



Changing lives and building community through Jesus

**The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul
Uplyme**

Group Reports 2016

Uplyme Church
Pound Lane
Uplyme DT7 3TT

Charity number: 1131962

Music

Introduction Firstly, I would like to thank all those who make a contribution to music in our church. Their skill and commitment are much appreciated. Music is an integral part of all our varied service patterns and it adds an important dimension to the worship of almighty God .

Morning Worship The music for morning worship is predominantly more modern than traditional in style, fitting the theme of the service. Café Worship has now been running on the last Sunday of each month for the past year and specific thanks are due to Emily for providing relevant music.

Evening Worship By way of variation, we have continued to use Taize chants from the hymn book twice a year, supported by members of the Festival Choir, at the annual service for All Souls in November and in May. Special thanks to Harry Eaton, who has now been playing once a month for over a year and is making rapid progress and to Esther whose regular contributed is greatly valued.

Festival Choir The choir sang on the following occasions: Palm Sunday, Pentecost, Harvest Festival and the Christmas Carol Service. We welcomed members of the choir of Axmouth church who joined us for our evening Carol Service and we also sang the service at Axmouth in the afternoon. This gave us a choir of some 25 singers - by far the largest ever. We also joined with Axmouth choir to sing at the Licensing of Rev'd Ann Stuckey and with a large congregation present, there was some memorable and hearty singing! Adrian and I are very grateful to all members for their hard work, support and encouragement. New singers are always welcome, whether with previous musical and singing experience or not.

Resources After almost two years of planning and preparation, the pipe organ was removed in September and the new digital organ installed in early November. The Managing Director of the firm gave an opening recital on 3rd December which demonstrated the range and versatility of the instrument and was greatly enjoyed by those present. Thanks are due to Russell Kingsbury, who has spent a great deal of time bringing this project to fruition, especially on the necessary paperwork involved with obtaining a faculty.

Development The Mission Action Plan objective: 'to recruit someone to lead the music/singing; create a regular music/singing group to help lead; involve

the leader of music with selection of hymns/songs', is still outstanding. I am sure that talent lies dormant in the congregation – so could it be you?

Finally, not least, my thanks to Adrian, who contributes freely to all aspects of our church music and gives positivity and encouragement to us all.

Roger Grose

Prayer

Prayer Fireplace

Meeting daily at 10.00 am except Tuesdays. We have become increasingly aware of the importance in Intercessory Prayer of opening each session with a short period of listening to God. Sometimes, a portion of scripture will come to someone's mind which has a real bearing on that day's priority for prayer. We include that scripture into our prayers as a response to God's interest that we continue to pray that matter 'through' until an answer is received - perhaps over successive days.

The traditional Tuesday evening group meeting in the church has recently reduced in numbers and now meets in homes.

David Dare

Alpha

We run Alpha as a 9 week course and an Away day, giving people the opportunity to explore the Christian faith. Courses are usually run annually, depending when people want to do them. We have run one course this year with 4 guests attending. There is always good discussion as well as growing friendship developed over good food. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way.

Russell and Morag Kingsbury

Marriage preparation

No courses have been run this year. For couples being married at Uplyme who live outside the area, we have found a course close to their home to enable them to engage with a church nearby.

Russell and Morag Kingsbury

Mothers Union

We now have only eight members as we lost our good friend Gwen Howes in November last. We still meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month in church for a short prayer service, then we have a speaker, a discussion group or bible study. We are fortunate that our good friends Roger Grose and Morag Kingsbury are very supportive and we also have a speaker from the Diocese once each year.

At the end of each year in July we have a summer tea and last year we were joined by Kate.

We are always delighted to welcome guests, members or not.

Eileen Walters 01297 34856

Bell-ringers

The bell tower at Uplyme Church holds six bells and for the past year, as the year before, the bells have been rung every third Sunday at the 10 am service. Up until a couple of years ago the bells were rung every Sunday at the morning service but as our number of bell-ringers declined this weekly ring became difficult to maintain.

