



Annual Report

2022 / 2023



APCM Reports 2023

Thursday 27th April 2023

Vicars Report

The Apostle Paul writing to the church in Rome says 'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

2022 has been a year when we have had to rely on God more and more, through ups and downs.

I had the privilege of sitting and praying at the bedside of a number of faithful saints before they went to be with Jesus, each time I am overwhelmed by the peace of God and the hope that is set before us. That in the sadness and pain, in the seemingly unfairness of the situation something much bigger is going on in!

My role as Rural Dean (Anglican church speak for someone tasked with pastoral oversight of clergy colleagues in our area for a season) has opened my eyes to the many challenges we all face in a culture that is becoming less and less aware of the need for a relationship with Jesus, and the struggle it often is for churches to remain relevant!

Yet in the midst of this, we as church and support form churches across Tiverton showed great compassion as we hosted 75 asylum seekers each week at St Georges as we welcomed, fed and chatted (thro google translate) as we demonstrated the love of God! And this was not unnoticed by MDDC & TTC as well as the attendees themselves. As Jesus was shared a number of them chose to follow Jesus and others strengthened their commitment, with the absolute joy of baptising Moein and Hossein. And then the pain and sadness 1 week later as they were moved on with 12 hours notice!

We introduced welcome brunches on a regular basis for people new to church, I am grateful to all who helped and to all who attended.

As a church we shared with the nation in the sadness of the death of Queen Elizabeth II and we were able to offer a space for quiet reflection and condolences.

I was able to share in the Germany/English youth camp in the summer, it was great to get to know our young people a bit more and to be able to speak, teach and pray with teenagers from across Europe.

For the announcement of the new King, it was a privilege to be asked by Mid Devon District council to lead the town in prayers remembering the Queen and for the new King. I also completed a year as the mayors chaplain also leading and preaching at the Remembrance service through the town to St. Peters.

Christmas was a time of joy, and a season I love, from Christingle through to carol services and for special times of speaking of the hope we find in Christ, Emmanuel. We also celebrated a return to the Christmas Ball the band were on form and everyone looked amazing.

We had visits from visiting speakers; Andy Flannagan spoke about Christians in politics, and all of us making a difference in our own spheres of influence. Ian Coffey who challenged us to be the people God calls. And at Christmas it was a joy to welcome the head of the Evangelical Alliance, Gavin Calver who spoke passionately about faithfulness to Jesus and his word!

I end by saying a big thank you to the Church wardens and PCC for your support. To the staff team Jonathan, Debbie, Verity, Sarah, Jo our cleaner, for making each day interesting as we seek to serve Jesus and the church in all we do. It was great to send off Justin our curate as he was licensed as vicar in Seaton and Beer. And we look forward to hopefully welcoming curates in the future.

And of course thank you to you for your prayers, your singing, your joy in serving and in longing to see others meet Jesus our risen Lord.

I finish by thanking my wife Sarah for her support and my children Charlotte & Daniel for putting up with me.

And finally, giving all the praise to Jesus, for His grace and strength to continue. As he continues to remind us that nothing will separate us from His love.

Every Blessing
Andy

Churchwardens

During 2022 we were, as a church, blessed to see all of our services and provision in the community return to pre-pandemic levels, our congregation returned with joy; our youth groups have thrived and grown and we have welcomed many new faces. It's been a busy year for everyone and just as COVID was our major challenge in 2020/21 so the cost of living crisis has been for 2022 and looks as if it will be for sometime. Thankfully, with prudent and careful management by our treasurer Terry Norris, we remain solvent and still able to be generous in our provision out in the community, serving with love those who live in Tiverton. We are also very grateful for the continued generosity of our congregation and the hard work of the fund raising team which has enabled us to move forward with plans put on hold from 2019.

People

We have to thank so many people for their hard work and commitment over this past year. Our staff team have been especially busy often taking on 'above and beyond' during periods of sickness or extended absence while colleagues made much needed trips to see family post pandemic.

Andy and Sarah committed to a further 5 years with us after last year's APCM for which we are all very grateful. This gives us stability and the knowledge we are in safe hands as we move into an exciting period of change and growth. As Andy embarks on his sabbatical in 2023 we wish him every blessing as he takes time to walk with Jesus away from the busyness of life and we look forward to his return; rested and reinvigorated.

