



**Annual Parochial
Church Meeting
Thursday 22nd April 2021**

Annual Reports

Vicar's Report

Wow what a year, my words can be summed up by saying 'Thank You'

Thank you to all of you, for your faithfulness, your patience and prayers

Our report is significantly smaller, and not everything is mentioned, this does not mean there was not a desire for things to happen, but as we all recognise this has been an interesting year for each of us, in many different ways.

Sarah and I and our whole family, continue to thank you, for your prayers and encouragement as we seek to serve God here in this place.

Thank you to the church wardens who have continued without complaint and with whom we could not have achieved as much as we did. Thank you to Janet Norris, Peter Day and Sheila Hannallah.

A big thanks to Chris Lines who went above and beyond his tenure serving until October 2020. I thank God daily for having Jesus loving wardens who long to see the Church working hard in the community and making a difference.

Thank you for your continued commitment to give financially to the work of the church, your commitment has meant we end the year not in deficit! A huge thank you to what could have been a very difficult year. Thank you to Terry Norris for once again keeping all the accounts in order and helping me and others to understand the intricacies of finances.

Thank you to our wonderful team, all of whom in the space of a few days turned us from in house to online church.

Thank you to Justin Montague for being a great colleague and providing ministerial support whilst navigating his own curacy training and being ready to do what was needed to make church happen.

Thank you to Verity Yeates who helped to organise the ‘buddy system’ so we could support one another in that first lockdown. And a thank you to all who acted as buddies and who continue to stay in contact.

And for her patience in working from home and continuing to ensure communication, paper, email and social media connected with church family and a wider audience.

Thank you to Jonathan Schnarr, who having only been with us for four months found himself having to connect with young people only online. Without Jonathans patience and technical skill, we would not have been able to have got online so quickly or smoothly.

Thank you to Claire Curtis our Ordinand, whose own training has moved from in person to online. Claire has been a prophetic voice and visionary in ensuring we are connecting with our local community. Her engagement allowed us to transition Breakfast on the go to Lunch on the go even in the midst of pandemic!

Thank you Jude Taylor helping home groups navigate zoom teething problems and encouraging groups to meet, as well signposting new people into groups.

The PCC moved onto Zoom and continued to provide steer and encouragement, it has been difficult to build deep relationships, however I believe our trust in each other has grown.

I am sorry to see faithful members come to the end of tenure on the PCC, I am grateful for their input and ask for their continued prayer. For the remaining PCC members and those newly elected, it looks to be an interesting year, with some big decisions to make.

The final ‘Thank you’ goes of course to Jesus! For his provision and encouragement and of course for the new life we find in Him. In the pain and difficulty, in the mourning and loneliness, he is faithful. Praise God!

Andy

Churchwardens

2020 was clearly a year like no other in our lifetime, but we give thanks to God that he has sustained, guided and equipped us as we have sought to maintain the life, ministry and worship of the church. Many of the situations we have faced were unprecedented; the inability to meet in person for much of the year not easy, embracing new technology challenging, and not being able to progress some of our practical plans frustrating but in and through all this God has once again blessed us as a church.

Thankfully, working as one parish with various venues, managing the challenges has not been as difficult as it might have been a few years ago. With one Electoral Roll, one set of Audited Accounts, etc. management and budgeting have been more practical, although not easy with the continuing uncertainty of the Covid pandemic crisis. For most of the year our buildings have had little use, particularly the Church Rooms and St George's Extension with few bookings permitted. However, because of this we have been eligible for government business grants towards loss of income, although of course we would much rather have had the premises used for the benefit of the community.

ChurchSuite has been a real asset in managing the bookings for church services when we have been able to allow limited numbers to attend in person. Many people now give through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) which has helped to maintain our giving to reasonable levels. With some costs such as utilities being lower, we have been able to end the year with a small surplus.

People:

Once again, we give thanks for the ministries of Andy and Sarah who have now been with us for over 4 years; Justin our curate who has grown in his ministry and Jonathan Schnarr our Youth and Children's Minister. The latter, who has been a God-send in many ways, not least where managing new technology has been concerned, although not in his job description! We thank God for them; their enthusiasm, commitment and tireless service, to the

church and the community of Tiverton. Please continue to remember them in your prayers not least as we move on to a new season of opportunity in the months ahead.