So it is with great pleasure that recently four people have come forward and expressed an interest in learning how to ring. Learning to ring church bells takes a little time but we are looking forward to increasing our number and being able to ring more frequently again.

We have rang the bells for five weddings over the past year, which is always such a happy occasion. As a bell-ringing team we also 'ring in' the New Year using mufflers on the bells until midnight and then a short ring without mufflers as the clock strikes twelve. This has been undertaken at Uplyme for many years and is a tradition that we hope to keep going.

If there is anyone else who may like to 'have a go' you will be very welcome. Our Tower Captain is James Booth, James's contact details are on the back of the parish magazine. Or please do contact myself, my phone number is 443050. I am also at Church most Sunday mornings so please do come have a chat.

Jo Clarke

Church Flowers

2016 has been good year with new arrangers joining us. The flower arrangers have decorated the church weekly and also for special occasions. The flowers for the Queen's birthday celebration were a particular highlight. We meet when necessary over tea /coffee , the odd biscuit and discuss what we are to do, and form a rota for the coming months. We have visited other Flower Groups and had our own workshops. We would always welcome new members and anyone is welcome to join us, whatever their ability. We have all levels of ability, jam jar to amazing! 'All Welcome '

Felicity Langford.

Zambia

Connected Church project

Our Connected Church project continues to provide clean water to rural villages in the Southern and Western Provinces of Zambia. We have been very blessed by continued community involvement in the Open Garden weekend, Art Exhibition, Quiz Nights, Swishing party, the regular Big Breakfast and Books, people who save their loose change and of course the church commitment from Gift Day. Events in the planning for next year include a Ceilidh on 18th November in the village hall. Thank you to everyone for playing their part in making our commitment to provide £10000 a year possible.

Russell and Morag Kingsbury

Making a Difference

This is the third year that the group has been running. Some of us knit for the Baby Bear Charity, some of us bring other knitting or crochet and some of us just come to enjoy a pleasant hour and a half with others. We welcome anyone who wants to join us for tea and a chat and a chance to make new friends or meet up with old ones!

We are trying to make a difference by supporting the Baby Bear Charity. Every month the Charity sends out at least one hundred and twenty five baby packs to St Mary's Hospital, Durban (which include not just the knitted items but all the essentials for a new baby). Most of the mothers who receive these

packs have AIDs and walk as many as nine miles to have their babies at the hospital. Many of them would have absolutely nothing for their babies if they didn't receive a Baby Bear pack. The Charity also sends out materials, wool, needles etc so that the women can learn how to make things for themselves. We meet in Uplyme Church on alternate Wednesday afternoons from 1.30pm to 3pm . and our meetings aren't just confined to Wednesday afternoons - over the summer those who were free met up for coffee and, once again, we enjoyed an excellent Christmas lunch together at the Talbot Arms in Uplyme.

Elaine Phillips

Gospel singers

The Gospel Singers continues to serve the community and brings in both Christians from our own Church, from other Churches and also non-Christians. It is a caring body of people who all support one another. For some it is a safety valve to help them through difficult aspects of their own lives. It helps because singing together in harmony brings and keeps us together, bringing a sense of well-being and spiritual health. However, while this all sounds very serious and worthy – and it is – we do collapse in giggles and have plenty of teasing going around our group most sessions. Our group continues to evolve. We sing gospel music, blessings, some folk music and even sea shanties on occasions. We have undergone quite a change this past year, with Jemima Farey taking over from Chloe in September, and the enjoyment hasn't abated. We have been blessed in that both Chloe and Jemima are fantastic leaders with both a sense of fun and also aspirations to improve the quality of our singing, aiming us towards great heights. We enjoyed taking part in two performances this past year with Chloe: performing in the Church in July and culminating in a performance under Chloe in September in Chard and a flashmob at Christmas with Chloe. If anyone is interested in joining our group, just contact Jo Cursley (joannacursley@gmail.com) or Ed Pemberton (edwardpem@gmail.com). We meet in the Church alternate Tuesday evenings at 7 30 during term time. The first session you attend is free, while you decide if you want to join us. After that we charge £5 a session.