It has been a blessing to have Sarah Rock Evans and her family as part of our church and we are grateful she will be with us during Andy's absence.

Jonathan and Debbie have lead Youth, Children's and family work with dedication and passion setting up new initiatives and attracting many new families to our congregation. We thank them, and their teams of leaders and helpers, for everything they do.

As always we need to give huge thanks to Verity for the great job she does as administrator; often as the first point of contact for visitors or those needing our services. She has also skilfully developed our Facebook page and social media presence, extending our reach to a wider audience.

We give grateful thanks for the teaching and leadership of our clergy Andy, David, Simon, Sarah and Keith: our licensed lay ministers (readers) Jude and Tim, and LLM in training Ruth. Each one has at some time spoken to our hearts or challenged our thinking through their spirit inspired words. Sadly Keith will be moving away soon and we want to thank him for his long service and wish him and Gill Every blessing in their new home.

Property.

At last it has been possible to put long held plans for refurbishment, repairs and development into action.....although many factors have not made this straightforward! Everything from COVID to Brexit have conspired to raise costs and make it difficult to find willing and skilled builders, not to mention the convolutions of Diocesan and local planning regulations. How ever we have secured faculty permissions for works on the roof (carried out in October 2022), the lighting scheme (booked for summer 2023) and redecoration of St Paul's and obtained local planning permission to make start on the refurbishment of the church rooms. At this point Sheila and I need to mention Peter Day's unswerving commitment to this particular project and all the hard work he has put in with the architects to get us to this place of readiness.

We are also very grateful to a number of individuals who have been willing to help with minor maintenance and to Paul Sagar for stepping up to take on the task of organising future building work and regular maintenance. The Quinquennials finally took place in August 2022 – the pandemic had made it impossible to carry this vital inspection out when it was scheduled – and the required works are being systematically implemented across both sites. For example the pollarding of the lime trees at St Paul's which will reduce the problem of gullies on the roof being blocked by leaves and repairs to rain wear.

All our venues are regularly used both by church groups and other community groups. St George's continues to be used by CHAT to serve the needs of the community.

Thanks to the working party who have cleared shrubbery and tidied St George's graveyard this past year and to Steve Hirst and Chris Penney for cutting the grass.

Modernisation and redecoration have been completed on the flats we own in St Paul's Square.

There have been no incidents of vandalism this year.

Prayerful Remembrance

We have sadly lost several long term members of church this year (2022), for whom we give thanks and celebrate their long lives of service and faith. Barbara Shepherd, Ken Dawe, Ian Brannam, Richard Parrott and the inimitable Trevor Maunder.

Possessions (Church Valuables)

As is specifically required we can confirm that the church valuables (chalice, patent etc), whether 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 and ministry of The Church of England in the Parish of Tiverton, St George and St Paul, has again helped by contributing towards the cost of Parish administration, Youth work and Children's and Families work. We are extremely grateful to receive this support which allows us to reach out to our local community in so many ways. The trust funded the refurbishment of 17 St. Paul's Street. As a high quality multi occupancy home for 3 people in collaboration with CHAT. 'Hope House' is now occupied and a support worker from CHAT is in place to support the tenants. The congregation were wonderfully generous giving money for all the household items needed to furnish a new home.

Finally

As the church year draws to a close I would like to thank Sheila, who stands down this year, for her patience and hard work as we have navigated the post-pandemic waters of wardenship this past year. I think it is fair to say we have had to lean into our faith on many occasions when two of us doing the work of four has seemed overwhelming, but we managed and are stronger because of it. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in prayer; taken on tasks we have delegated; formed teams to spread the load and given freely of their time, experience and skills. As we move on into 2023 there is an air of change and evolution towards a church where teams are the norm and where serving with joy and passion are the bywords. As a PCC we have talked about the importance of discerning God's calling on our hearts so that we are all serving generously and joyfully in the place we are meant to be.....for now being church warden remains that place for me and I thank God for his grace in giving me this opportunity to serve him but also my community and family of St Paul's.

