**General Meeting 2018**

**Archbishop J D E Davies notes from sermon (3pm Church Service)**

**Readings: Proverbs (3: 11-18), Luke (2: 41-52)**

Being attentive: Not just activity of hearing, but listening – with ears, heart and mind in such a way that it leads to a change in behaviour or the beginning of some new behaviour, hopefully for the good.

Readings contain lessons about being attentive:

1. Proverbs – Discipline, correction, wisdom = flourishing; living as child of God.

2. Luke – (The only biblical story about Jesus’s childhood) – being attentive to the teachers; teachers of what? The wisdom with which the writer of Proverbs was concerned. Wonderful to think that Jesus, in the Temple, on that day, could easily have been exploring that very book, asking questions about just what it meant ………………. It led to him increasing in wisdom and favour.

MULOA:

Listening, Observing, Acting.

Global – revitalising movement and identifying how to best make a difference to the lives of others in need, a fundamental element of the Christian faith.

Revitalising:

Wales, since 2015, MU has seen total membership fall from 7500 to 6200, with 35 branches closing. So, the concept of revitalising, as a primary aim for us is clearly appropriate.

Have we been attentive?

We can only seriously propose to do good to others if we are, and understand clearly what we are called:

1. Truly attentive to the Gospel – listening to Jesus; prophets’ calls for justice and freedom; agents = change society and world for the better; and
2. Secondly, when we are truly attentive to the vast range of needs felt by others – listening to vulnerable people, frail people, marginalised people, overlooked, people, victims of prejudice because of race, colour and sexuality, struggling families, and the like = offended in heart and mind by the pain, need and despair which, for those people is the day-to-day reality of life = courage to act / speak.

MULOA / MU can’t cure all of the ills of society and the world; but love can - real, brave love, made visible in the life of Christ, (Caritas) = heart of both the Gospel and the aims & objectives of MU.

Lived out by attentive MU members in other parts of the Anglican Communion.

Real courage and sacrifices which are made on a daily basis by so many elsewhere.

We should not beat selves up too much though - can be more attentive, communicate better good work that is being done here on our own doorsteps.

Sometimes too coy and polite about letting people know just what good work we do in so many places and in so many communities up and down our nation.

Being attentive, listening with all our being = put our resources at disposal of partners ……………..

Result:

• Change to individual lives / wider society:

• Better discipleship;

• Better relationships;

• Increased self-esteem;

• Empowerment …………….

It’s all there in the framework.

Challenge is to ensure that that it doesn’t simply stay there.

Being truly attentive will ensure that it doesn’t!