However, we need to be reminded that the ministry of the church is not about a few leaders but all of us who are disciples of Jesus - the priesthood of all believers. Each one of us has gifts for the benefit of the body and the community we are here to serve. With this in mind our theme of 'transformation' continues to be an ongoing one.

We extend our thanks to all who have specifically served during the past year including David Lyddon, Tim Bradshaw, Judith Taylor and Claire Curtis; who having spent 2 years with us leaves in June 2021 to take up her curacy in the Exe Valley. We wish her well. Also, to the retired clergy in our fellowship who have assisted in various ways; to those who have continued to lead our musical worship week by week - sometimes from home due to restrictions. Not forgetting those who have operated the PA, audio equipment and cameras. In addition, Welcomers, children's leaders, and indeed all who serve in any specific way.

Our Treasurer, Terry Norris has once again done an excellent job in keeping the church accounts in order and we formally acknowledge the work that Sharon Bradshaw has again done as PCC Secretary.

Property:

As previously mentioned, it has been very frustrating that we have not been able to progress plans to rewire and instal new lighting in St Paul's Church and to redecorate the interior walls. New and exciting plans for the refurbishment of the Church Rooms are in hand but due to the local authority officers being unable to visit them the work remains in abeyance.

It has been encouraging that both St George's Church and the Extension have been used by CHAT as they have provided food supplies to an increasing number of needy individuals and families across Mid Devon. Sadly, there has continued to be some vandalism at St George's, despite the installation of the CCTV

cameras, and the local police are now dealing with the culprits, some of whom were known to them.

The use of our church buildings will always be something that challenges us; balancing their use for worship services, children's and youth work, weddings and funerals etc. as well as a community resource. All of this within the parameters and limitations of listed building status and conservation area orders. Let us continue to pray that, as the restrictions of the current pandemic ease, we will know God's leading as we move forward in faith in building God's Kingdom.

We can confirm that there are to our knowledge no major issues of concern with any of the buildings and arrangements are in hand for the Quinquennial Inspections to take place during April/May 2021.

Other than the use by CHAT mentioned previously there has been very little use of St George's Church or the extension. ReRooted and one or two other one-off events have taken place when Covid restrictions have allowed.

Some general tidying up outside of the buildings has taken place thanks to one home group in particular and the employment of a gardener. Some of the trees around St Paul's Church building were professionally pruned, especially those overhanging neighbouring gardens. Some further work has also been done in the church flats in order to bring them up to currently acceptable levels, including replacing the bath with a shower in the lower flat. Further work still needs to be done including replacing some windows, but this is also delayed until the conservation office can visit.

[Prayerful Remembrance:](#)

We give thanks for the lives of those of our congregation who passed away during 2020 including Nancy Matty and Phyliss Baker. There were very few funerals and/or thanksgiving services conducted in our churches during the year, again mainly due to the Covid restrictions, and we look forward to being able to make the church available for the families of the bereaved in the months ahead. There were no Baptism recorded this year.

Possessions (Church Valuables):

As is specifically required we can confirm that the church valuables (chalices, patens etc), whether formally belonging to St George's or St Paul's, are being regularly used within the parish week by week and, if not in use, are securely stored.

Provision (Brewin Trust):

The Brewin Trust, whose objectives are the support of mission and ministry of the Church of England in the Parish of Tiverton St George and Paul, has again helped by contributing funds towards the parish administration, and the work of our Youth and Children's minister. We continue to be grateful for the availability of this valuable financial resource to assist the church with our outreach within the community.

Finally:

We feel that it is important to remind church members that the work and responsibility of Churchwardens (as the Bishop's Officers) extends far beyond what you would normally see on a Sunday. Changes to various regulations brought in by the Church Synod, government or the Charity Commission particularly relating to General data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Safeguarding issues, besides the need to keep a whole raft of policies affecting church life up-to date and applicable, are ongoing tasks.