Cari Bright

Bellringers

Our bellringing in 2022 was much more encouraging! One unforeseen consequence of covid was ringing with the big door wide open to passers by, and first one then another family expressed interest and the wish to learn to ring. So by the end of 2022 we had four adults and five young people aged between 11 and 16.

By its nature ringing is a team skill which takes some time to learn, equally accessible to both genders and all ages, so we become good friends and enjoy mutual support. Some attend worship (some elsewhere in Tiverton) and others do not (yet) do so, but we always conclude our Sunday evening ringing sessions with a prayer time with which all are comfortable.

At the end of 2022 our badly designed old clappers needed quite a lot of work, and with the blessing of the PCC we decided instead to replace them with the help of grants from two bodies. This has given us a first class peal which should need only minor maintenance for the foreseeable future.

It's time now for some more new recruits, so please spread the word. As with every other part of the church, we can't afford to stand still, and we currently depend heavily on just two families. Remember that the bells are the only sound which carries far beyond the church building to remind people of the presence of God.

Tim Jones

Breakfast on the Go

Breakfast-on-the-Go has been continuing throughout 2022 with a short break over the summer period due to a lack of team and a sense of needing to regroup and refocus. However in September we continued with serving bacon baps, porridge and Hot drinks to around 130-180 people on a weekly basis. Thanks to an incredibly dedicated team we continue to hear stories about children waking up their parents on a Thursday morning, excited to go to "church breakfast" as well as being called "the best bacon in town". Often we are asked why we offer free food which gives us an opportunity to talk about faith, ask to pray or simply provide space to listen to parents, people on their way to work or the recycling crews. Our highlight from 2022: When 3 recycling lorries parked outside church and the crews gathered to have breakfast with us.

Jonathan Schnarr

Children and Families

Creche

This is where our witness begins. How we welcome and engage with babies and toddlers, speaks louder than any words to the parents, Grandparents or carers of the smallest child they bring along to Church. Church Family will only grow and be maintained by a flow of new children and families entering the Church and becoming and belonging to the body of Christ here in Tiverton.

The Creche team, Becky Widdows, Sarah Humm, Clive Partridge, Beth Partridge, Emily Adams and Jo Friend, do a super job each Sunday in making all the children feel safe to be left in creche with out their parents or carers, or if parents stay they welcome them too.

A shout out to Heather Edwards who has been on the team for many years, but has had to take a break for the time being.

eXplore

As the children grow, they move into eXplore. We meet each Sunday, except on the first Sunday of the month which is All Age Worship, and look into the Bible to share and ask questions about what we have heard, our faith and what Jesus means to each of us.

The range in age and stage of each of the Children is wide, from 3 to 11 years. However, each of us gains understanding and teaching differently, and the group is blessed by having a team of leaders who are flexible to assist and ask the more deeper faith questions with the older members of the group and assist the very young children. We try to ensure within our worship time together something of the what we have heard, made or played will stay with the child. Maybe a mustard seed of faith, which will make the child or even team encounter a wow moment with God.

The group numbers fluctuate from 5 to 25, but whoever comes is most welcome and the team are amazing.

We follow the Roots on the Web resource which follows the lectionary readings. As a team we felt it was important to let the Church family see and know a little of what happens in eXplore, which is why we now show photographs at the beginning and end of the All Age/Intergenerational service each month. We do have families who are unable to attend Church, but who are still very much a part of our Church family.

Thank you for bearing with us, as we learn how best we can share, support and grow with you.

A big thank you and shout out to the team Jill Partridge, Dot Carter, Henrietta Hurst, Juliet Herbert, Jess Phillips, Rose Chamberlain, Jenny Tower and last, but by no means least Norma Davies.

We have all missed Norma, who has had to take some time out at the end of the year to look after her husband, Trevor. Norma always checked every Sunday before each session if there were enough team on duty, many a Sunday Norma stepped in.

Thank you for sharing your faith and experiences with the children and being so fun in the sessions, demonstrating God's love, you are all the Salt and Light of the morning.