Jo Cursley

Home groups

Badgers Brook

Thanks to the hospitality of Alan and Esther, the group (normally about 10 people) continued to meet fortnightly on Tuesday mornings. We begin with a time of welcome, fellowship and refreshments! In 2016 we introduced a time of prayer - focussing on all the house groups associated with the church, youth work (especially the Vibe), and the work of New Hope Uganda. We have continued, in our Bible Study, the theme of the apostle Paul, ably assisted by Philip - finishing the book of Acts, and starting the letter to the Romans. We finished the year with a late (January!) Christmas meal at the Old Black Dog.

Alan Jones

Graham and Andrea Sheargold

We continue to meet fortnightly on Monday evenings commencing at 7.30pm. We adopt a shared leadership policy and rotate the venue as we see fit which we agree in-advance at the previous meeting. It seems to work well and gives everyone who wishes too, the opportunity to host and lead. We use a variety of materials as agreed between us all and over the last 12 months have covered such topics as: The Drama of Salvation from The Way of the Spirit Organisation, we also revisited the 2015 Lent Prayer Course and have enjoyed various films and DVD's such as 'Faith Like Potatoes' and various teachings from the Evangelist Charles Stanley. Presently, we are studying one of his publication entitled Eternal Security which considers the issue of whether or not we can loose our salvation. Can thoroughly recommend this book as very helpful if other groups are looking for new material.

We are a group of six presently and would be delighted to receive new members so, if you think you might be interested to find out more then do get in touch or else just come along and give us a try, we don't bite, except cake and biscuits.

*Graham and Andrea Sheargold
Regis House. Lyme Road, Uplyme. 01297 442095*

Anne Hardman and Carole Fowkes.

We continue to be a group of some 15 members who meet fortnightly at Anne and David's house on a Monday evening 7.30-9pm. It is famed for always trying to have Garibaldi biscuits available!

A variety of interactive DVD resources have been used over the year ranging from Neil Hudson 'Life on the Frontline' (6 sessions); Mark Greene 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' (8 sessions); Nicky Gumbel 'The Jesus Lifestyle' (6 sessions) and Patrick Reagan 'When faith gets shaken' (6sessions).

We gather and have coffee, tea and a catch up. This is followed by a short introductory prayer, then into the interactive DVD material, followed by discussion and finally a closing prayer by a member of the group

Occasionally to end the session we also have a 5minute vignette (short DVD clip) from Adrian Plass which hopefully sends us home with a smile on our faces and a challenging thought in our mind.

Anne Hardman and Carole Fowkes

New Life Group

We meet every Thursday evening from 8-00 to 9-30 pm during term times If you would like to deepen your faith and enjoy wonderful coffee and fellowship this group could be for you!. There is a wide variety of thought provoking, faith building material such as John Ortberg's 'Soul Keeping' series available, and we would love others to join us as we explore such topics.

Women's groups

We have four small groups that support women of all ages including Soul Sisters, Mellow Birds, an evening ladies' group, and a group for mums and babies with a creche. These groups are supported by Uplyme Church but the members are from different local churches and none.

Two of the groups: Soul Sisters and the ladies' evening group are made up of regular Uplyme Church members.

There are currently four groups. Three of these meet on a **Thursday morning**. The leaders of these groups are:

- Soul Sisters - Jan Maccoy and Pamela Pope
- Mellow Birds (with creche) - Anne Prance and Kerry Naylor

- Mellow Birds - Karen Yelland and Laraine Morgan

Another group meets on a **Tuesday evening** from **7.45pm – 9.30pm**. The leaders of this group are:

- Nicky Terry and Jan Maccoy

Typically, the meetings include fellowship, worship, a Bible study and prayer. Twice a term we gather together at the church on a Thursday morning for fellowship, worship, teaching and prayer.

Jan Maccoy

Black dog coffee morning

We are still meeting at the Black Dog, on the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings are much enjoyed by people from the village & the church, with a slot to share the love of God through readings poems and stories. It is open to everyone and up to 25 people regularly come. In the summer Carol and Andy, open there lovely home for a delicious cream tea and spoil us all rotten. At Christmas at the Black Dog we had a wonderful time sing carols, eating mince pies, and pulling crackers, and we are looking forward to many more happy times together, God willing.