These are then presented to the PCC for approval. Many hours of our time are taken up by these important matters and are in addition to the need for regular risk assessments during this current pandemic crisis. May we once again thank you, the church family, for your prayerful support over the past year. Of course, we thank God too and are ever grateful for the Holy Spirit's guidance. We consider it a privilege to have served as your churchwardens during another year. As you will hear Janet Norris and Peter Day step down this year as both have served their five-year term, so we would encourage you to support, practically and in prayer, Sheila Hannallah and those elected to continue this vital work.

Peter Day, Sheila Hannallah and Janet Norris.

Bellringers

During 2020 we rang regularly for all morning services and twice monthly for evening services until 15th March which was the last Sunday when normal ringing was allowed. During September and October following a thorough Covid risk assessment we rang three of the six bells on Sunday mornings, the maximum which allowed for the required 2m spacing.

In the early months of 2020 we were also enjoying some success in Devon-style ringing competitions, achieving good results in the two competitions we entered before lockdown. We were particularly pleased to have included some of our less experienced ringers in these teams, and they acquitted themselves very well.

Friday evening practices also took place until March 13th but have not been able to resume to date. As always we were very pleased to work closely with ringers from St Peter's and other churches in the Deanery.

Since regular ringing stopped the bell installation has been checked over periodically and the tower and steps cleaned. The simulator system installed in January 2020 is in full working order, and we are all ready to go when ringing is allowed again!

When ringing is able to resume we will need to recruit more people; please continue to encourage interest in ringing because it can be a great way into church for those on the fringes as well as a good way to keep teenagers involved. We would welcome new learners of any age (and both genders) from about 8 upwards.

Tim Jones

Churches Together in Tiverton (CTT)

The churches Together in Tiverton is made up of all the churches belonging to the mainstream National churches and provides the forum for the member churches to plan joint activities and learn what the individual churches are doing as part of the Christian scene in Tiverton.

Due to the lockdown CTT did not meet, however I organised a weekly zoom prayer time for the ministers of the town. we have continued to meet and pray. This has brought us together in a new way, and a new level of trust. The holy spirit has been very present and tangible in our meeting times.

The AGM has been postponed until September and then we will look to the future about how we function and operate as CTT.

Deanery Synod

Due to the pandemic and lockdown synod has not met.

Our Tiverton and Cullompton deanery chapter meeting (Meeting of clergy) has met a couple of times over Zoom for encouragement and prayer.

Electoral Roll

The St George's and St Paul's Electoral Roll for 2021 stands at 223, of which 124 are non-resident and 99 resident.

We have had no new people decide to join the Electoral Roll. This is mainly due to the pandemic and Church being unable to open for any services or gatherings.

We have had 5 people removed from the Electoral Roll, 4 of which have moved to another area and 1 who has passed away.

Anyone who wishes to go on the Electoral Roll but missed the deadline, the Roll can legally reopen after the conclusion of this meeting. Please contact Sonia Moore, Sue Lines, Andy Humm or the parish office for more details.

Sue Lines

Men's Group

The Men's Group tried to squeeze in a weekend away before the lockdown, sadly this did not happen. Our hope is to organise a weekend and social events once we are able.

Mission Support Group

The Mission Support Group met together at the beginning of 2020 but haven't met as a group since. The aim of our meetings is to be updated on our CMS mission partners, Tearfund, Bible Society and our mission associate Ellie and to pray for them.

In August Andy organised a zoom meeting with our mission partners. This was a very informative evening. They have spent several months in the UK this year and David and Lynne have been able to meet up with them. Their situation is a difficult one and members of this group, together with some of the people who lead the church intercessions, are kept up to date with prayer needs.

November is the month of the Tearfund Big Quiz which was organised by Malcolm Yeates - another zoom event!

The Bible Society coffee mornings did not happen thro' 2020

Updates from our mission associate Ellie are also sent to the mission support group. In March 2021 a zoom event was organised to hear her news.

David Halestrap, Lynn Lyddon

Open the Book

Our weekly visits to the Thursday assemblies to enact Bible stories had to cease in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic.

Realising it would be a long time before we could revert to team visits and dressing up the children to take part, we were keen to continue supporting the school.

Accordingly, we have occasionally forwarded video recordings of other teams enacting Bible stories, which have been screened in the classrooms.

