Doreen Riley)

A focus on Christian Mission and Community Service; my particular interests lie with the homeless, the voiceless and the hungry (so I am an active supporter of Crisis, Alabare and the Trussell Trust). I want to see end to the disruptive debates relating to women bishops, gay marriages and ordination of homosexuals. If God has called them, we should welcome them. **(Paul Taylor)**