Pamela Pope

Men's Breakfast – 9 to 90+

This has been a good year for involving more and more people to socialise together over a good breakfast and a talk by a variety of speakers.

Due to the ill health of Peter Dench at the Black Dog we have had to move our meeting place to the Talbot Arms which has been sadly advantageous in that we have been able to increase the numbers that we are able to invite. . On an average we now have 21/22 gentlemen ,who are mainly church based , providing of course that their alarm clocks work, enjoying Steve's sumptuous breakfast. Our speakers have been excellent and a thousand thanks to them for stepping forward on a wide variety of subjects. When non church people come and ask if they can attend then that is a wonderful bonus. A real Mission achievement.! So thank you gentlemen for your company and fellowship.

Martin Wells

Craft group

The Craft group have enjoyed another creative year! We meet every Tuesday from 1 pm to 3 pm in the church and we are now a group of around 8 ladies who bring a diverse range of interesting craft skills, including cross-stitch, jewellery and card making, crochet and knitting. We also enjoy a lively chat over a cup of tea and a biscuit and we have shared some lovely meals out together celebrating Christmas & birthdays. We would particularly welcome church members who would like to come and join us. There is no need to have any knowledge of craft, just an interest to try something.

Andrea Sheargold & Jan Impey

Saturday Walks

This is a friendly walking group which meets on the second Saturday morning of the month at Uplyme Church. Our walks are local and usually last between one and two hours. All are welcome and it has proved to be a great opportunity to get to know more people in a very relaxed way.

David Jones

Parish News

2016 saw us open up another page of advertising due to popular demand. This now sees the income stream for the magazine, along with public donations, heading towards £3000, which now makes the magazine fully self-supporting. As ever, we are always indebted to our band of people who deliver the magazine. They really are the unsung heroes of the Parish News. I have a copy of the magazine from April 1947 when it first started, so we are happily going into our 70th year!

Robin Hodges – Editor

Safeguarding

Uplyme Church continues to take the safeguarding of everyone very seriously. There have been many changes in safeguarding recently and Brenda Soldan and Morag Kingsbury with the oversight of Rev Kate continue to try to keep abreast of these, complying with the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. All clergy and Safeguarding officers are being

encouraged to undergo further training and there is now online training to ensure that others are kept aware and up-to-date. Everyone with any involvement with children and/or vulnerable adults will be encouraged to complete this course.

Morag Kingbury

Shining stars

This church playgroup meets in the Scout Hut on Friday mornings during term time. We welcome all parents, grandparents and carers of children under 5 years old, giving them a friendly place in which adults can relax and children can play safely. Numbers range from 7 to 20 children at each session.

As Esther and her team stepped down in the summer, a new set of volunteers from the church and the local community came forward to keep the group running. The people have changed but the format remains basically the same - free play while the adults have a tea/coffee, then a healthy snack for the children with a short prayer and a story, followed by songs, parachute games and bubbles.

In 2016 we replaced some old toys as well as adding new ones thanks to a grant from Uplyme United Charities. The church financed a shed to store the larger items, which the scouts kindly allowed us to erect in their carpark. There is now a Facebook page for those who attend the playgroup, showcasing the children's paintings and craft projects. To keep everyone updated it includes a regular Newsletter which is also printed and available at the church.

Shining Stars is an outreach group that aims to support and encourage the young families in our community, giving them time, a listening ear and sharing God's love for all.

Jan Impey

JC

The numbers in Junior Church are still low but we have continued with two groups. We are low on leaders as some have dropped out this year.

During the summer holidays we ran the Superheroes Holiday Club for six weeks which was a huge success and we hope to run a similar “summer church” in the 6 weeks summer holiday next year.

Margaret Trafford

Xplosion

Xplosion is for years 6-10. We meet on Friday nights from 6pm-7.30pm usually at Uplyme Church. We have continued to have good numbers each week and the variety of activities keeps everyone’s interest – games, crafts, film nights, skittles and swimming to name a few. We are fortunate to have plenty of helpers and are grateful to all our volunteers.