To encourage the hard-pressed teachers and administrative staff we sent cards when the children first went back and then at Christmas and Easter time. Cakes and Easter eggs accompanied them!

There are currently 3,881 Open the Book teams in England and Wales, visiting 23% of all primary schools, and numbers are growing.

Sue Ainsworth, Suzanne Barritt, Valerie Pocock, Steve Hirst, David Halestrap

Outreach

Breakfast in the go is a term time initiative, with a desire to meet and offer food hospitality to schoolchildren and parents on their way to school (and anyone else who is hungry) each Thursday morning from 7:45-9:15am. Freshly cooked bacon, porridge with multiple topping choices and drinks. This continued up until the first lockdown and then went on hold and returned in September last year. On average over 100 people each Thursday come into contact with a wonderful team of people who get up early to prepare and set up. It is truly a joy to serve and offer tangible 'liquid love' to our community.

Out of a desire to serve we recognised a need for a meal in the middle of the day, so 'Lunch on the go' was birthed. Following a similar pattern to breakfast. Hot soup is offered to passers by and anyone who wants to connect. It goes without saying we work carefully and to ensure all covid guidelines are followed. Hot soup, bread rolls and a working relationship with ReRooted a sustainable food initiative means there is always plenty to give away. Thank you to all the volunteers who enable this valuable ministry to happen. As of 2021 we have worked with others

churches and the council to offer food somewhere in the town everyday of the week.

An online Alpha course was hosted and run by Justin Montague, it was a great opportunity to connect with people some local and some further afield. We hope to run more courses both online and in person courses soon

Social media can sometimes be demonised and used for hate and hurt. However thanks to Verity we have a new website and a weekly social media engagement. It was decided by PCC to put money into ensuring we stayed connected and thanks to regular posting and a new website, we are regularly connecting with our community in Tiverton and further afield. Offering prayer, encouragement and a way to stay connected. Make sure you like our Facebook and instagram page.

Our online presence and services have engaged a larger proportion of people than physically possible, people from across the country who regularly watch our services. We look forward to engaging in new ways and connecting and of course subscribe to our Youtube channel for new content apart from our regular services.

[Pastoral Visiting and Funeral Ministry](#)

Obviously with the restrictions there has been little the funeral welcomers could do or to follow-up on.

We have continued to connect with those on their pastoral list that in normal times they would visit. In addition to those regularly contacted the instigation of the 'Buddy Scheme' during first lockdown helped the church to realise we are all responsible for pastoral care at one level or another.

Some home visiting socially distanced happened in between the lockdowns.

Thanks to technology we were able to attend the Thanksgiving service via Zoom and also thanks to Zoom many are beginning to know the names of some of our church family who they perhaps did not know before.

Our hope before long we will be able to meet with the team to discuss plans for the future and investigate training in supporting and caring pastorally for all in our church.

Helen White

Safeguarding

Team Members:

Jenny Tower (Lead)

Verity Yeates

Sheila Hannallah (Warden)

Rose Chamberlain

Charles Harrison.

We have not been able to hold any face-to-face meetings since Covid began. A couple of teams members have been in contact during Covid mainly over preparing recruitment packs. See below.

The Safeguarding Policies have now been finalised after several requests from PCC for some minor changes, ongoing since October 2020.

Exeter Diocese have what is called a 'Dashboard' which each Parish can use to hold a single central record of all the information they need to hold. Over the last few months Verity has been working at setting this up for the team so that the information we hold can be transferred to this system. Once fully up and running the rest of the team will have training so they can input into the system. This information is stored following all GDPR requirements.

The Children's groups recruitment packs have been completed. At present these are with our youth worker, to be used by team leaders in the recruitment of volunteers to each team. It is a much clearer and simpler process than we have had before. The team leader starts of the process and the Safeguarding team follow up ensuring that DBS checks and training where needed are

completed and references are taken up. We take children's safety seriously.

During Covid lockdown we have not been able to run training courses for Safeguarding, but these are available on line where needed. Once the single central record had been pulled together, we will identify training needs and ask volunteers to complete the necessary training. We have continued to keep up to date with most DBS checks, but no doubt there will be some to do once groups begin to start up again.