Tiddlers & Toddlers

Sarah Humm, Pat Dalby, Anne Hill, Ros Sagar and myself have continued to meet throughout the last twelve months, rebuilding the group following Covid. We have continued to provide a space and safe setting for new and old families. The group has maintained a core group of families and these families have invited friends. We have enjoyed getting to know both families, and children. Thank you all, you are all there to help, listen and support the Mums, Dads and Carers. You may just what they need a listening ear. We have been encouraged to welcome some of the families at Messy Church. We were sad to lose Norma Davies from the team during the year.

Fusion

Thank you to everyone who helped keep Fusion going throughout last year. Thank you especially to Katy and Nick Baker, Janet Norris, Trevor Colby and Stella Stephens who would step into the breach when we were short of leaders. Thank you to Jonathan who continued to support Fusion too, and will always help out if needed.

A special thank you to Debbie Cruwys, who with Sharon Bradshaw, have been involved in Fusion for many years. Debbie made the difficult decision to say goodbye to Fusion at the end of the summer term, we miss her crafts and parachute games. Fusion will be forever grateful for Debbie's contribution. Thank you.

When we knew Debbie was leaving, we prayed, put out notices and requests for new team members and just as we thought we would have to scale back on our numbers attending, Alison Merryman approached me one Sunday about helping. An answer to prayer, and a wonderful addition to the team, bringing previous experiences and new craft ideas too.

Fusion works because we have a team of Young Leaders who are able to lead games, operate tech and help with all the preparation. The joy is seeing the younger children engaging with the Young Leaders and we as an over 18 team, are so encouraged by the contribution and ideas put forward by our Young Leaders, they are truly awesome and show God at work through their actions.

Thank you, team Fusion!

Messy Church

This has been an amazing witness and brought so many families into Church, who have never been before. We have had a Messy Easter, A family Fun day when we were led by the Virtual Sunday School team, a BBQ cooked and organised by Mark Padfield, Muddy activities with Katie, games with Becky Widdows and a Messy Christmas. These events are so much fun, mixed with worship, and bringing more of the local community to know something of Jesus.

Thank you everyone who makes Messy events happen, it's such fun serving with you!

School Holiday Fun

In August after speaking to families we made the decision not to have a holiday club, but instead each Thursday afternoon we opened up the Church, provided refreshments and put on events. Circus Skills, Muddy Church, Lego and the last one included a bouncy castle!

We had about 50 to 70 people attend each session. It was a drop in so people could come and go as they pleased. We gave out lots of information about CHAT, Sunday services and the other activities we offer. It was so popular we did it again in the Autumn half term too.

Thank you to everyone who helped, Pat Webber, Ros Sagar, Sarah and Trevor Colby, Sarah Rock Evans, Katie Quick and Stella Stephens all with a heart for helping, chatting and serving.

Open The Book/ Heathcoat Primary School

2022 saw the primary school moving to a different normal following Covid. I was allocated assemblies and went into school weekly during the spring Summer term. I gave a talk to year 6 pupils, on how our Church demonstrates Kingdom moments in the local Community. In line with the school curriculum. I also attended school trips, as extra support and heard the pupils read. Just before the summer holiday, I introduced the children to Open the Book. During the Summer we as a team got organised and set dates to take Open the book into school. From September we told and acted out the Bible stories and were able to do an assembly on Christingle too.

As the school broke up for Christmas we learnt that we would be given an OtB assembly each fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon. This was going to be a whole school assembly. Praise the Lord.

A massive thank you to Juliet Herbert, David Halestrap, Valerie Pocock and Suzanne Barritt, you are superstars.

Other Witness Opportunities

I attended the Churches tent, helping with the Childrens activities at the County Show at Westpoint. It was fantastic to be part of a wider team sharing God through the story of the lost sheep, made even better when children from Heathcoat School came into the tent shouting out my name. Oh, what a joy.

I then lead with my colleague, Carrie Tucker from At Andrews Church in Cullompton, the Childrens activities in the Churches Tent at the Mid Devon Show. I was part of a team from Churches across Tiverton and made some great relationships following this event.

The Gathering Kids

The Youth have a get together called the Gathering, but there was nothing like it for 8 to 11 Year olds, so I am part of a focus group who set up the first Gathering Kids in September 2022. We will continue into the next year.

Looking back is always good, but moving forward is even better. Building on all this as we enter the next year, we will be looking to adopt Begin Well, antenatal sessions, more on this as we progress this.