Margaret Trafford

The Vibe

The Vibe is for youngsters of secondary school age interested in discussing faith issues. We meet every Sunday evening during term time from 6-7.30pm and our programme always contains three core elements of Fun, Food and Faith.

Normally we gather at The Whittomes, but, during the Summer term, we get out and about - at the beach, pizza place, crazy golf, Stonebarrow etc. After a few weeks at the beginning of 2016 looking at the validity of the Bible, we discussed certain pressure points for young people, like peer pressure, self-worth, money, drugs, facing the future. This term, we've been responding to specific questions - coping with loss, revenge, transgender, anxiety and what makes us a true Christian.

As our older Vibers outgrow the group, we would love there to be a network supporting sixth formers in their Christian faith. Please join us in praying for our young people!

Kate Whittome kate@purple-emperor.com t 01297 445744 m 07540 439958

Saturday Morning Football

Runs from beginning of September to the end of April.

This year we have taken on a young leader George, who was a member of the playing group. He is doing a Leadership in Sport course, and has really stepped up and shown great skills.

With a regular turn out of around 22-26 the football group continues to be very popular for children of all ages & gender. This is many a child first experience of "Group Football" and the feed back shows that they really enjoy it.

As ever, we are very grateful to all the volunteers who make running this possible.

Robin Hodges - Group Leader

School/ Church links - Mrs Ethelstons

The Church and the school have a very strong relationship. The School runs collective worship every day, and three of these sessions (Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays) take place in the Church: Mondays: Led by Michaela – various including celebration worship

Tuesday: Open the Book/ or whole school worship led by Kate Woolven

Friday: Class worship/ Festivity e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest,

Rev Kate Woolven is involved alternate Tuesdays and also with the Christian festivities which the school celebrates. A fortnightly meeting with Michaela (the head of School), Rev Kate and the school link (Jo Cursley) takes place where various liaison plans are formulated.

A dedicated team from the Church plan an exciting series of biblical dramas for the Open the Book sessions which are well enjoyed by the children, year 6 taking part in them with great gusto.

Members of the community and also from the Church help as voluntary helpers within the school, listening to readers or helping in other ways with clubs, or other class activities

Our foundation Governors are another link between the school and the Church and are able to look at RE, ethos, worship amongst other activities, adding in suggestions for how the Church can be more involved, or simply encouraging the excellent team of teachers at the school.

Jo Cursley

Open the book

The 'magnificent 7' continue to present bible stories to the children of Mrs E's every other Tuesday morning. Open the Book is scripted and we use "The Storyteller's Bible" with often elaborate props and help from the children who join us in dressing up for the occasion. Feedback from the school is that the children love it as much as the team do! The children often sing our lively songs as they walk back to school. The big screen continues to be an asset for the accompanying pictures and was especially good for our recent series looking at the Easter story from the point of view of the soldier and Peter.

The team involves Elaine Phillips, Martin Wells, Ros Blackmoor, Kay Chaffin-Johnson, Rob and Sharyn Walker and Morag Kingsbury. We meet as a team once a term to plan and pray.

Morag Kingsbury

Deanery Synod 2016

The Deanery Synod has continued work on the Bishop of Exeter's three priorities –growing in prayer, making new disciples and serving the people of Devon with joy. The situation in the deanery, as in the rest of Devon, remains challenging. There are over 600 churches and only 200 full time stipendiary clergy.

Exeter is one of the two cities within the country that is growing rapidly.

Many people are now commuting for work and how this is extending to the choice of church they go to and the communities they now feel part of. This gives churches another dimension to wrestle with as many of our communities now have significant housing growth within them.

The vacancy in Axminster: there has been a long interregnum. Interviews for the post of Rector were held in 2016 and Clive Sedgewick was licensed in February 2017.

Pastoral reorganisation for the Honiton, Dunkeswell and Offwell Mission Communities is being discussed and Bishop Sarah is very positive about the possibilities and talks are moving forward to how these churches may be developed to be sustainable for the future.

Don Draper