The teams next task is to prepare the recruitment packs for the adult groups and get them into use.

The Exeter Diocese safeguarding team have been excellent in providing support and advice to the SG Team and clergy when needed this last year and the procedures and advice was followed. It is everyone responsibility to protect all people and to report any concerns. The team and the Diocese are there to help with this.

Unfortunately, one team member has had to step back from serving on the team, whilst another has important family issues to focus on. The team need to recruit 1/2 more volunteer members to help keeping our church family safe.

Jenny Tower

Stewardship

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Thank you to all who have contributed to the financial stewardship of St George and St Paul in 2020.

The Parish Giving Scheme has ensured our finances stayed steady and is our preferred method of giving because it relieves us of the administration of both individual donations and gift aid. Donations

and gift aid are paid into the church bank account each month which makes it easier to pay our bills, wages and common fund etc. on time.

Terry Norris - Treasurer

Take Note Community Choir

It's been an odd year for Take Note Community Choir. We last rehearsed together in person in March 2020, and have been meeting to sing virtually on Zoom since about June. It is no substitute for singing together, not least because everyone has to be on mute! We were able to sing at the Christmas Carol service at St Pauls in December which was very special, but we are all missing being part of a singing community. We look forward to being able to sing together again soon.

Katy Baker

Tiddlers & Toddlers

Tiddlers & Toddlers temporarily ceased meeting Mid March 2020.

We have been keeping in touch through social media, with regular posts of crafts and activities. We managed a trial session under covid guidelines in October with a view to continuing with a small number each week. It was then felt it would be safer to wait it out. We are now hoping to reopen end of April 2021, with a booking in system, limited numbers and a shorter session. The setup may evolve as we meet and see what works and what doesn't. We want to rebuild relationships, a key element of what we do and give support through the ups and downs of life.

Team members are: Pat Dalby, Norma Davies, Diane Fraser, Sue Houseman, Sarah Humm, Anne Hill, Jan Hutchinson.

Please pray for our team, families and the practicalities of the group as we reopen. Thank you.

Sarah Humm

Youth Work

It has been a year of online work: We have had Charge and impact as well as Fusion on Zoom, Online Spree, Online Geek factory and were able to join in with several South West wide youth events - Online. Over the past 12 months we have journeyed alongside children and young people as well as families via Zoom but also through phone calls, door visits, family resources and some limited face-to-face meetings. Despite the challenges we have been able to see young people and children engage with Jesus, pray with each other and grow in their faith. We have seen so many young people step out of their comfort zone, serving at Breakfast on the Go, leading youth sessions or playing a vital role in streaming our services on a weekly basis.

Below are some highlights from each group:

Fusion:

At the beginning of the pandemic, we quickly moved to Zoom sessions which were initially well attended, however attendance dropped due to too much screen time in addition to schoolwork. We therefore paused Fusion in June 2020 and after an initial re-launch attempt in September decided to not meet until circumstances change drastically in 2021. We have however been in contact with some Fusion families and engaged with children and their parents via our Fusion Facebook Page on a regular basis.

eXplore, Sparkles (Sunday Programme):

Due to no face-to-face church services we have not been able to meet, however Virtual Sunday School (4Front Theatre Group) has become an established part of our online services with families tuning in regularly and watching it together with their younger children. Our hope is that, as restrictions for places of worship and children's work ease up, we will be able to resume this vital ministry but will have to look for new teams and volunteers to support us in that.

Charge:

Our Friday Night Youth Group has continued to meet every single week within term time with the help of an awesome and very dedicated team of leaders and the use of Zoom. We have invented new games online, played old favourites, dressed up, raised money for CHAT in an 'individual sleep-out', challenged each other to do more exercise or eat some truly horrific food combinations - as well as being able to catch up and share lockdown life and isolation with each other. Even though we were not able to meet face-to-face we have welcomed new young people who now feel very much part of our group. In line with restrictions having been temporarily eased between September and November, we met face-to-face for a few evenings at Rowridge Farm and are now looking forward to seeing each other again more as we move towards regular face-to-face, social distanced Youth Club evenings after Easter.

impact:

Having started our new youth discipleship group in February 2020, we only met twice before moving to Zoom. Thanks to an incredible team of amazing leaders, we continued to meet every Sunday evening during termtime and have engaged with specific biblical books, watched 'The Chosen' and experimented with Spiritual Disciplines over the past 12 months. We have also seen a huge shift in the young people's willingness to pray with and for each other which has been very encouraging. In addition to running sessions led by our leaders, some of our young people stepped up to lead as well outside speakers taking over specific sessions. We are now looking forward to meeting together face-to-face after Easter, potentially splitting the group into two separate age groups and continuing to journey alongside young people as we study and pray together.