Thank you all for your practical help, your prayers, encouragement, and smiles.

Debbie Martin

Electoral Roll 2022

We are encouraged to welcome 9 new people on to the Electoral Roll.

The St George's and St Paul's Electoral Roll for 2023 stands at 219, of which 120 are non-resident and 99 resident.

We have had 12 people removed from the Electrical Roll, some of which have moved to another area, do not attend church anymore and others that have sadly passed away of whom some were long serving members of this church.

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

Sue Lines

Home Groups

I am now in my third year as Home Group coordinator. I took on the role because I feel everyone should have the opportunity to belong to one. Since becoming a Christian, I have found that belonging to a Home Group is one of the most important parts of being in the church family, as it allows for personal growth, close friendships, and support in good and bad times.

Since Covid restrictions have lifted, almost all groups have now moved back to full time face to face meetings, two, three or four times a month, and most groups continue to function well. However, due to ill health, and changes in circumstances, some groups have now ceased to meet.

There are still more people joining the church who want to join a home group, but we are short of places to welcome new church members into for two main reasons:

- Most modern homes are not large enough to host more than 6 or 8: and
- A lack of people willing to take on the role of Home Group leaders/coordinators.

The first issue is not something we can really do anything about, unless you have a large home and would like to offer to host, but being a Home Group leader could be something you could do, and it does not need to be an onerous task. It should be the responsibility of the whole group to play a part in leadership responsibility for the group. It also helps bring you closer to God as you study the word, serve each other and pray together.

Meetings include times of worship, prayer, fellowship, hospitality, chatting and Bible study. Each of these functions can be directed by a different person in the group. Groups should be growing members of their group into potential new leaders, so that after a year or so, the group can multiply or “Home Group Plant”, making room for more people to join.

Here are a few statistics.

- There are eight Home Groups running.
- All but one runs face to face three or four times a month.
- One has a biweekly live, and biweekly zoom meeting.
- Two run during the daytime and six in the evenings.
- All together there are between 60 – 70 active members of these groups.

A workshop about how you might move towards a leadership calling is planned for the near future so watch this space. In the meantime, if you want to know more about Home Group membership or leadership, please come and speak to me.

Stephen Clarke

Living Room

It's such a privilege to be part of the Living Room. We offer a warm, hospitable and friendly environment to anyone who wants to come, particularly those who need some company and are maybe struggling in life. We have a really great team of committed volunteers, supported by some lovely cake makers and we are gradually forming closer relationships with guests. We have a good time! Since we re-opened in September 2021 we have seen a gradual increase in the numbers of guests from around 10 at first, to around 25 or so each week now. These days it can sometimes go above 30 and even towards 40.

We were sad that a couple of much loved regulars, Trevor Maunder and Richard Parrott, died during the year and we really miss them.

Simon May

Lunch on the Go

Last year was a watershed for LOTG as Covid declined and our community began to pick up more of their normal lives as the risk of severe illness and infection declined. Despite some vulnerability and real concerns the team continued as normal, and it is a real tribute to them all that they have continued volunteering on the rota giving an unwavering presence to the guests that come.

The team has remained fairly static with the addition of two extra members who have added lovely skills and new gifts to us. They all say that they love being at the sessions and we all receive back far more than we ever give.

In January we had experimented with using the church rooms as an inside base while the weather was bad but the configuration of the rooms and numbers meant with Covid still around it was cramped and also not very conducive to people wanting to stay for the whole session and chat confidentially.

A decision was made to alter the timings to 11:30-1pm over the winter months to use the Space at the back of church after Communion. Then as the weather improved we moved outside again using the gazebos. Guests soon learnt we were inside with the help of Facebook and posters.

Numbers over 2022 fluctuated but remained around 20-30 each week including a whole lovely group from Insight based at the community centre. Summer was successful with extra benches outside under the trees for shade and people often remained way after we had gone home!

As most of our guests don't have the luxury of holidays we decided to remain open throughout the year with a reduced team and food provision in August so that everyone got a break.

Autumn saw us move back again into church, which means that people become comfortable and happy in the building. We have noticed an increase in the number of guests joining in with church social events, Christmas services and notably funerals of their friends and also how people welcome the ability to share life issues with other guests and the team. It is a place of acceptance and care and kindness.

