

Foxhill House and Woodlands

As we review 2018 we are encouraged that the total sales for 2018 were 45% more than for 2017 with 7.2% more than the budgeted target for 2018. We are encouraged that last year saw Foxhill welcoming guests throughout the whole year rather than previously closing for the month of August.

We are continuing to build on our vision of Foxhill as a place of prayer, study and mission. There has been positive feedback from individuals and groups who have appreciated the opportunity to take some time and space. We have continued to build on the popular Stop Look and Listen days, retreat days led by guest speakers which offer the chance to take a break from the rush of daily life and draw closer to God. As we stand with the parishes in prayer we are contacting parishes featured in the Diocesan prayer diary so that we can pray intelligently and strengthen our partnership together. A new initiative this year is the commencement of a monthly prayer gathering when we are inviting people to gather in the Chapel to pray for the ministry of Foxhill.

As we look forwards, one major improvement has been the installation of double glazing in the main house. This has greatly increased our insulation and will reduce our carbon footprint and energy costs. Further in 2019 it is hoped to replace the Chapel block roof and to upgrade the first-floor bedrooms and Dining Room.

We have introduced a new permit scheme for visitors to the grounds to assist with site security. As part of this we asked if people would be willing to volunteer in the grounds occasionally and we have such a day planned for Saturday 23rd of March.

Foxhill was a hub for the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer initiative again in 2018, culminating with a prayer Walk from Foxhill to Chester Cathedral. This was a very special event and we are planning to be part of this national initiative in 2019.

The Friends of Foxhill has been relaunched and, whilst the uptake has been slow, several events are planned for the coming year. These include a weekly Eucharist and a monthly prayer morning for the ministry of Foxhill. We have also planned four social events this year for the Friends.

In 2019 Foxhill celebrates fifty years of ministry and we are holding a variety of events to mark this special anniversary. These will be featured on our website over the coming weeks.

We are very encouraged by the response of those who visit Foxhill and when we see people pausing from their busy lives to look and listen and encounter God afresh. Once again the scripture *'but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'* John 4: 14 has been paramount in our thinking, praying and doing.

As a staff we are very appreciative of Bishop Libby's leadership and ministry and will miss her commitment and enthusiasm.

In conclusion we are blessed to have a fantastic team who are here to make Foxhill a very special place of welcome and Christian hospitality and look forward to welcoming you in 2019.