Tiverton High School & School Pastors:

Between September and December, I was able to continue Christian Union in year groups both virtually by zooming into different classrooms as well as face-to-face, when restrictions allowed. Despite the many barriers and challenges of appearing on screen in front of a big classroom, we have seen new faces come along regularly and been able to spend time with students in prayer and Bible reading as well as fun (and often silly) games.

In March I also supported THS with pupil testing and have been able to speak to some staff on a regular basis. We are now looking ahead and hoping to return to regular year group CU's after Easter which I may be able to visit face-to-face.

School Pastors have not been able to meet since early 2020.

Heathcoat Primary School:

Over the past couple of months, we have been able to lead several assemblies at Christmas, Mothering Sunday and in the lead up to Easter which we either pre-recorded or led live via Zoom. I have also been able to run Christmas and Easter lessons to two Yr2 classes via Teams which has been a great success. We have delivered over 300 Christingles to the school before Christmas thanks to the help of many helpers who have prepared and packed the oranges for every single child in the school as well as been approached to supply each Yr6 student with the "It's your move" book from Scripture Union at the end of this year, which aims to support pupils moving up to secondary school.

Family Outreach:

Despite the restrictions regarding meeting together face-to-face we have been able to reach out to children and families, including preparing 30 Craft Packs at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020 which were free to be picked up by both church and unchurched families. On Christmas Eve we have organised a 'Nativity Walkthrough' outside St Paul's church. Throughout the

afternoon we have seen around 120 people engage with the Christmas Story in creative and innovative ways.

During Holy Week this year, 13 families have also engaged with the Family Easter Packs, using objects to visualise the Easter Story. We have since received very positive feedback from families about how it has enabled them to focus and spend time with each other in the lead up to Easter.

Jonathan Schnarr

Administrative Information

The Parish of St. George and St. Paul, Tiverton has two venues, St. George's in Fore Street and St Paul's Church in St Paul's Square respectively. It is part of the Diocese of Exeter within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is The Church Office, St Paul's Square, Tiverton, Devon EX16 5HU.

PCC members who have served since April 2019 or earlier until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Priest-in-Charge:

The Reverend Andrew Humm (Licensed 05 September 2016;
Chairman)

Assistant Curate:

Reverend Justin Montague

Associate Minister:

Reverend David Lyddon

Readers:

Tim Bradshaw

Ian Brannam

Judith Taylor

Wardens:

Peter Day

Chris Lines

Janet Norris

Sheila Hannallah

Elected Members:

Nick Baker

Wendy Boundy

Stuart Chamberlain

Amelia Carling

Janice Donnachie

Ian Frazer

Liz Harrison

Josh Lines

Terry Norris (Treasurer)

Ollie Roberts (Resigned Oct 2020)

Ruth Shaw

Bob Syers (Deanery Synod Rep)

Hazel Turner

Approved by the PCC on and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Andy Humm (PCC Chairman).

For APCM 2021 Extra reports for info.

[Breakfast on the Go](#)

Summary

A free Breakfast of Bacon rolls or porridge with toppings, tea coffee and hot chocolate served from the garden of St Pauls Church, from 8-9.15am on Thursdays.

This generous outreach is light and joyful, easily accessed by many families and children, we regularly have as many as 130 people attending, mainly Heathcoats primary school, St Johns and the High school children.

It is constantly well received, smiling faces, the joy of a choice of a breakfast and according to parents, the anticipation of a Thursday morning is tangible in their houses. Names are remembered, links and friendships are building, wider links with schools developed i.e. the art project at Christmas, more invitations for church to do assemblies at Heathcoats. People seem to be beginning to understand why we are doing this and value the experience.