We have been well supported by our team of soup makers, often using veg from their own gardens and also Re-rooted with bread, rolls and cakes. Anything left over is taken to Heathcoat School straight after the session which is then available to staff and parents at the end of school so there is little waste.

It just remains again for me to say a very big thank you to this great team, to Re-rooted and to Verity and Sarah for doing such a great job publicising what we do.

Jude Taylor

Safeguarding

The team consists of: Jenny Tower (Lead), Sheila Hannallah, Rose Chamberlain, Stella Stephens, Genny Proctor, Carly Partridge and assisted by Sarah Rock-Evans. You will note that we have new members in the team which is a great bonus and differing responsibilities are being taken on by different team members spreading the load. All have been safer recruited and all Parish SG Representative training for them has been undertaken or been booked. We thank Verity for her input to the team over many years. She has now stood down from the team.

The Adult and Children's Safeguarding Policies have been reviewed and were presented to, and agreed by PCC on the 27th March 2023. The team has also had involvement with other policies including: Ex Offenders, Lone Working, Social Media, Mentoring, Whistleblowing, Photo Taking, Drivers and Data Protection.

The team are also responsible for the Quality Assurance checklist for all safeguarding areas in the church. The records are held on the Diocese Dashboard. This is overseen by the team on a regular basis and anything outstanding is updated and logged. It was last done on 28th March 2023 and will go to the next PCC meeting for an annual review and approval. Many differing aspects of church safety are considered in this checklist. All is as up to date as it can be at any one point in time.

The team has struggled for some time now with how to best store safer recruitment information. We had been using a single central record and had considered using Church suite, but this would not hold all we needed it to. In February this year the Diocese introduced the new 'Dashboard Hub'. We have been using it from the start date and at the moment have completed Stage 1 of 4 stages. The next 3 will become 'live' over the next 1 – 4 months. For us it is proving to be very successful in doing what we need it to do and we are hopeful that eventually the whole system of recruiting team members will become digital with all records in the same place and safely stored.

We have all our church groups listed in the system, and have 146 team members added with their safer recruitment requirements added and whether completed or not and when next due etc. Of the 146 team members there are 38 people who still need some form of training to be completed. The team are ensuring this training gets done by sending out repeat requests. The Diocese advise that anyone on a team should have at least Basic safeguarding training. Most training is now done on line but we do have people in church willing to assist those who need help in achieving this. It is all part of changing the culture in churches to ensure that everyone is safe. It is all of our responsibilities to achieve this and I thank everyone for their cooperation in achieving this. Only 5 – 6 DBS checks are waiting to be completed, most of these are in process.

During the year the team have dealt with 3 – 4 minor safeguarding issues. On some occasions this has involved discussions with the Diocese Safeguarding Team who continue to be a great support and encouragement.

Jenny Tower (on behalf of the Safeguarding Team)

Take Note Community Choir

Take Note Community Choir goes from strength to strength. Celebrating our 13 birthday this year, we now see between 50 and 60 members attend weekly rehearsals, the majority of whom do not normally have a reason to be in a church. We continue to support members with their health and wellbeing by singing regularly and performing often. We have raised money this year for CHAT, Royal British Legion and Children's Hospice Southwest, and have worked alongside other local community groups and visited residential care homes. We are grateful for the continued support of the church in our activities.

Katy Baker

Youth Ministry

2022 has been a great year with many youth highlights, including the launch of our Mentoring Network, new additions to our youth programme and the start of student mentoring at Tiverton High School. Our volunteer team has grown, new young people have joined us and we continued to journey alongside many, seeing them grow in their faith and being baptised. At this point I want to thank the many leaders who make youth work possible in our church: THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Charge (Yr7-Yr10) and Charge+ (Yr10+)

During the summer of 2022 we decided to split our Friday Night Youth Club into two separate age groups due to a steady increase in numbers. This has been a really good development and both the younger and the older groups are enjoying the new format, with around 10-15 young people in each group. With the help of an incredible team of leaders we organised many evenings at St George's as well as trips and activities including climbing, ice skating, trampolining and bowling.