Plans and developments:

The space outside has been accessible for everyone to see what church looks like; a friendly warm welcome, a genuine interest in the people who come, it is our prayer that those who attend receive a HOPE filled experience of Jesus. The seating, the cross and room for prayers. Sometimes a visual creative space is created to reflect the Christian calendar too.

This reach has been and is an invitational springboard for children and families work. There are endless opportunities that could spill from this work, especially as we emerge from the pandemic. The team is small and we could do with more helpers please for this utterly joyful ministry on a Thursday morning from 7.15-9.15am.

Surely this is showing the love of Jesus '*Generosity is our greatest apologetics we have*' says Rachel Hughes Gas Church Birmingham.

[Lunch on the Go](#)

Summary:

Trialled before Christmas, as a church's response to serve the community at an alternative time to Breakfast to meet the needs of others. This was after discussions with CHAT and ReROOTED and Salvation Army re the need for a hot meal during the day.

Lunch of soups, ham and cheese sandwiches is now served on a Thurs 11-1pm outside St Paul's. between 50-60 people attend.

Andy took the idea to the Tiverton Covid response council meeting who valued the idea of serving a hot meal during the day. A team was formed across Tiverton of churches (Baptist, Salvation Army, Vineyard and Kings Chapel) together with ReROOTed and Tiverton Volunteers. We have shared ideas and set up pop up venues around the town to serve Tiverton in this way, serving approx. 260 meals across a week since early March. Working closely with CHAT and the volunteer agencies we now have a store at St Georges 'Hope Store' of frozen, fresh and dried produce, made up of donations, seconds and leftovers from the Market, local farmers (Rowridge), Reapers and we have bread leftovers from Marks and Spencer's and other large food supermarkets.

We turn the vegetables that would otherwise go to landfill/composting into delicious soups.

This is a HOPE filled ministry now headed up by Jude and a fantastic team of soup makers, collectors of produce and servers and has been like liquid love to the West Exe area and town as a whole. It came at the right time and has been embraced by helpers outside of the church as well. This outreach is again a signpost for people for other support as well via CHAT employment etc. Again it is community building where people are feeling loved and known now. This is another springboard for people in our community to join in with other church based activities.

N.T. Wright says *'The closer I am to Jesus, the more likely it is that he will call me to share in his work of compassion'*.

Claire Curtis

[Womans' Ministry](#)

By the beginning of March 2020 there were already concerns over the new increase in COVID infections and Church groups meeting, so plans for a Curry evening, Wetherspoons breakfast, Summer event and Labyrinth day all had to be postponed.

This was the position for the whole year but we hope to look again at the demand and type of events as soon as it is safe and allowed. Life for all of us has altered dramatically over the last year but Our Church community remains a place where the challenging parts of life can be freely and safely be talked about and encountered. As we reach out more to our local community we hope to be able to share those challenges with others.

Jude

Small Groups

By March 2020 what had been a good year for Small groups in terms of numbers, Bible courses, prayer and pastoral care came to an abrupt halt due to Church guidelines and safety concerns.

Before March 2020 there were 15 groups meeting weekly or fortnightly on a mix of days and timings. During the year 3 groups had hosts move away from Tiverton. Two of these have continued under new leadership and one new group started leaving us by March 2021 with still 15 groups to date.

Some groups were very quick off the mark to set up using the new Zoom technology and others found it too challenging. The summer months brought some relaxations with the ability to meet with small numbers in parks and gardens when the weather was kind.

The Lyfe Bible society continued to be used and has been popular, as was the Big Church Read, Singing in Babylon, one group has used Mission shaped living and another has Re- visited the Pete Greig Prayer Course and the new Prayer Course 2 with great feedback.

There were limitations on the 'free' Zoom of 40 mins, but once the Church offered use of its professional version the numbers increased and by January this year 8 of the groups were meeting successfully each week for study, prayer and support.

We have all achieved so much and acquired skills we had never heard of before so thank you so much to all of you who have kept going by Zoom, telephone, emails and letters and cards, meals, cakes and flowers this year. It has been amazing!

Jude Taylor