Impact (Yr7-Yr10) and Impact+ (Yr10+)

Our youth discipleship groups have grown steadily with a dedicated group of young people who attend regularly, take part in discussions and bible studies and pray with and for one another. Over the past year we have looked at topics including Apologetics, Royal Priesthood, Jonah, Sex and Relationships and the Christian Life.

2TE (Yr7-Yr10)

Our Sunday youth provision has continued, running every week apart from the first Sunday of each month when we have an All Age Service. Attendance is very varied with some core young people but many visitors who join us for a one-off occasion. This comes with challenges as we try to keep programmes consistent and run alongside the timings of the 1045 service. A change in team has seen an older young person step up and become a young leader, planning and delivering sessions independently which has been very encouraging to see.

Mentoring Network

We launched our Mentoring Network towards the end of 2022 and now have 24 mentors meeting with 25 young people on a regular basis, to journey alongside, pray and challenge them in their faith. It has been incredible seeing young people opening up to their mentors already, returning from their mentoring meetings enthusiastically, saying that it has been "one of the best conversations with adults they have ever had".

Tiverton High School: Christian Union and Student Mentoring

Schools work has been a real area of excitement in 2022. The Christian Union has changed and developed several times, moving from separate lunch times to an After School Club and back again to a centralised lunch time. There are currently around 10-15 students attending regularly with time to eat lunch, catch up and pray.

At the start of the academic year, the Head of Year 7 has reached out to inquire about a mentoring scheme for particular students within school which has developed into both one-on-one as well as group mentoring sessions, focussing on Mental Health, anger management, low aspiration and family difficulties. There are currently between 6-10 students who are coming along to sessions on a weekly basis.

Youth Worship Sessions

We have been very intentional in providing young people with opportunities to get involved in leading services, both at the front and behind the scenes. In 2022 we started regular youth worship sessions for young people to bring their instruments and worship as one group. As a result, young people have been more active in leading worship during the 2014 service which has been particularly encouraging.

Residentials and Camps:

A particular highlight has been the International Camp in Germany where 12 of our young people joined 30 others from Germany, Ukraine and Czech Republic. Friendships made during this week have been continuing even across country and language barriers and many of our young people have made significant steps in their faith as a result of this camp.

Other residentials in 2022 included Geek Factory (February Half Term), Easter Sleep Over (April), Spree (June), DCYC (July) and TAG at Lee Abbey (November) which were all funded by your very generous financial support, enabling young people to attend who would have not been able to do so otherwise. We still continue to hear stories of how these residentials have impacted our young people, including feeling able to share testimonies, pray out loud or feel God's presence for the very first time.

Looking Ahead:

I am really excited about 2023 and the continued growth within our young people. We are still looking for more mentors to join the Mentoring Scheme (especially male adults) as young people keep asking whether they could have a mentor for themselves. We are also launching a brand-new camps called "into The Wild" which will happen during May Half Term and hope to be able to take a few of our young people to this new opportunity, too.

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 2022 or earlier until the date this report was approved are:

Priest-in-Charge: The Reverend Andrew Humm
(Licensed 05 September 2016; Chairman)

Assistant Curate: Rev Justin Montague (to 28/2/2022)

Readers: Tim Bradshaw, Judith Taylor

Wardens: Sheila Hannallah, Cari Bright

Elected Members: Ruth Shaw (to 07/04/2022),
Stuart Chamberlain (to 07/04/2022),
Julie Hingston (to 07/04/2022),
Joshua Lines (to 07/04/2022)
Hazel Turner (to 20/03/2022)
Alison Padfield (from 07/04/2022)
Jennifer Tower (from 07/04/2022)
Janet Dawe (from 07/04/2022)
Rodney Parvess (from 07/04/2022)
Aubrey Mizen (from 07/04/2022)
Stephen Clarke (from 07/04/2022)
Patrick Bacon (from 07/04/2022)
Deborah Westlake (from 07/04/2022)
Elizabeth Harrison
Terence Norris
Jillian Partridge
Jonathan Hardy (to 21/05/2022)
Janice Donnachie (to 27/09/2022}
Bob Syers (Deanery Synod Rep) - (to 27/09/2022)

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